personnel to East Timor over more than two years - to UNTAET since February 2002 and UNMISET since May 2002. Dispatched were those belonging to the GSDF's engineering units and officers to work at the headquarters of UNTAET and UNMISET. With the United Nations' international peace cooperation activities in East Timor curtailed significantly in May 2004, the Japanese SDF decided to end its operations there. The SDF's units completely withdrew from the area in June 2004. Japan's operations in East Timor contributed to stabilizing the area and promoting peace and security in the entire Asian region.

#### (4) Dispatch of Self-Defense Officials to the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

In 2000, the United Nations established the Panel on U.N. Peace Operations<sup>25</sup> to review all issues associated with U.N. peacekeeping operations. The United Nations expanded the number of officials in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (PKO Department) in line with recommendations by the panel, as a means of reinforcing the peacekeeping function of the U.N. headquarters.

In November 2001, the Law on Working Conditions of Defense Agency Officials Dispatched to International Organizations (1995 Law No. 122; hereinafter referred to as the "Dispatched Defense Agency Officials Working Conditions Law") was revised to enable the Defense Agency to send its officials to the PKO Department. The revision was based on the judgment that the agency's dispatch of officials to the U.N. department would contribute to supporting the United Nations in its efforts toward achieving world peace. Under the revised law, one GSDF officer was dispatched between December 2002 and June last year to the Military Planning Section of the Military Division in the PKO Department of the United Nations, which is located in the United States. The dispatched GSDF official participated in policy planning and formulation of measures for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), set up in June 2004. Another GSDF officer has been sent to this division since November last year.

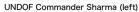
### [COLUMN]

# Message from the Force Commander of the UNDOF, delivered in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the dispatch of SDF units to the Force

The SDF's dispatch of units to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) marked its 10th anniversary in January this year. Lieutenant-General Sharma of the Nepalese Army, who is also Force Commander of the UNDOF, delivered a message to GSDF Chief of Staff Mori when a ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary was held in the Golan Heights. The message is shown below.

The United Nations congratulates Japan's SDF as its unit dispatch to the UNDOF marked its 10th anniversary.







VOICE

Message from the commander (right)

Japan's unit dispatch to the UNDOF started in 1996.

The country has also sent peacekeeping forces to other important U.N. peacekeeping operations. Japan's contribution to the UNDOF in the past 10 years was outstanding.

Japan has made a great contribution to the security and stability of the Middle East in the past 10 years by dispatching capable SDF personnel with professional expertise to the UNDOF and thus making a

direct impact on the maintenance of peace between Syria and Israel. We have been always impressed with the firm discipline, ability, politeness, culture and thoughtfulness of SDF personnel who have participated in UNDOF operations. SDF members inherit wonderful tradition of the SDF, contributing to the success of U.N. peacekeeping operations continuously and in numerous ways.

The United Nations praises SDF members for their achievements in supporting international efforts to realize peace in conflicted areas. The United Nations also expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Japanese Government and the SDF for their continuous support of the UNDOF.

We offer the SDF our congratulations on its outstandingly successful activities in the past 10 years from the bottom of our heart.

Force Commander of the UNDOF Lieutenant-General Bala Nanda Sharma

### 5. International Disaster Relief Operations

The Defense Agency and the SDF are determined to step up international disaster-relief operations from the viewpoint of increasing humanitarian contributions and improving the international security environment.

The Defense Agency has kept the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF ready to take any necessary action based on prepared disaster-relief operation plans, whenever a situation in which their operations are deemed necessary arises. The SDF has dispatched its troops overseas for international disaster-relief operations while closely examining specific relief requests filed by governments of affected countries and disaster situations in these countries. Each of the SDF's three units - the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF - has been conducting international disaster-relief operations in a manner that would maximize the function and ability of each unit.

The SDF's past operations for international disaster relief are shown in Fig 5-1-17. Recently, a dispatch

was made in the wake of a largescale earthquake off Sumatra Island in Indonesia and the subsequent tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004, which caused devastating damage to the area. In order to help victims of the disaster, the largest-ever scale of GSDF, MSDF and ASDF units were dispatched along with Joint Staff Council members.

Japan has made active humanitarian contribution to the international society by sending GSDF and ASDF units on overseas missions for various rescue operations, including a rescue operation for a Russian midget submarine off the Kamchatka Peninsula in August last year, res-

#### International Disaster Relief Operations, etc. by the SDF

Duration	International Disaster Relief Operations	Region
Nov. 1998–Dec. 1998	SDF units dispatched to Honduras with the Japan Disaster Relief Team	Central and SouthAmerica
Sept. 1999–Nov. 1999	Transportation of necessary resources for international disaster relief operations in the Republic of Turkey	Middle and Near East
Feb. 2001	International disaster relief operation after the Indian earthquake	South Asia
Dec. 2003–Jan. 2004	Transportation of necessary goods and materials for international disaster relief operations in the aftermath of the earthquake in southeastern Iran	Middle East
Dec. 2004–March 2005	International disaster relief operations in the aftermath of the Great Earthquake off Indonesia and Sumatra Island	Southeast Asia
August 2005	International disaster relief operation for Russian submarine accident off Kamchatka Peninsula, Russian Federation	North Pacific
October–December 2005	International disaster relief operation in response to major earthquakes in Pakistan, etc.	South Asia
May 2006-	International disaster relief operations after earthquake that hit central Java Island, Indonesia	Southeast Asia

Fig. 5-1-17

cue operations following a massive earthquake that hit Pakistan in October last year, as well as the dispatch of GSDF and ASDF forces following the earthquake in central Java Island, Indonesia, this May. These humanitarian contributions by Japan, including its readiness for international disaster-relief operations, have won high acclaim from the global community.

#### (1) Outline of the Law Concerning the Dispatch of International Disaster- Relief Teams

Since the Law Concerning the Dispatch of International Disaster- Relief Teams (1987 Law No. 93; hereinafter referred to as "the International Disaster-Relief Law") was enacted in 1987, Japan has engaged in international disaster-relief activities in response to requests from the governments of affected countries and international organizations.

In 1992, the International Disaster-Relief Law was amended to enable the SDF to participate in international disaster-relief operations and to transport its personnel and equipment. Since then, the SDF has maintained its readiness for international disaster-relief operations with self-sufficient capabilities, including relief operations and medical treatment, and with the use of its own equipment, organizations and benefits of regular training, even when local support is not available for transport, accommodation, food and water supplies, communications, sanitation, and so forth.

### (2) International Disaster-Relief Operations by the SDF and the SDF's Posture

International disaster-relief operations conducted by the SDF may take different forms according to factors such as the scale of the disaster, the degree of damage, and the requests of the governments of affected countries or international organizations. The SDF's past record on domestic disaster-relief operations indicates possible fields of cooperation to be extended by the SDF overseas for disaster relief.

These fields are:

- i) medical service, such as first-aid medical treatment and epidemic prevention;
- ii) transport of goods, patients, and disaster-relief personnel by helicopter;
- iii) ensuring water supplies using water-purifying devices;

Also, the SDF may use transport planes and transport ships to carry disaster-relief personnel, and equipment to the affected area.

Regional units of the GSDF are assigned duties on a six-month rotational basis to ensure that they can provide medical, transport and water-supply services in a self-sufficient manner anytime the need for disaster-relief operations arises.

The MSDF and the ASDF are always prepared to have their fleet and air-support teams, respectively, transport supplies to their units or units participating in international disaster-relief operations anytime the need for disaster relief arises.

### (3) International Disaster-Relief Activities by Japan after the Large-Scale Earthquake off

Sumatra Island and the Indian Ocean Tsunami

A large-scale earthquake occurred off Indonesia's Sumatra Island on December 26, 2004, and the subsequent tsunami tidal wave in the Indian Ocean caused devastating damage on areas near the seismic center.

On December 27, the Government of Kingdom of Thailand filed a formal request for Japan's assistance. On December 28, the Japanese Foreign Minister consulted with the Minister of State for Defense and asked the Defense Submarine rescue mother vessel Chiyoda heading for rescue



Agency to study what Japan could do to help the victims of the natural disasters in Thailand based on the International Disaster-Relief Law. Later on December 28, the Minister of State for Defense ordered MSDF vessels in the Indian Ocean to change their courses and head for Thailand although they were returning home after being replaced by other MSDF units following the completion of their anti-terrorist mission in the Indian Ocean in line with the Anti-Terrorist Special Measures Law.

On January 3 last year, the Government of Japan received a request from the Government of Indonesia to provide support to the country to help its people affected by the earthquake and the tsunami. Following its meeting with the Foreign Ministry on January 4, the Defense Agency and the SDF agreed to send disaster-relief teams to Indonesia. Specifically, the Minister of State for Defense dispatched on January 6 an airlifting squadron of the ASDF for disaster-relief operations, a disaster-relief unit of the MSDF, medical and aircraft-support units of the GSDF, and liaison and coordination officers of the Joint Staff Council to Indonesia's Aceh Province and its surrounding areas, which were hit hard by the disaster.

Troops and officers of the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF plus the Joint Staff Council were dispatched together for the same mission for the first time, with the number of personnel involved totaling about 1,000, the largest-ever scale for SDF members being sent overseas. The mission of this scale reconfirmed the need for the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF to work together to carry out assigned duties in an effective and efficient manner. (See Fig. 5-1-18.)

# Outline of Troop Locations International disaster relief operation in response to the major earthquake in Sumatra, Indonesia, and tsunami in the Indian Ocean

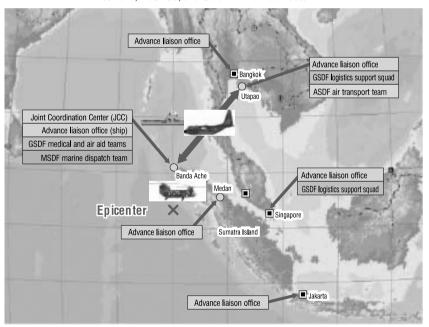


Fig. 5-1-18

### (4) International Disaster-Relief Operations for Rescue of Crew of Russian Midget Submarine Stuck off Kamchatka Peninsula

On August 4 last year a Russian midget submarine was trapped in waters off the Kamchatka Peninsula as the vessel's rudder got tangled with a wire to stabilize an undersea cable. On August 5, a day after the accident occurred, the Defense Agency received a request from the Russian Government through the Foreign Affairs Ministry to send vessels on a mission to rescue crew members of the Russian midget submarine. Later on August 5, acting on an order from the Minister of State for Defense, the MSDF submarine rescue mother vessel Chiyoda, the minesweeping mother ship Uraga and two minesweepers - Uwajima and Yugeshima - were dispatched to the scene on a mission to cut the undersea cable that snarled the submarine.

All of seven crew members aboard the Russian midget submarine were rescued unharmed by a British unmanned underwater rescue vessel on August 7 and the rescue operation ended before the MSDF vessels arrived in the accident site. But Japan's active response for salvaging the Russian submarine and its swift dispatch of MSDF units to the scene won high acclaim from the Russian Government as Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov made a phone call to then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Yoshinori Ohno expressing the country's gratitude to Japan, saying Japan was the first country to initiate an action for the rescue operation and Russia will never forget what Japan did for the country.

The Commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet expressed Russia gratitude to the commander who led the four-vessel MSDF squadron saying the Japanese action reflected relations of mutual trust between Russia

and Japan that have been built after defense exchanges between the Russian Pacific Fleet and Japan's MSDF in recent years.

When Minister of State for Defense Fukushiro Nukaga visited Russia in January this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia would confer a honorary medal of the Russian Federation to Captain Kenji Kinoshita (Commander of the Submarine Flotilla Two), who headed the MSDF squadron for the rescue of the crew of the midget submarine, for the outstanding work in the rescue operation.



MSDF Captain Kenji Kinoshita receives a honorary medal from Russia

### [COLUMN]

### VOICE

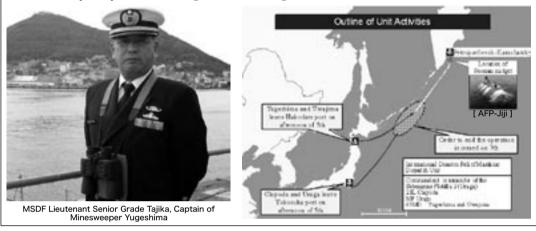
## Voice of an SDF officer engaged in rescue operation for a Russian submarine

Captain of Minesweeper Yugeshima Lieutenant Tetsuya Tajika

In the wake of the accident of a Russian midget submarine, Minesweeper Yugeshima, which belongs to Minesweeping Unit 45, at which I serve as captain, left Hakodate port along with minesweeper Uwajima on August 5 after swiftly making preparations for a rescue operation, and headed to the accident site at full speed. Submarine rescue mother ship Chiyoda and minesweeping mother ship Uraga left Yokosuka port, heading to the accident site.

The morale of our crew members was high although our rescue mission was difficult, with details of the accident being sparse and little time left for rescue. While heading to the accident site, our crew members held active discussions to explore ways to rescue the Russian submarine, including how to confirm the undersea situation using a sonar and S-7 mine-disposal equipment and how to cut off an undersea cable that entangled the Russian submarine. All our crew members thought hard in order to fulfill the mission, which made me feel confident about my crew.

All of the crew members aboard the Russian midget submarine were rescued before our fleet arrived at the site. But I heard that the initial action taken by Japan following the outbreak of the accident was the fastest among countries that dispatched rescue units. This resulted from concerned units' efforts to make themselves ready to act in the event of an emergency and rescue drills we have conducted in the past, including the Western Pacific submarine rescue exercise. The MSDF and the Russian Navy built friendly relations through joint exercises and defense exchanges, including the Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) last year. I feel our relations with the Russian Navy have deepened further due to the MSDF's participation in rescuing the Russian midget submarine.



### (5) International Disaster-Relief Activities by Japan after the Large-Scale Earthquake in Pakistan

A large-scale earthquake that hit Pakistan's Kashmir region on October 8 last year caused devastating damage in the region, making the airlifting of relief goods and materials by helicopters imperative as traffic access to the affected areas via ground transportation means became difficult.

Following the receipt of a request for rescue operations from the Government of Pakistan on October 11, the Japanese Foreign Minister met with the Minister of State for Defense and asked for the Defense Agency's cooperation in helping people affected by the earthquake in line with the International Disaster-Relief Law. On October 12, the Defense Agency dispatched to Pakistan a 20-member advance team of the GSDF's emergency airlifting unit formed to respond to the earthquake. The advance team took charge of coordination

work for Japan's airlifting activity in Pakistan. Also on October 12, the Minister of State for Defense issued a dispatch order to the GSDF and the ASDF. Following the order, four C-130H transport planes of the ASDF departed Chitose Airport on October 13 or after, carrying three GSDF helicopters which were to engage in airlifting operations in Pakistan. The four C-130H planes arrived in Islamabad by October 16. In addition, two government planes left Chitose Airport on October 14, carrying remaining members of the GSDF emergency airlifting unit,



A GSDF helicopter transporting victims of the earthquake

and materials and equipment they were to use in Pakistan. The government planes arrived in Islamabad later on October 14.

On October 17, the GSDF unit began its mission, airlifting aid goods and materials from Islamabad to Batagram, an area affected by the earthquake.

On October 21, three additional GSDF helicopters and additional GSDF members were sent to Pakistan. On October 25, a total of six GSDF helicopters were deployed for the airlifting mission. These helicopters airlifted about 41 tons of aid goods and materials such as medicines and tents during their operations through November 24 while transporting 720 people affected by the earthquake, including those who were injured.

On November 14, the Minister of State for Defense ordered the emergency GSDF unit to terminate the airlifting operation, judging that traffic that had been cut off along roads due to the earthquake was resumed while rescue needs from local people were almost satisfied. The dispatched GSDF units returned to Japan by December 2. (See Fig. 5-1-19.)

## Outline of Troop Deployment (International Disaster Relief Operation in Major Earthquakes in Pakistan, Etc.)

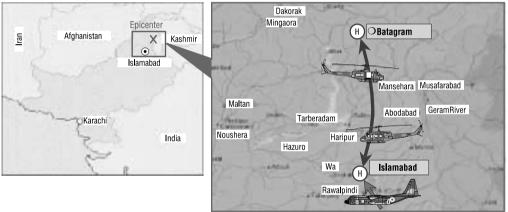


Fig. 5-1-19

To be noted about this SDF rescue operation was that the ASDF's C-130H transport planes were used to transport GSDF helicopters overseas for the first time. Also to be mentioned was that the GSDF engaged in the airlifting operation in collaboration with emergency medical teams of international disaster-relief organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other global organs like the International Organization for Migration (IOM)<sup>26</sup>.

On November 12, General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's President, visited a heliport in Islamabad and met with Japanese GSDF members who were undertaking airlifting operations, expressing his gratitude over their activities. On November 14, Musharraf also expressed a deep gratitude to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi by telephone, saying that Japan's SDF has shown outstanding performance in helping the affected people in Pakistan.



Pakistani President Musharraf shaking hands with GSDF rescue team chief Kudo

### [COLUMN]

### COMMENTARY

## Voices of a GSDF officer and others engaged in Pakistan international disaster relief operations

Pakistan International Disaster Relief Operations Unit
Major Masatoshi MURANISHI
(currently serving with Aviation Unit 2)

Major Muranishi, who was dispatched to Pakistan to engage in international disaster relief operations following the outbreak of a major earthquake in the country last year, was asked about difficulties he had faced in fulfilling the mission.

I was sent to Pakistan as a member of an advance team prior to the dispatch of a main unit in charge of actual disaster relief operations. In the country, I worked to pave the way for smooth operations by the main unit while grasping the situation of the region hit by the earthquake. Many relief goods being provided by other countries were unloaded at Chaklala airbase of the Pakistan Air Force. Until the main unit arrived there two days later, I busied myself at the air base, engaging in various works, including securing space



GSDF Major Muranishi engaging in coordination work at a

where a helicopter could be assembled and coordination in procuring fuel for the helicopter. Later, I moved to a heliport in Islamabad, which became a base for our operations, in line with a request by the Pakistan Government.

After the main unit arrived, we tried to grasp local needs in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). We also held meetings with the Pakistan military, units of militaries of other countries and the Japanese Embassy to coordinate our mission, and devised a flight plan for the following day. Because of these efforts, our support activities were conducted very efficiently.

In airlifting relief goods, we kept a strict watch outside the helicopter because visually confirming our bearings and locations of other airplanes was difficult with the range of vision in Islamabad and its vicinity being only several kilometers due to dust clouds. We used a portable GPS system in order to fly safely over areas where 2,000 meter high mountains continued. We also secured emergency communications means such as satellite-based portable phones in response to a possible outbreak of unexpected problems at the airplane and sudden changes in weather conditions.

When we unloaded airlifted relief goods at a heliport in a mountainous area for the first time, an old man came to the cockpit and offered to shake hands with us saying, "Arigato (thank you)."

This episode made me realize the depth of gratitude being expressed to us by local people affected by the disaster. And we also became determined to fly every day from tomorrow for people who needed our help. Seeing tents we had airlifted being put up one after another on mountains and valleys in out-of-theway places, we felt again the fulfilling challenge of our mission.

Ms. Takagi of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ms. Hamada of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), both of whom participated in international disaster relief operations in

Pakistan in cooperation with the SDF, were asked about how they saw activities of SDF members dispatched to the country.

Employed at Komagane training center of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Michiyo Takagi

Japan's dispatch of units to Pakistan for disaster relief operations as well as sending money and aid

goods in the wake of a major earthquake in the country was of a great help to people affected by the disaster. I supported SDF members in fulfilling their unit's international disaster relief operations by acting as their guide, translating the local language (Urdu) and Japanese, and offering advice on taboos observed under Islam, customs and how to negotiate with local people. I faced various constraints not only when we engaged in relief activities but also in daily life. For example, relief activities slowed during the time of sunset because the month in which we worked happened to be Ramadan. Another problem was that



Ms. Takagi of JICA

relief goods being supplied from other countries were found to contain goods that were not consistent with the practice of Muslims. Japan's SDF members being sent to Pakistan respected the customs of local people and undertook relief activities from the viewpoint of meeting the need of Pakistani people, including taking measures to ensure necessary goods would be supplied to places actually needing them. I feel proud of having been able to participate in part of the SDF mission and able to serve as a bridge between Japanese and Pakistani people.

Employed at IOM Office in Pakistan Yuko Hamada

I participated in coordination meetings with SDF members on a regular basis and exchanged information with them on the needs of local peopled affected by the disaster, weather conditions and road conditions. Due to such coordination work, we established a division of labor - SDF members airlifting relief goods using a helicopter and our team working out a schedule for delivering such goods with the backing of the Pakistani military. As a result, relief goods were distributed to the affected local people more swiftly and effectively.



Ms. Hamada of IOM

Accompanying SDF members, I visited tents in affected areas in November last year, and delivered sleeping mats, water-storage tanks and tents to affected people. At that time, I visited a school in the district of Alay and played a vertical bamboo flute called Shakuhachi in Japanese in front of children. The children liked the performance very much. Local people affected by the earthquake expressed their gratitude for our relief activities. One of them said, "People from Japan came and helped us when nobody was ready to help us due to the closure of roads." Others said, "It was only an SDF helicopter which delivered relief goods to us by flying two to four times a day almost every day until the mission ended."

### [COLUMN]

### COMMENTARY

### Voice of an ASDF officer engaged in Pakistan international disaster relief operations

Pakistan International Disaster Relief Operations Unit Senior Master Sergeant Shoji SUZUKI

(currently serving with the 401st flying squadron of the Air Transport Squadron)

Our latest mission was to transport to Islamabad the GSDF's UH-1H helicopter, which was to airlift relief goods to areas affected by the earthquake in Pakistan. For people who needed our help, we had to safely transport the helicopter to the destination and make it ready for immediate use. As a crew member of a C-130H transport plane, I drew up a plan to airlift the helicopter to Islamabad. I supervised the loading of the helicopter onto the C-130H plane while ensuring the safety of those involved in the task. I felt strained very much while the task was underway, because this was the first time a UH-1H helicopter was to be carried aboard a C-130 transport plane. So, we had to do much of the work by trial and error.

The most difficult part of the mission was to carefully load the UH-1H helicopter onto the C-130 plane without damaging the helicopter's windshield and its antenna, given that the UH-1A helicopter's height and width was almost as large as the C-130H cargo room. So, we had to closely cooperate with GSDF members in the actual loading.

In airlifting the helicopter to Pakistan, we were on a high alert because an unexpected air turbulence or the plane's vibration in landing or takeoff could occur anytime. In light of these difficulties, we were tired mentally, but were able to execute the mission because we reminded ourselves of the disaster victims waiting for our help and the importance of the mission. We carried out the mission telling ourselves how determined we were to fulfill the mission, no matter how challenging.

Having fulfilled the latest mission as a representative of Japan amid attention from the international community, I have new confidence in executing work in the future and can undertake new missions with pride. I think we won the Japanese people's confidence because we were able to show results after days of training and to demonstrate our ability to the fullest extent.



Senior Master Sergeant Suzuki working inside a C-130H transport plane



A GSDF helicopter being loaded into an ASDF C-130H transport plane

### (6) International Disaster Relief Operations Following the Earthquake in Central Java Island, Indonesia

On May 27 this year, a large-scale earthquake hit central Java Island, Indonesia, destroying almost all buildings in the southern part of Yogyakarta Special Region, located near the earthquake's epicenter, and causing great damage - killing many people and leaving many injured.<sup>27</sup>

On May 29, the Japanese Foreign Minister, following the receipt of a request from the Indonesian Government for Japan's cooperation in disaster relief operations, consulted with the Minister of State for Defense in line with the International Disaster Relief Law. Minister of State for Defense Nukaga decided to dispatch the SDF to the affected area in Indonesia as part of Japan's international disaster relief operation, and issued an order for relevant SDF units to start preparations for such operations.

On May 30, an advance team consisting of 20 SDF members left for Indonesia to un-

#### Surrounding Areas of Central Java Earthquake



Fig. 5-1-20

dertake information gathering in the affected area and coordination for smoothing the local area's acceptance of Japanese disaster-relief activities. Following the issuance of a dispatch order by the Minister of State for Defense on May 31, the SDF sent a medical relief team of 50 personnel, including seven medical officers, and two ASDF C-130H transport airplanes to Java Island on June 1.

In mountainous areas of the Yogyakarta Special Region, not many medical doctors were present, making it necessary for the international community to provide medical support to local people who were injured in the earthquake. The dispatched Japanese medical relief team started making rounds in Bunder village in Gunung Kidul Regency in the Yogyakarta Special Region on June 2. The following day, on June 3, the medical relief team set up tents in which to provide medical services, and began medical support, including applying bandages and disinfecting wounds.

On June 2, the Minister of State for Defense decided to send additional SDF members to Indonesia, based on the results of on-the-spot investigations by the advance team. On June 4, an additional GSDF dispatch unit of about 100 members and two more C-130H transport planes of the ASDF, which would be in charge of airlifting relief goods, left Japan, heading for Indonesia.

On June 13, the Minister of State for Defense, judging emergency medical support needs in the affected area were almost met, ordered the dispatched SDF units, which had been engaging in international disaster relief operations, to terminate their mission. The SDF units ended their operations by June 16 and returned home by June 22. During their participation in the medical relief mission, the SDF units provided medical service to a total of 3,759 people in the affected area and vaccinated 1,683 people. The dispatched units took measures to prevent epidemics in a 4,300-square-meter area.



Medical services being provided at a first-aid station set up in Bunder village