

### Examples of Japan's Growing Exchanges in the Area of Defense

## High-level exchanges

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<div>International conferences, etc.</div> <div>Visits</div> <div>Receive</div>															Singapore	
															Republic of Korea	
													Singapore		Mongolia	
												Malaysia			Philippines	
												East Timor	Singapore		Australia	
												India	Australia		UK	
							Israel					Australia	France		Australia	
		UK					Syria					UAE	Russia		Singapore	
		Belgium		Rwanda			UK					Australia	India		Malaysia	Philippines
		Hungary		Zaire			Republic of Korea	Australia			France	Republic of Korea	China	Netherlands	Indonesia	New Zealand
		NATO		Mozambique	Kenya		Mongolia	Vietnam			UK	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	France	Philippines	Mongolia
Australia	Canada	Thailand		South Africa	Rwanda	Russia	Russia	China		Vietnam	Indonesia	East Timor	Republic of Korea	UK	Republic of Korea	Indonesia
Malaysia	Philippines	Singapore		Kenya	Zaire	Republic of Korea	Germany	Republic of Korea	Russia	Singapore	Singapore	India	Mongolia	UK	Singapore	Australia
Republic of Korea	Sweden	France	Mozambique	Republic of Korea	Mozambique	Canada	Romania	China	Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea	Malaysia	Canada	Russia	Finland	New Zealand	Singapore
Thailand	Hungary	Sweden	Germany	Thailand	Republic of Korea	UK	NATO	Singapore	France	Russia	Philippines	UK	Australia	Netherlands	Switzerland	Russia
France	NATO	Australia	Turkey	Israel	Mongolia	Sweden	Australia	Vietnam	Australia	India	New Zealand	France	New Zealand	Kuwait	NATO	UK

### Working-level exchanges

Countries	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Republic of Korea					●	●	●	●	○○	○○	○○	●	○○	○○●	●	●	
China				○FA	○DF	○	○▲	○○▲		○▲	○▲		○	●	○▲▲	▲	
Russian Federation			○		○	○	○○	●					●	○○	●	●	●
Australia							○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○			●	●
New Zealand														●		●	●
Singapore								●		●	●		●	○○	●	●	
Thailand									○○	○○		○○	○○	○○			○○
Vietnam												○○				○○	
Philippines																○○	○○
Indonesia								●									
Malaysia										●						●	
India												○○			○	○○	○○
Pakistan															○○		
UK	○		○	○	○	○		○					○○	○○	●		●
France					●			○○	○○	○○		○○		○○	○○	○○	○○
Germany					○○	○○		○○	○○			○○			○	○○	○○
Canada								○	●		○○●		○○	○		○○	
NATO				○		○			○		○						○

☐ Work ing-level meetings of officers in foreign affairs & defense organizations  
(FA: Participation of foreign affairs officers only; DF: Participation of defense officers only)

▲ Administrative-Vice-Minister-level Meetings of defense ministers of Japan and China

Fig. 5-2-4

## [COLUMN]

## VOICE

### Voice of an SDF officer who participated in the Japan-ROK Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX)

Destroyer Isoyuki  
Chief Weapons Officer  
Lieutenant Commander  
Katsunori Segawa

Lieutenant Commander Segawa, who participated in the Japan-ROK Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) conducted in waters southwest of Tsushima Island in August last year as chief weapons officer of the destroyer Isoyuki, was asked about the hardships he faced in the exercise and his impression from participating.

I am with the destroyer Isoyuki, which belongs to Fleet Escort Force 23 of the Sasebo District. At Isoyuki, I am in charge of the operation and maintenance of weapons, and also in charge of taking command and supervising weapons operations. When I took part in the SAREX, I was in charge of overall operations.

What was good about my participation in the SAREX was that the exercise was conducted smoothly. In addition, it was good for me to be able to meet with senior officers of the ROK Navy in person. Also, I was pleased to be able to glimpse how they think about national defense.

Last August's SAREX was conducted relatively easily partly because weather conditions were good. The most difficult part of the exercise was communications with ROK officers. I tried to communicate mainly using English, but found it particularly difficult to make myself understood on the sea using wireless radios to engage in coordination work on detailed aspects of the exercise. But we felt it is important for us to keep participating in similar exercises so that communications with ROK officers can become smoother.

Search and rescue missions are something that are undertaken with countries helping each other beyond their national boundaries. Search and rescue operations deepen mutual confidence and friendship among countries participating in the operations. The SAREX provides valuable training opportunities for the MSDF and the ROK Navy to enhance their search and rescue ability. Furthermore, it plays an important role in promoting defense exchanges of the two countries, building a basis for fostering friendship, goodwill and trust. There are many values Japan and ROK can share with each other, including the Korean culture boom in Japan. On the other hand, the two countries have remained apart over some issues. Under such circumstances, it is all the more important for Japan and ROK to promote defense exchanges and deepen their mutual understanding.



Lieutenant Commander Segawa



Japan-ROK SAREX

### **3. Multilateral Security Dialogue**

#### **(1) Significance of Multilateral Security Dialogue**

Multilateral security dialogue is extremely significant because participating countries can deepen their mutual understanding and increase mutual trust by exchanging views on security issues of mutual concern. Such security dialogue can also effectively contribute to bringing about regional peace and stability, with concerned countries having the opportunity to positively tackle particular issues across border under the multilateral framework.

#### **(2) ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

At the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting and ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in 1993, the foreign ministers from these 17 countries and those from the European Community (EC), now the European Union (EU), agreed to create the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as a political and security forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its first ministerial meeting in 1994, the number of members of the ARF has gradually increased as the forum has held its regular meeting annually. At present, the number of members stands at 24 countries and one organization<sup>31</sup>.

The ARF is not a type of security organization as seen in Europe but it is a region-wide forum for intergovernmental political and security dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the significance of defense officials from member countries participating in the forum came to be recognized. The ARF has significance because it provides opportunities for member countries to send both diplomatic and defense officials to various Track 1 meetings.

The Defense Agency believes that it is necessary for defense officials among ARF member countries to enhance mutual confidence during the process of the ARF so that the ARF would become a forum to generate a sense of being part of one community among its members, and thereby stabilize the region's security environment. From this perspective, the Defense Agency has been continuing its efforts to deepen mutual understanding within the ARF by continuing to participate in the ARF process, by encouraging ARF members to increase the transparency of their defense policies and by promoting frank discussion among members' defense officials.

In recent years, ARF member countries have been using its meetings to actively exchange their views on common regional security issues including international disaster-relief activities and maritime security. The Japan Defense Agency has been actively taking part in such discussion being made among ARF countries.

The ARF has held the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and the Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in addition to the Foreign Ministerial Meeting every year.

Aside from the so-called Plenary Meeting, which is composed of foreign and defense ministry officials from the ARF member countries, defense officials have convened their own "Defense Officials Dialogue" in advance of the Foreign Ministerial Meeting. Since 2002, Japan Defense Agency has steadily increased its involvement in the ARF, actively participating in these meetings, and frankly exchanging views with defense officials from other ARF member countries.

#### **(3) Multilateral Security Dialogue Sponsored or Participated in by the Japan Defense Agency and the SDF**

The Defense Agency believes that it is important for Japan to take the initiative in multilateral security dialogue in order to promote mutual understanding and confidence among defense officials of Japan and other countries through information exchanges and discussions. The Defense Agency also believes that by

doing so, Japan can contribute to making the Asia-Pacific region stable. Based on this perception, the Defense Agency has sponsored seminars and other events to promote multilateral security dialogue at various levels - the Internal Bureau, the GSDF, the MSDF, the ASDF, the National Defense Academy and the National Institute for Defense Studies - and has actively participated in such forums sponsored by foreign countries and other organizations.

Forums for multilateral security dialogue being sponsored or participated in by the Defense Agency and the SDF are shown in Figs. 5-2-5 and 5-2-6.

In Particular, the Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum) has been sponsored by the Defense Agency every year since 1996. The forum is designed to contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region by deepening mutual understanding among participating countries on each other's defense policy and increasing the transparency of their defense policies. Under the forum, defense officials of participating countries have exchanged views on defense policies, and efforts being made by each country to foster mutual trust in the field of defense.

The 10th Tokyo Defense Forum in June last year was participated in by 22 countries, the EU and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The participants exchanged views on future challenges and possibilities for regional cooperation, based on the lesson that militaries of each country learned in activities to relieve victims of the December 2004 large-scale earthquake that occurred off Sumatra in Indonesia and the subsequent tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

The IISS Asia Security Conference is an international conference being held annually in Singapore under the sponsorship of an organization in the private sector and is the only conference being participated in by a large number of defense ministers in the Asia-Pacific region. The latest IISS Asia Security Conference, held in June this year, was attended by defense ministers and other officials from 22 countries. Participating in from Japan was Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga, who delivered a speech under the title, "Deploying the international Forces for International Security," and explained about Japan's experience of dispatch of the SDF. In the speech, Nukaga also expressed Japan's willingness to continue to take the initiative in the field of disaster relief, proposing to develop strategies and procedures in advance to facilitate a fast response by armed forces in the face of disaster in the Asia-Pacific Region.

On the fringes of the international conference, Japanese Minister of State for Defense Nukaga held bilateral talks with key defense officials including Defense Ministers from the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Zealand, Canada and Mongolia.

## Multilateral Security Dialogues Hosted by the Defense Agency

Security Dialogues		Outline	Recent Developments
Internal Bureau, etc.	Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum)	Hosted by the Defense Agency, this forum has been held annually since 1996 with Director-General-level officials in charge of defense policy and defense exchange, all from the Asia-Pacific region-participating. The forum is designed to provide defense officials with opportunities to exchange views on ways to promote confidence-building in defense areas with major attention paid to each country's national defense and national defense policy.	With 22 ARF member nations, as well as EU, etc., a meeting was held to exchange views on "future challenges and possibilities for regional cooperation based on the lesson that militaries of each country learned in activities to relieve victims of the December 2004 large-scale earthquake that occurred off Sumatra in Indonesia and subsequent Tsunami in the Indian Ocean." In future disaster relief activities, agreement was reached on the need for close coordination, information sharing on disaster news update among nations and international organizations engaged in such activities and continued multilateral dialogue at ARF and other venues.
	Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Sub committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum)	Hosted by the Defense Agency, this form has been held annually since 2002 with Director(colonel)-level working officials in charge of defense policy and defense exchange from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The forum is designed to provide defense officials with opportunities to exchange views on particular security issues addressed at the Tokyo Defense Forum.	The 5th Sub-committee was held in January, with the participation of 21 nations and three organizations. Organized on the theme of "Efforts to Build a Basis for International Cooperation during Disaster Relief," the meeting deliberated on "how to" utilize lessons and challenges identified in past meetings of Tokyo Defense Forum, ARF and other multilateral fora.
GSDF	Multilateral Logistics Staff Talks	Hosted by the GSDF, these talks have been held annually since 1997, inviting government officials in charge of logistics support from the Asia-Pacific region and Europe to provide opportunities to exchange views on logistic systems.	In December 2005, logistics officers of the armed forces of Australia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, China, Thailand and the United States were invited to the Ninth Multilateral Logistics Staff Talks to exchange views on logistics support in international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
	Army Command and Staff Course Students Exchange Program	Hosted by the GSDF, this seminar has been held annually since 2001 with students of military academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on training of military units.	In August 2005, the Fifth Army Command and General Staff College Seminar was held, attracting the participation of military academy cadets in eight nations of the Asia-Pacific, in order to exchange views on the issue of methods in building leadership.
MSDF	Seminar of Naval Academies in the Asia-Pacific Region	Hosted by the MSDF, this seminar has been held annually since 1998 with teachers of naval colleges from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on roles of naval strength.	In February 2006, officers representing naval academies in 13 countries of the Asia Pacific were invited for the ninth seminar on the theme of "progress in multilateral cooperation among international and regional societies and policies, issues and prospects of navies of participating nations."
	Navy Command and Staff Course Student Exchange Program (Western Pacific Naval Symposium Seminar for Officers of the Next Generation (WPNS SONG))	Hosted by the MSDF, this seminar has been held annually since 2000 with students of naval colleges participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on the situations surrounding education to foster naval leadership.	The fifth seminar was held in November 2005, with naval academy cadets, etc., from 18 Asia-Pacific nations, to exchange views on "methods of evaluating leadership education" and "assessment of conditions pertaining to security of nations in the maritime scenes of the Asia-Pacific." Since the third seminar, the meeting has been named Seminar for Officers of Next Generation under the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).
ASDF	International Air Force Education Seminar	Hosted by the ASDF, this seminar has been held annually since 1996 with officials related to air force colleges from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on education of officer candidates.	The seminar was held for the 10th time in February 2006, with six nations invited to exchange views on "the current state of Officer training in various countries and the state of training exchange with other countries."
	Air Command and Staff Course Students Exchange Program	Hosted by the ASDF, this seminar has been held annually since 2001 with students of air force colleges from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on security issues and the roles of each country.	The fifth seminar was held in October 2005 on the theme of "security of Asia-Pacific region and the role of each country" with air force academy cadets from eight Asia-Pacific nations.
National Defense Academy	International Seminar on Defense Science	Hosted by the National Defense Academy, this seminar has been held annually since 1996 with teachers of military academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on cadet education.	With the participation of 13 countries, the 10th seminar was held in July 2005 on "Education on Theory of National Defense for Cadets and Midshipmen—The role of Armed Forces in National Security."
	International Cadets' Conference	Hosted by the National Defense Academy, this conference has been held annually since 1998 with cadets from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The conference is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on militaries in the 21st century.	With the participation of 13 countries, the ninth seminar was held in March 2006 on "Approaches to Changing International Cooperation."
National Institute for Defense Studies	Asia-Pacific Security Seminar	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this seminar has been held annually since 1994 with military officials from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on security order in the region.	The 12th Asia-Pacific Security Seminar was held in November 2005. With the participation of 20 nations, deliberations were held on the role of the military and promotion of regional cooperation, with focus on the two themes of disaster relief after the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster that took place in December 2004 and assistance for reconstruction after conflicts. The seminar featured presentations, discussions and training at facilities related to the themes.
	International Security Seminar	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this seminar has been held annually since 1999 with security researchers participating. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to publicly exchange views on security, to release reports on security, and to deepen the general public's understanding on security issues.	In February 2006, prominent researchers were invited from the United States, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea and Singapore for an exchange of views on "reform in the armed forces for security in the 21st century."
	International Security Colloquium	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this seminar has been held annually since 1999 with intellectuals at home and from abroad invited. The seminar is designed to provide opportunities to have more advanced and specialistic reports and discussions on security issues.	In February 2006, experts from the United States, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea and Singapore were invited to engage in deliberations with Japanese experts on "reform in the armed forces for security in the 21st century."
	Forum on War History Studies	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this forum has been held annually since 2002 with military researchers participating. The forum is designed to deepen the mutual understanding of participants by making comparison of war history studies.	Researchers from the United States, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea and Israel were invited to Japan in September 2005 for exchange of views on "the future of air power and Japan—a historical perspective."

Fig. 5-2-5



**Other Multilateral Security Dialogues**  
(multilateral security dialogues held in rotation or those held in other countries)

Other Multilateral Security dialogues			Overview
Hosted by the Government	Internal Bureau, etc.	Tripartite working-level consultations among defense officials from Japan, the U.S. and the ROK	These are tripartite working-level consultations among defense officials from Japan, the U.S. and the ROK, aimed at exchanging views on a wide range of security topics. The consultations were first convened in 1994, and since 1996 have been acknowledged as an official intergovernmental meeting.
		Asia-Pacific Military Operations Research Symposium (AMORS)	AMORS is a forum held by the participating countries in rotation, aimed at exchanging information of defense operations and research technology and attended by countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Defense Agency has participated in AMORS since the second meeting in 1993.
		ARF Security Policy Conference	The conference is a forum held by the participating countries in rotation, aimed at exchanging information on the security of the Asia-Pacific region and attended by higher-level officials of defense and diplomatic agencies of the countries participating in ARF. The Defense Agency participated in the 1st Symposium held in November 2004 and the 2nd Symposium in May 2005.
	Joint Chief of Staff Office	Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defense Conference (CHOD)	The conference is held annually under the sponsorship of the United States or other participating countries in rotation. Defense chiefs from the Asia-Pacific region gather to exchange views on security issues. Japan has taken part in the conference since its first meeting in 1998.
		Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS)	Meeting of Asia-Pacific nations to exchange views on lateral support activities, with participating nations alternating turns in hosting the meeting. Japan has been participating as official member from the 24th seminar held in 1995.
	GSDF	Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS)	PAMS is a forum held jointly by the U.S. and the participating countries in rotation. It provides opportunities for exchanging information about efficient and economical management techniques so that armies in the Asia-Pacific region can develop their ground troops. The GSDF has been participating in PAMS since the 17th meeting in 1993.
		Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC)	PACC is a forum held jointly by the U.S. and the participating countries in rotation. It is held every other year at the same time as PAMS, and provides an arena where the Army chiefs of Pacific region countries can exchange views. The GSDF has been participating in PACC since the first meeting in 1999.
	MSDF	International Sea-Power Symposium (ISS)	ISS is a forum held every other year and sponsored by the U.S. It provides an arena where the naval Chiefs of Staff of the participating countries can share their views on issues of common concern. The MSDF has been participating in ISS since the first meeting in 1969.
		Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)	This symposium is held in a year when the ISS is not slated to meet. Hosted by participating countries in rotation, it provides navy chiefs of staff of Western Pacific countries with opportunities to exchange views. Japan has taken part in the symposium since its second gathering in 1990.
		International MCM Seminar	This seminar is held in a year when the Western Pacific MCME/DIVEX is not conducted. Hosted by WPNS member countries on a rotational basis, it provides participants with opportunities to exchange views on minesweeping operations. Japan has participated in this seminar since first one in 2000.
	ASDF	Pacific Air Chiefs Conference (PACC)	PACC is a forum held jointly by the U.S. and the participating countries in rotation, every other year. It provides an arena for the air chiefs of the participating countries to exchange views on issues of common concern to Air Forces. The ASDF has been participating in PACC since the first meeting in 1989.
		Director of Operations Conference (DOCONF)	DO CONF is an annual forum held jointly by the U.S. and the participating countries in rotation (in 1996 and 1997, DOCONF was held bi-annually.) It provides an arena for Air Force strategy chiefs of countries in the Pacific Rim region to exchange views. The ASDF has participated in DO CONF since the first meeting in 1995.
Hosted by the Private Sector	Asia Security Conference		Hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in U.K., the conference has been held since 2002 with defense ministers from the Asia-Pacific region attending. The conference is designed to provide opportunities to exchange views on regional security issues. Japan has participated in the conference since its first meeting in 2002.
	Tripartite Forum on North Pacific Security		The Tripartite Forum on North Pacific Security, sponsored by private research organizations in the U.S., Russia and Japan (among them the Japan Institute of International Affairs) is a forum for the free exchange of views by diplomatic and defense officials and private researchers on various issues related to the security of the North Pacific region. The Defense Agency has been participating in the Forum since its first meeting in 1994.
	Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD)		Organized under the leadership of the Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) of the University of California in San Diego, with the cooperation of private research institutes from such countries as the U.S., Russia, China, the ROK and Japan (among them the Japan Institute of International Affairs), the NEACD is a forum for the free exchange of views on the security situation in the region and on confidence-building measures, with the participation of private researchers and government officials from the participating countries. The Defense Agency has been participating in NEACD since its first session in 1993.

Fig. 5-2-6

## Promoting disaster relief activities through the Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum)

The SDF, making the best use of its capability, has conducted international disaster-relief operations in cooperation with other concerned countries in the event of the outbreak of large-scale natural disasters. Among such disasters were a big earthquake that hit areas off Indonesia's Sumatra Island and the consequent tsunami tidal wave in the Indian Ocean in December 2004, and a major earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005.

Armed forces of countries in the world can make the most of their ability - self-sufficiency capability and the ability to be mobilized at short notice - in disaster-relief operations, particularly if such operations are conducted immediately after the outbreak of a natural disaster. By doing so, the armed forces can play a major role in rescuing and relieving disaster victims. A large-scale natural disaster cannot be handled by a single country. Thus, international cooperation needs to be promoted in disaster-relief operations in order to make such operations efficient.

Japan's Defense Agency has hosted the Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum). In recent years, the forum has discussed how to promote cooperation among participating countries in disaster relief, based on its judgment that international cooperation is necessary between defense authorities in disaster-relief activities.

At the 10th Tokyo Defense Forum at the end of June last year, defense officials of participating countries shared the past experiences and lessons learned under agendas - "Roles of Armed Forces in Disaster Relief" and "Future Challenges and the Potential for Enhanced Regional Cooperation concerning Disaster Relief Operations by Armed Forces." The participating countries also confirmed the importance for their militaries to share information and conduct tabletop exercises even during "normal times" in light of the assumed role of a military in disaster-relief operations.



Senior Vice Minister for Defense Imazu (then) delivers a speech at the 10th Tokyo Defense Forum

At the 5<sup>th</sup> Sub-committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum at the end of January this year, participating countries held discussion under the agenda, "Efforts to Build a Basis for International Cooperation during Disaster Relief" and agreed to deepen discussion on the use of lessons and recommendations made in past international conferences such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). In order to expedite international cooperation in disaster-relief operations, the countries also confirmed the need for their collaborative efforts on both fronts: "Strategic and procedural efforts," including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) under a certain regional framework, and "operational and practical efforts" including the promotion of capacity-building.

Under such circumstances, at the Asia Security Conference held by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in the UK on June 3 this year, Minister of State for Defense Nukaga made a speech, proposing to develop strategies and procedures in advance to facilitate a fast response by armed forces in the face of disaster in the Asia-Pacific Region, and expressing willingness of Japan to continue to take the initiative in the field of disaster relief.

The Defense Agency and the SDF are prepared to promote cooperation in disaster-relief operations in the Asia-Pacific region by taking advantage of opportunities such as the Tokyo Defense Forum.

## 4. Multilateral Exercises

### (1) Significance of Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

Since 2000, multilateral exercises involving various elements such as humanitarian assistance have been conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to conventional combat exercises. The new framework is intended to help establish the foundation for multilateral cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and non-combatant evacuation operations - all aimed at achieving peace and stability in the region.

Specific exercises thus far conducted on a multilateral basis include refugee rescue training held as part of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise in 2000, the “Cobra Gold” Exercise conducted by the United States, Thailand and other countries focusing on humanitarian assistance and peace-enforcement activities, and the exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific, which was hosted by Singapore in 2000, Japan in 2002 and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 2004.

The Defense Agency and the SDF will continue to positively participate on their own initiative in multilateral exercises as they consider that participating in or hosting such exercises will contribute not only to improving their maneuvering skills but also to helping establish the foundation for building cooperative relationship among participating countries through cooperation and exchange of views.

### (2) Hosting Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

#### 1) Hosting Multilateral Exercises

The MSDF hosted “Pacific Reach 2002” in April 2002, a multilateral exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific<sup>32</sup>. This was the first time Japan hosted a multilateral exercise. In October 2002, the MSDF hosted the Multilateral Search and Rescue Exercises<sup>33</sup> on the occasion of the International Fleet Review. Exercises for search and rescue operations had been conducted on a bilateral basis since 1998. The year 2002 marked the first time that such an exercise was conducted under a multilateral framework.

The SDF has sent its officers to the annual Cobra Gold exercises as observers since 2001. That exercise in 2005 was conducted as drills for international disaster-relief activities in which SDF officers took part for the first time. In May this year, SDF officers also participated in a command post exercise for U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Multilateral exercises in which the SDF recently participated are shown in Fig. 5-2-7.

**Participation in Multilateral Exercise and Others (Since 2005)**

Date	Exercise	Hosted by	Participating nations, etc.	Participation of the Defense Agency and SDF
May 2005	Multinational joint exercise (Cobra Gold 05)	US & Thailand	Armed forces, and governmental and private sector representatives from 21 countries	Participation of 27 SDF officers
May	WPNS Multilateral Marine Exercise	Singaporean Navy	Vessels from nine countries including Japan	One escort vessel from JMSDF
May 2006	Multinational joint exercise (Cobra Gold '06)	US & Thailand	Armed forces, and governmental and private sector representatives from five countries	Participation of 45 SDF officers
June	Third Western Pacific Minesweeping Joint Exercise	Malaysian Navy	21 countries, chiefly those in the Asia-Pacific	Minesweeping mother ship, minesweeping ships

Fig. 5-2-7



## 2) Dispatching Observers to Multilateral Exercises

The SDF invited nine officers from eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan in September 2001 to observe the fourth Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercise. Since then, the SDF has been stepping up efforts to invite observers from foreign countries to multilateral exercises being sponsored by the SDF.

The GSDF has invited officers as observers from countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan to participate in the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia-Pacific (MCAP), which it has hosted annually since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperation. (See Fig.5-2-8.)

**Dispatch of Observers to Multilateral Joint Exercises (since 2005)**

Date	Exercise	Outline
Aug. 2005	Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific(MCAP2005)	Held by the GSDF, observers were invited from 16 countries mainly from the Asia-Pacific region. Workshop and exchange of views held on "international cooperation in large-scale disasters by Army" for the purpose of improving skills in dealing with diverse contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region, promoting mutual understanding with participating nations and fostering goodwill and trust.

Fig. 5-2-8