

## Section 3. Interaction between the Defense Agency/SDF and Local Communities

The Defense Agency and the SDF wouldn't be able to conduct all of their diverse activities by themselves without the understanding and cooperation from people, local governments, and other relevant organizations.

Considering that recruitment of SDF personnel may become more difficult in the future due to falling birth rates and tight job market is expected to continue for a longer time, it is essential to procure cooperation from local governments etc. that are closely linked with local communities in recruiting, and finding reemployment opportunities, of SDF personnel.

Also, defense facilities<sup>45</sup> are indispensable as the foundation supporting the nation's defense capabilities and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements. For these facilities to function to the maximum, it is essential to ensure harmonious relations with local communities and obtain the understanding and cooperation of local residents so that the facilities may be maintained in a condition for stable use at all times.

To this end, the Defense Agency and the SDF are making efforts so that the effects of the presence and operation of defense facilities on the daily lives of residents of local communities may be reduced as far as possible. Furthermore, the Defense Agency and the SDF are implementing various measures under the "Law concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities" and others in order to prevent any impediments resulting from the presence and operation of defense facilities. In addition, environmental conservation measures are taken at places surrounding defense facilities.

This section explains the supportive activities by local governments, including those for recruitment and reemployment of SDF personnel, measures to ensure harmony between defense facilities and their environs, and environmental conservation measures.

### 1. Cooperation from Local Governments etc.

#### (1) Cooperation for Recruitment of SDF Personnel

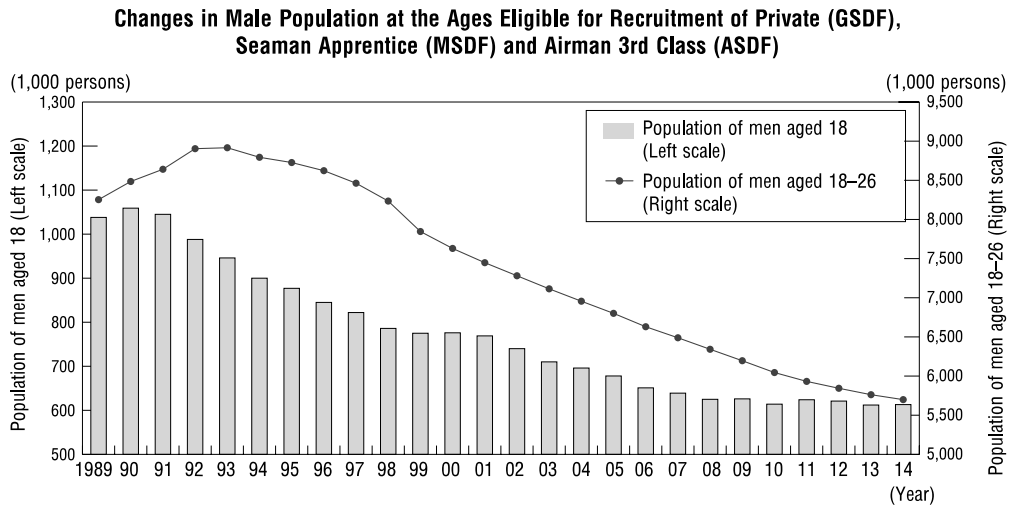
SDF provincial cooperation offices conduct recruitment activities with the help of prefectural and municipal governments, schools, private recruitment counselors, etc. Local governments are required to carry out part of recruitment activities<sup>46</sup>, and the Defense Agency has distributed expenses of the recruitment activities to local governments. Cooperation from these organizations that are closely linked with local communities is extremely significant.

As shown in the following graph, the population of males aged 18-26 eligible to become Private (GSDF), Seaman Apprentice (MSDF), or Airman 3rd Class (ASDF)



A joint briefing session for recruiting new defense officers

in the Short-Term Service continues to fall from a peak of about 9.0 million in 1994. Considering that private companies etc. have begun to hire more employees than before in preparation for massive retirement of baby-boomers and more high school students will go on to higher educational institutions in the future, therefore, the SDF expects that recruitment of SDF personnel will become increasingly difficult in the medium to long term. The cooperation from local governments and other relevant organizations is indispensable for the SDF to recruit qualified personnel in order to fulfill its diversified duties. (See Fig. 6-3-1.)



\* Sources: Up to and including 2004, "Population Estimates for Japan 1934-2000" and "Annual Report on Current Population Estimates" by Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications 2005 and after, "Future Estimate of Japan's Population" by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (based on average estimate as of January 2002)

Fig. 6-3-1

## (2) Cooperation in Reemployment

To maintain a high level of physical fitness, the SDF adopts the early retirement system and the short-term service system. Therefore, many SDF personnel are forced to retire in their mid-50s or 20s. Thus, the Defense Agency implements support measures, including various types of education and training, so that SDF personnel retiring at younger ages as compared with ordinary civil servants may be reemployed without difficulty.

As the Defense Agency is not authorized to conduct employment exchange services, however, the SDF Assistance Foundation conducts free employment exchange services, etc. for retiring SDF personnel with the permission of the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. In addition, various local organizations help retiring SDF personnel find new jobs.

Retired SDF personnel work in a variety of sectors, including manufacturing and service industries. In recent years, they are employed as risk management staff, including disaster prevention, by local governments. (See Fig. 3-2-18.)

Retired SDF personnel are highly evaluated by their employers because they are generally excellent in terms of a sense of responsibility, diligence, physical strength/spirit, discipline, etc. and in particular, those retired on reaching mandatory retirement age have great leadership cultivated through their long years of service.

As it is expected that job market will remain tight in the future, it is quite important to constantly find stable jobs for retiring SDF personnel by securing cooperation from local governments etc. so that they may attend diligently to their duties in office without concerns for their future.

## (3) Support for, and Cooperation in, SDF Activities

SDF garrisons and bases are located in all prefectures of Japan and closely linked with local communities. Therefore, various forms of cooperation and support from local communities are indispensable for the SDF to conduct diverse activities, including the management of garrisons and bases, education and training, primary missions and disaster relief operations.

The activities of the SDF are highly encouraged and cheered by the people of Japan, including local residents and various organizations in the environs of SDF garrisons and bases. This fact has strengthened the SDF's awareness of being with and working for the people of Japan.

In addition to support and cooperation from local communities, letters of encouragement are sent from many people to SDF personnel who are engaged in international peace cooperation activities, etc. The support and cooperation from the people raise the morale of SDF personnel and strengthen their awareness of being with and working for the people of Japan.

## 2. Measures to Ensure Harmony between Defense Facilities and Local Communities

[COLUMN]

VOICE

### Female self-defense officials working at MSDF

At present, approximately 11,000 women work as self-defense official at various units of the SDF and at overseas posts. Female self-defense officials working at units of GSDF, MSDF and ASDF report as follows.

Yukako Ikeda

Ensign, Correspondent of Supply Ship Oumi

"For the first time, sixteen female self-defense officials of the supply ship Oumi participated in cooperation and support activities under the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law. These female officials work at almost all positions, ranging from the bridge to the kitchen. The supply ship Oumi refuels foreign naval vessels in the Indian Ocean. I can realize that I am contributing to international peace cooperation activities although my contribution is small, and feel a sense of fulfillment every day.



Ensign Ikeda conducting coordination at the bridge of Supply Ship Oumi

As correspondent, I am conducting radio contact with foreign naval vessels to be refueled. As the refueling quantity is abruptly changed immediately before the start of maritime refueling in some cases, however, flexible response is needed. I begin radio contact about one hour before the start of refueling, and make adjustments about the refueling quantity and the starting time. On such day when the number or quantity of refueling is large, I must stand on the bridge for about ten hours, and therefore we need vitality and strength. I feel relieved and a sense of fulfillment when refueling work is completed without any trouble.

Many vessels are navigating in the Indian Ocean, and aircraft of neighboring countries sometimes approach our supply ship. Therefore, I am always in a state of tension that can be experienced only in an actual mission.

For the first time, female officials of the MSDF participated in foreign operations. Many female soldiers are working at foreign naval vessels operating in the Indian Ocean. I feel that I cannot fall behind them, and at the same time I am encouraged by their imposing presence. We female officials are dispatched as pioneers. Therefore, I would like to perform my duty firmly at the support ship Oumi for the sake of younger female officials who will engage in foreign operations in the future."

### (1) Issues concerning Defense Facilities and Implementation of Various Measures

Defense Facilities have a wide range of uses, such as maneuver areas, airfields, ports and harbors, and barracks. As of January 1, 2006, the land area of defense facilities totals about 1,400 km<sup>2</sup><sup>247</sup>, or accounting for about 0.37% of the nation's land. Of this, SDF facilities occupy about 1,083 km<sup>2</sup>, about 42% of which is concentrated in Hokkaido. By use, maneuver areas account for about 75% of the total. On the other hand, the facilities and areas to be exclusively used by the U.S. Forces in Japan (USFJ) total about 312 km<sup>2</sup>, of which the land of about 37 km<sup>2</sup> is jointly used by the SDF under the Status of Forces Agreement. (See Fig. 6-3-2 and Fig. 6-3-3)



Kushiookawa Dam was built in Nago City, Okinawa Prefecture, as part of efforts to remove problems stemming from the use of the area by the U.S. military

Many defense facilities, including airfields and maneuver areas, require vast land. Some defense facilities compete with cities and industries in small plains due to geographical features of Japan. Therefore, a problem has occurred that the presence and operation of defense facilities are restricted due to the

#### Situation of SDF Facilities (Land)

(As of January 1, 2006)

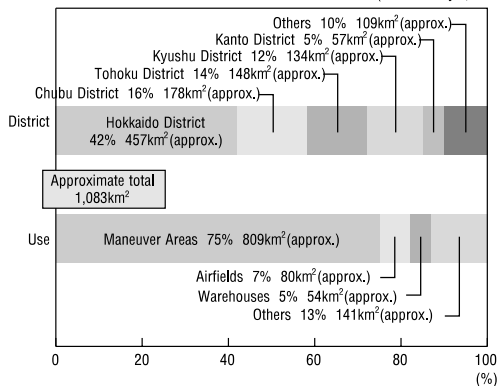


Fig. 6-3-2

#### Situation of USFJ Facilities and Area (Exclusive Use)

(As of January 1, 2006)

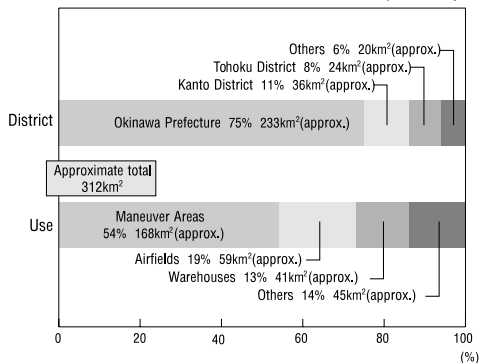


Fig. 6-3-3

#### Measures to Ensure Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Communities

Purpose	Measure	Description
Preventing noise problems	Support for sound insulation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educational facilities such as elementary schools, junior high schools, kindergartens and others,</li> <li>○ medical facilities such as hospitals and clinics, nursery centers, day service centers for the elderly, social welfare facilities such as special nursing homes for the elderly</li> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul>
	Compensation for relocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compensation for relocating buildings</li> <li>○ Purchasing land</li> <li>○ Improvement of public facilities such as roads, water system, sewage facilities and others related with the land where housing is relocated</li> </ul>
	Improvement of green zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planting trees, improving grass fields, and others</li> </ul>
Preventing problems other than noise	Support for trouble prevention work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ River improvement, irrigation and drainage canals, dam, reservoirs, pumping stations, roads, sewage lines, joint TV receiving facilities, and others</li> </ul>
Reducing troubles in living and working	Support for facilities to stabilize people's livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Service facilities for studying and others</li> <li>○ Garbage and human-waste treatment plants, fire department facilities, parks, roads, green zones, community centers, libraries, welfare centers for the elderly, nursing homes for the elderly, and others</li> <li>○ Facilities for agriculture</li> <li>○ Facilities for fisheries</li> </ul>
Reducing effects on surrounding area	Provision of Specially Designated Defense Facility Environs Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transportation/recreation</li> <li>○ Improvement of public facilities such as social welfare facilities</li> </ul>

Fig. 6-3-4

urbanization of areas around many defense facilities as a result of economic development. Another problem is that the living environment of local communities is affected by noises etc. arising from frequent takeoffs and landings of aircraft, firing and bombing, artillery firing, and tank operations.

To resolve these problems, therefore, the Defense Agency is implementing the measures mentioned in the following tables to ensure harmony between defense facilities and local communities. (See Fig. 6-3-4.)

## [COLUMN]

## COMMENTARY

### Female self-defense officials working at ASDF

Hiroko Terasaka (Pilot),  
First Lieutenant, No.403 Squadron,  
No.3 Transport Wing (at Miho Base in Tottori Prefecture)

"As pilot of C-1 transport aircraft, I engage in both transport mission and disaster relief mission (this is referred to as Patient Transport Mission.) The Patient Transport Mission means a mission to transport a patient to an outside hospital when there is a patient who cannot be treated at a hospital on a remote island.

We perform a disaster relief mission only when a prefectural disaster helicopter or the Maritime Safety Agency cannot make rescue operation due to bad weather. At the occasion of snowstorm at midnight, therefore, I must worry about how to pilot aircraft



First Lieutenant Terasaka in the cockpit of C-1 transport aircraft

safely amid bad weather. At the occasion of snowstorm at midnight, for example, I must always pay attention to various situations: "Wouldn't the airframe be frozen?" "Aren't thunderclouds gathering?" or "Is the weather of the remote island favorable?" A misjudgment in a moment could lead to an accident.

When a person is ordered to transport a patient, the person tends to pilot aircraft rather impatiently from a desire to fly to the site as soon as possible because it is a lifesaving mission. Therefore, I always make efforts to judge situations and foresee dangers calmly. In addition, I am determined to pilot aircraft in a safe manner by exchanging information and communicating with crews of aircraft closely, and by eliminating the "seeds" of danger and uneasiness.

I receive letters of thanks from patients who were transported by aircraft piloted by me. I am always delighted to know that they have recovered from their diseases. I am really happy with the current job. I will brush up my capabilities so that I may rescue as many people as possible from now on."

## (2) Measures to Improve the Living Environment around Airfields

The Defense Agency has long implemented measures to improve the living environment on a priority basis, including subsidies for sound insulation works for houses. However, 1) residents around five airfields, including Komatsu Airfield (in Ishikawa Prefecture), have filed lawsuits demanding a ban on nighttime takeoffs and landings and claiming compensation for damage caused by noises, and in some of these lawsuits, the court has ordered the national Government to pay "compensation for past damage" in its final and conclusive judgment; 2) on the other hand, some of the residents who have been annoyed by noises but have not

filed lawsuits felt that they are not treated fairly, and these residents claimed the same monetary compensation for past damage as ordered by the court in past noise lawsuits, and started a campaign for the establishment of a damage compensation system (so-called fair compensation movement); and 3) local governments and residents in the vicinity of defense facilities requested that various measures be expanded and enhanced.

In 2001, therefore, the Defense Agency established the Council for the Improvement of the Living Environment around Airfields, which consists of outside experts, to deliberate on measures to be taken in the future. In 2002, the Council compiled a report<sup>48</sup>. A summary of the report is as follows.

- a. As a response to the so-called fair compensation movement, those measures that are highly likely to win deeper understanding of the residents living in the vicinity of airfields, including those not filing noise lawsuits, should be taken; and,
- b. As a response to diversified requests from local governments and residents, it is essential to diversify measures to suit the features of regions and develop measures focusing on those local governments and residents that are seriously affected by aircraft noises, instead of simply continuing conventional measure, within the limits of budget.

### **(3) New Measures**

Based on the recommendations made in a report of the Council, the Defense Agency decided to implement new measures, in addition to conventional measures to improve the living environment, including subsidies for sound insulation works for houses. Main new measures are as follows.

#### **1) Integrated Projects to Improve Areas Surrounding Defense Facilities**

To allow local governments to implement two or more living environment improvement projects as package at their discretion for designated areas that seriously suffer from the presence and operation of defense facilities

#### **2) Subsidies for the Installation of Photovoltaic Generation Units**

To conduct a monitoring project under which studies are made on the grant of subsidies to the installation of photovoltaic generation units as part of a sound insulation work with a purpose of helping reduce power bills of air conditioners already installed as part of a sound insulation work

#### **3) Promotion of House Exterior Sound Insulation Works**

To change the type of sound insulation works from the conventional one intended for certain rooms only to new one intended for the whole houses to improve conveniences etc. of dwellers

#### **4) Town Development Support Project**

To subsidize those "town development" projects that local governments promote by utilizing peripheral properties (those around airfields), etc. for the purposes of minimizing the inconveniences caused by the presence of defense facilities and actively contributing to the development of local communities

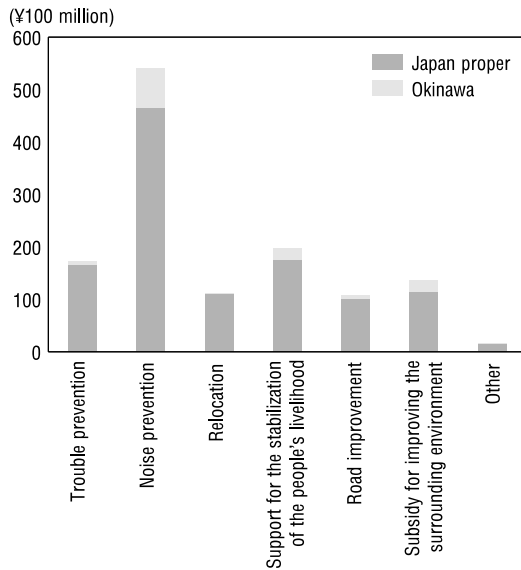
#### **5) Public Facilities Renovation Project**

To subsidize renovation works for barrier-free access or safety improvement, if community facilities, community centers, etc. are unable to meet the needs of local residents due to deterioration of facilities or aging of communities

#### **6) Active Utilization of peripheral Properties in the Vicinity of Airfields**

The national Government builds benches, resting facilities, etc. to help accelerate active utilization of those peripheral properties around defense facilities that have been maintained and administered as green zones etc. Local governments are allowed to use such properties as they are, or use such properties as community farms etc. (See Figs. 6-3-5 and 6-3-6.)

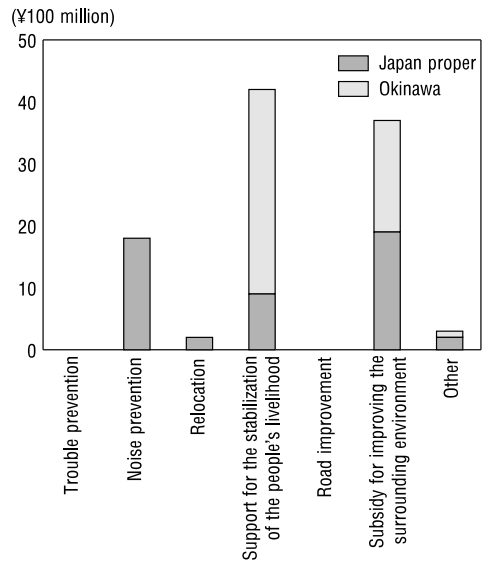
### Expenditures for Measures for Communities in the Vicinity of Bases (on an Annual Basis)



Note: "Other" includes comprehensive programs to develop areas surrounding defense facilities, compensation to those living in the vicinity of defense facilities, and creation of green space.

Fig. 6-3-5

### SACO-Related Expenditures for Fiscal 2006 (Expenditures for Smooth Implementation of SACO Projects; on an Annual Basis)



Note: "Other" includes creation of green space.

Fig. 6-3-6

## 3. Environmental Conservation Measures

### Environmental Conservation Measures Taken at SDF Facilities

In maintaining facilities, including maneuver areas and barracks, and equipment, including aircraft, ships and vehicles, the SDF is implementing environmental conservation measures and measures to reduce environmental burdens. These measures include those to conserve air and water quality, recycling activities, those to dispose of waste, those to improve environmental conservation facilities, and environmental assessments.

In 2001, the Defense Agency established Defense Agency Environment Month and Week. Since then, the Defense Agency has been making efforts to raise SDF personnel's awareness of environmental conservation, and organizing events for the prevention of global warming at military garrisons and bases throughout Japan, such as environmental conservation promotion programs, a contest of environment-related "senryu" (short humorous verse), lectures, exhibitions, and the establishment of "no car day."

Based on the Government Plan for Measures to Restrict Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Administrations and Operations approved by the Cabinet in 2001 and its revisions, in June 2005, the Defense Agency developed its implementation plan, and thus, is committed to promoting active efforts more than ever.

Furthermore, the Defense Agency established its own Environmental Protection Policy in accordance with the national Government's Basic Environmental Plan in 2003, and reviewed the Environmental Protection Policy in January 2005. Thus, the Defense Agency as an organization of the national Government is committed to enhance its environmental conservation activities.

## [COLUMN]

## VOICE

**Female self-defense officials working at GSDF**

Kazue Kamenaka (Nursing Officer),

Lieutenant Colonel,

Deputy Director of Nursing Service Department of the SDF Central Hospital

"A nursing job can be compared to a war. Since our small mistakes could endanger the life of a patient, we are forced to be strained around the clock throughout a year.

I am doing my utmost effort so that our hospital may enjoy the trust of patients. For this purpose, I make it a rule to constantly visit each hospital ward to give advice to nursing officials about how to provide professional nursing care to patients based on their needs.

When I was young, I sent my child to a day nursery before reporting to work. I used to study the science of nursing after having done household duties and have sent my child to sleep with desperate efforts (I sometimes fell to sleep before my child did.) One day, my husband who is also self-defense official was not at home because he had to participate in exercises. When I returned home on that day, I found my child, who was left alone, weeping and shivering with cold. My eyes became misted with tears.

Medical care is rapidly advancing. As nursing officials on the active duty must make international contributions and assist in large-scale disasters, they must continue study in normal times. Since we nursing officials must work on night shift, we need to build strength. Although we are busy working every day, we feel rejuvenated to see smiles of patients and their families.

I have been desperately working for the past thirty-two years with the principles of "step by step" and "honesty and courage." From now on, I will strive for nursing job and make efforts to develop young nursing officials who can provide quality nursing care services."



Lieutenant Colonel Kamenaka (center) giving advice on nursing care