

Section 5. Build-up of Defense Capability for FY 2009

In FY 2009, the quality improvement of Japan's defense capabilities based on the security environment surrounding Japan will be initiated with the modernization and upgrading of fighters (F-15) and other projects. The Ministry of Defense (MOD) will also promote expansion and strengthening of the posture for international peace cooperation activities; responses to new threats and diverse contingencies including attacks by ballistic missiles, terrorists, guerrillas and special operations units; efforts for the development and utilization of space and maritime security; responses to the advancement of military science and technology including research and development of advanced equipment, efforts for the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, and promotion of measures to reduce the burden of the local communities hosting bases; efforts for human resources enhancement, strengthening of education/research systems and others.

Major items planned for the FY 2009 defense build-up program are shown in Fig. II-2-5-1

The MOD has been working on more streamlined and efficient ways for overall equipment procurement, etc, and has set the goal of reducing expenditures¹⁴ for research and development, procurement and maintenance of defense equipment by 15% compared with FY 2006 levels by FY 2011. The amount of cost reduction in this Fiscal Year is expected to be approximately 280 billion yen, down by about 13.9%. (See Part III, Chapter 4, Section 1-7, Reference 14-15)



CH-47JA with improved engine capacity



US-2 search and rescue amphibian



E-767 with improved radar function

Fig. II-2-5-1 Main Items for FY 2008 Defense Build-up

Classification		Main Projects
Improving Defense Capability, including New Tasks	Quality Improvement of Defense Capability in Accordance with Security Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving air-defense capability through modernization and renovation of fighter aircraft (F-15) ○ Improving warning and surveillance capability through improvement of radar function of early warning and control aircraft (E-767) ○ Securing advanced technology for future defense capacity through research of Advanced Technological Demonstrator-X (ATD-X) (high-agility stealth aircraft)
	Improving and enhancing the international peacekeeping operation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving and reinforcing equipment for international peacekeeping operations, through efforts including the development of a mobile medical system for the provision of high-level outdoor medical activities ○ Reinforcing education and PR systems concerning international peacekeeping operations by developing the International Peacekeeping Center (provisional) ○ Promotion of strategic security dialogues and defense exchanges, including Meeting of senior defense officials on common security challenges in the Asia Pacific region. ○ Response to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including research on methods for destroying cluster munitions
	Response to new threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to ballistic missiles, through initiatives such as the development of the FPS-5 radar ○ Reform of the basic operation unit, such as transforming the first combined group into a brigade ○ Countermeasures, including research on a counter mobility system, against attacks by guerrillas and special forces ○ Enhancing capabilities necessary for coping with nuclear, biological and chemical attacks, through initiatives including NBC protection training. ○ Countermeasures, including the development of transport aircraft (CH-JA), to large scale/special disasters, etc.
	Efforts for Exploration and Use of Outer Space/Maritime Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Efforts, including the establishment of the Office of Space Policy, for the exploration and use of outer space ○ Efforts based on the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, including increasing the number of professors in charge of maritime laws at the National Defense Academy
	Response to the advancement of military science and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research and development of future equipment and technology, including development of the SDF Digital Communications System (to be mounted on fighter aircraft) ○ Strengthening information capabilities, including the establishment of a new line of work related to "information" in the JGSDF ○ Establishment of more advanced information and telecommunications networks, including development of an integrated command system of the SDF
Promotion of U.S. Forces Realignment and Measures for Bases	Efforts for U.S. Forces Realignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measures contributing to the reduction of local burden, including transfer of U.S. Marines stationed in Okinawa to Guam ○ Measures contributing to the maintenance of deterrence, including the relocation of the Japan Air-Defense Force's Air Defense Command to Yokota Air Base ○ Steady implementation of measures included in the SACO Final Report
	Promotion of Measures for Bases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of measures for the vicinity of base areas to seek harmony between defense facilities and the surrounding area ○ Promotion of measures to make the presence of U.S. forces in Japan smooth and efficient
Improvement and enhancement of the foundation for defense capabilities	Efforts for Human Resources Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhancement of initial education, including the establishment of candidates for Self-Defense Officials (provisional) ○ Improvement of support for returning to work, including the establishment of the Career Development Center ○ Developing an environment that enables SDF staff to be committed to work, including the development of day-care centers, etc.
	Strengthening educational/research systems, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promotion of various measures to strengthen educational/research systems of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), the National Defense Academy and the National Defense Medical College
Efforts for Further Rationalization and Streamlining		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Efforts, including an intensive procurement of equipment in a short period of time, a standardization of specifications, setting up cost reduction goals for equipment and facility buildup, and a reform of total personnel cost, etc.

* With respect to a build-up of seven new fighter aircraft (the F-X fighters to replace F-4 fighters) stipulated in the Mid-Term Defense Program, it has been decided not to start acquisition in FY2009 in consideration of the status of information gathering on the advanced fighter aircraft and of the fact that it will be possible to manage force reduction for F-4 aircraft by pursuing farther efficiency in flight hours. Moreover, with respect to the build-up of eight new transport aircraft (C-X), which are under development and are stipulated in the Mid-Term Defense Program, it has been decided not to start acquisition by pursuing further efficiency in flight hours of the current C-1 because a delay occurs in development such as a delay in the delivery of test-flight aircraft due to a body strength problem.

[COLUMN]**COMMENTARY****New Organization of the 15th Brigade**

In March next year the 1st combined brigade in Okinawa Prefecture will be abolished and the 15th Brigade will be organized. This is part of the plan to create a posture for effective response to new threats and diverse contingencies, including attack by guerrillas or special operation forces, NBC attack, invasion of remote islands and large-scale/unconventional disasters, based on the geographic characteristics of the Nansei Islands, which consists of a large number of remote islands spread over a wide area.

In organizing the 15th Brigade, an infantry regiment that is expected to play a central role in response to new threats and diverse contingencies will be newly established, while a chemical unit will be newly organized to improve NBC response capabilities. At the same time, necessary functions will be enhanced, such as air fleet posture, and the quality of defense capability will be improved, while enhancing mobility by introducing light armored vehicles and high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles. The number of personnel will also increase from about 1,800 to about 2,100.

By expanding and strengthening these types of capabilities, the brigade can swiftly deploy its personnel to the disaster area to confirm the situation and conduct rescue operations and providing support to victims. The 15th Brigade will have higher capabilities for responding to new threats and diverse contingencies than the current 1st combined brigade. It will strengthen defense posture in the Nansei Islands.



Emergency airlift of a patient by the GSDF at Miyakojima Island

