

Section 3. Preparation against Full-Scale Aggression



Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Nagashima inspecting the 3rd Air Defense Missile Group (Chitose)

The main mission of the SDF is to defend Japan against direct and indirect aggression in order to ensure the peace and independence of Japan as well as to maintain national security. The peace, safety and independence essential to the entire country cannot be secured by wishing alone. Defense capability lies in the definitive guarantee of security, which itself represents the resolve and ability of a nation to exclude invasion; its function cannot be substituted by any other measures. Furthermore, even now in the region around Japan, there remain unclear and uncertain factors. When we consider the scale of the

loss to civilian lives and assets in the event that a full-scale invasion should occur, we see the critical nature of personal and material preparation to deal effectively with that invasion.

Japan's SDF have consistently been committed to improving and maintaining readiness and defense capabilities, developing the necessary equipment as well as continuing their warning and surveillance activities in surrounding sea areas and airspaces; Japan is thus prepared for a full-scale invasion. Demonstrating the readiness of the SDF in this way helps to prevent aggression.

In the event of full-scale aggression against Japan, the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF will respond promptly and effectively by means of a joint operational structure to act in a coordinated and integrated manner. With a focus on this objective, operations to be employed in response to full-scale aggression are classified as follows: 1) operations for air defense, 2) operations for guarding the waters surrounding Japan, 3) operations for land defense, and 4) operations for securing the safety of maritime traffic. In implementing these operations, U.S. forces will support operations employed by the SDF and conduct operations to supplement the capabilities of the SDF, including operations which employ strike capabilities in accordance with the "Guidelines for U.S.–Japan Defense Cooperation."

This section explains the outline of typical operations which may be conducted by the SDF to defend the nation in the event that full-scale aggression occurs.
(See Chapter 2, Section 3-2)

1. Air Defense Operations

Because of Japan's geographical characteristics of being surrounded by water, as well as general modern warfare trends⁷¹, in the event of an armed attack on Japan, such attacks are therefore likely to begin with surprise air attacks using aircraft and missiles, and such air attacks are likely to be repeated countless times.

Air defense operations are characterized by adequacy of the initial response having a significant effect on the overall operation. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain a prompt response posture in



An SDF personnel rushing toward a F-15 for a scramble

peacetime, continuously collect relevant information, and exercise combat strength promptly and comprehensively from the initial stage of operations.

Operations for air defense can be divided into overall operations led by the ASDF, and local operations conducted by the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF to defend their respective bases and units.

In terms of overall air defense operations, efforts will be made promptly in response to enemy air strikes to intercept enemy aircraft as far from Japanese territory as possible to prevent the enemy from acquiring air superiority⁷², to prevent damage to the Japanese people and territory, to inflict heavy damage on the enemy and to deter serial air assaults.

(See Fig. III-1-3-1)

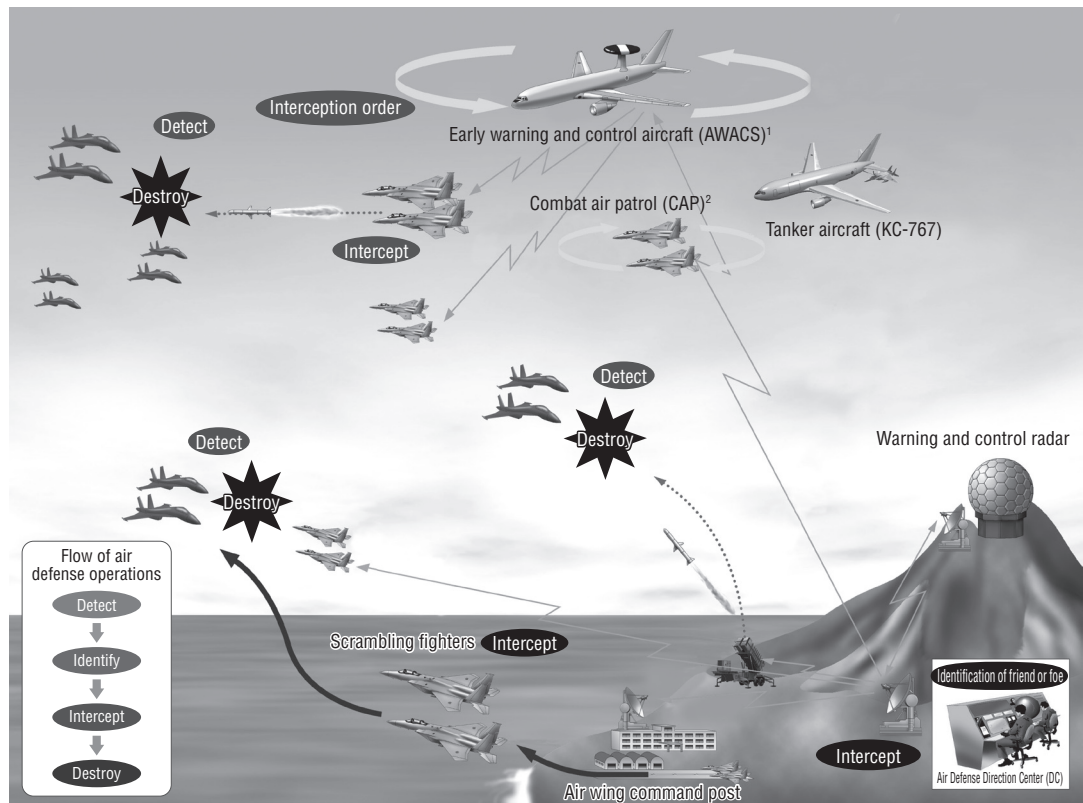
(1) Detecting Intruding Aircraft

The entire airspace surrounding Japan is under constant surveillance by means of air warning and control unit radar and early warning and control aircraft so as to detect intruding aircraft as early as possible.



Fighter (F-15) taking off

Fig. III-1-3-1 Example of Air Defense Operations



Notes: 1. Aircraft with alternative control capabilities for defense ground environments, with early warning and control functions in waters distant from national land.

2. Keeping armed fighters on standby in order to immediately respond to approaches by enemy aircraft.

(2) Identifying the Detected Aircraft

Detected aircraft are identified as enemy or friend according to the JADGE⁷³ system, etc.

(3) Interception and Destruction of the Enemy's Aircraft

In the event that an aircraft is identified as an enemy aircraft, the air warning and control unit assigns destruction targets to aircraft standing-by on the ground or in the air, as well as to surface-to-air missile units. The enemy aircraft is then destroyed by guided and controlled fighter aircraft or surface-to-air missiles.

2. Operations for the Defense of Surrounding Sea Areas

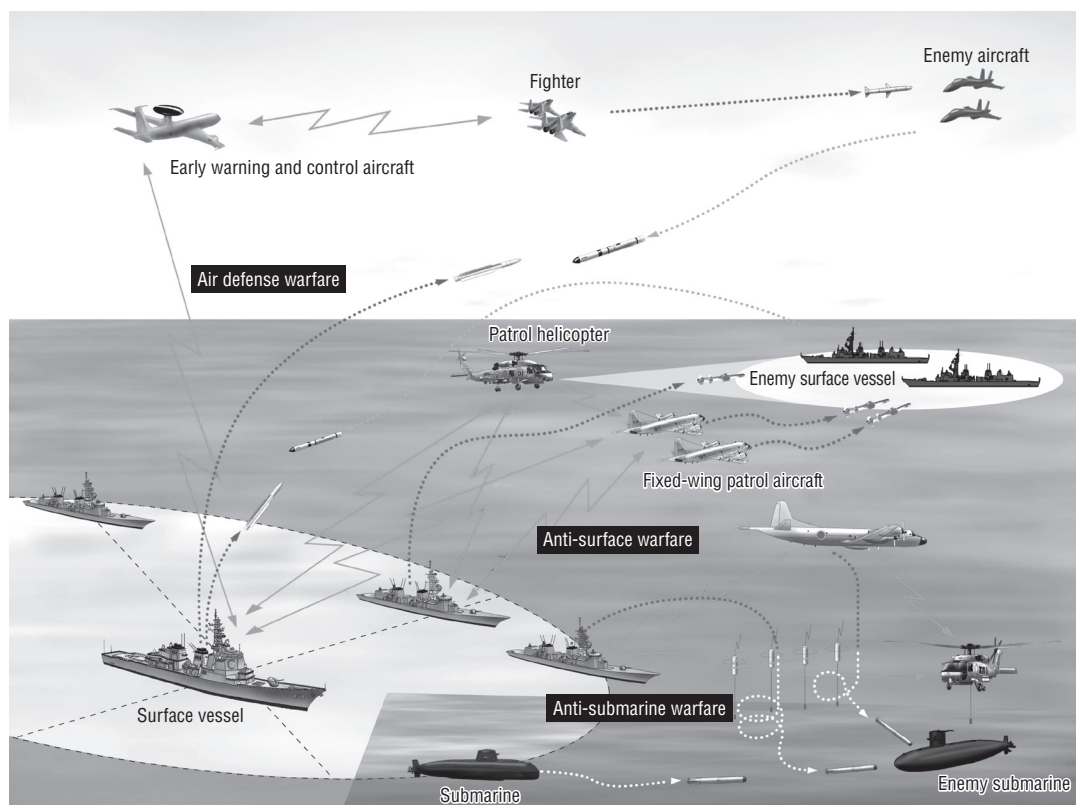


Firing a 5-inch cannon

Armed attacks on Japan can be made by vessels against Japanese ships and land, roughly coincident to air attacks, due to the island geography of Japan. Operations of transport vessels are also predicted to enable large-scale ground forces to land on Japanese territory.

Operations for defending sea areas surrounding Japan will consist of responses on the open sea, nearshore waters and major straits, and air defense in

Fig. III-1-3-2 Strategy for Defense in Sea Areas Surrounding Japan



the surrounding sea areas. The cumulative result of these operations provides protection to surrounding sea areas by obstructing enemy invasion, and destroying and exhausting the enemy's military strength.
(See Fig. III-1-3-2)

(1) Defense on the Sea

The MSDF patrols vast sea areas using patrol aircraft and patrols navigation sea areas mainly with destroyers. In the event that an enemy surface ship or submarine attempting to attack Japanese ships is detected, it will be destroyed by using MSDF destroyers, submarines and patrol aircraft (anti-surface ship and anti-submarine operations), supported by fighters and others as the situation requires.

(2) Defense in Coastal Areas

The MSDF patrols the vicinity of major ports and harbors using destroyers, minesweepers, patrol aircraft and reconnaissance aircraft for the early detection of enemy offensives. In order to ensure the safety of ships and coastal areas, primarily destroyers, submarines, patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and surface-to-ship missiles will crush such offensives (anti-surface ship



P-3C aircraft flying in formation near Mount Fuji

[COLUMN]

Q&A

Commissioning of the Final Wooden Minesweeper

On February 26 2010, the final wooden minesweeper Takashima was commissioned. Including the Takashima, the MSDF has to date built 110 wooden minesweepers, which have disposed of sea mines, unexploded bombs, and so on.

From now on, construction will move toward minesweepers that use fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP), rather than wooden minesweepers.

Q: Why were minesweepers made from wood?

A: Ships were made from wood rather than iron as wood is not influenced by magnetism, thus ensuring the safety of the ship against mines which explode in response to a ship's magnetic reaction.

Q: Why the change from wood to FRP?

A: Like wood, FRP is a material which does not hold a magnetic charge. Technological advances have made possible minesweepers that use FRP with greater structural strength than those made of wood. We have therefore switched to FRP.

Q: What are the benefits of FRP?

A: It is projected that the lifespan of ships can be extended over that of traditional wooden minesweepers. Consequently, the life cycle cost (LCC) is reduced.



The commissioned minesweeper *Takashima* in training

and anti-submarine operations).

Further, the MSDF will remove mines laid by enemy using minesweepers (anti-mine operations).

(3) Defense in Main Straits

MSDF destroyers, patrol aircraft and reconnaissance aircraft patrol major straits, to both detect enemy surface ships or submarines attempting to pass the sea areas at an early stage, and to destroy them primarily by destroyer, patrol aircraft, submarine, fighter aircraft and surface-to-ship missiles (anti-surface ship and anti-submarine operations). As the situation requires, mines will be laid in main sea areas using minesweeping mother ships, submarines, and aircraft (mine-laying operations).

(4) Air Defense in Surrounding Waters

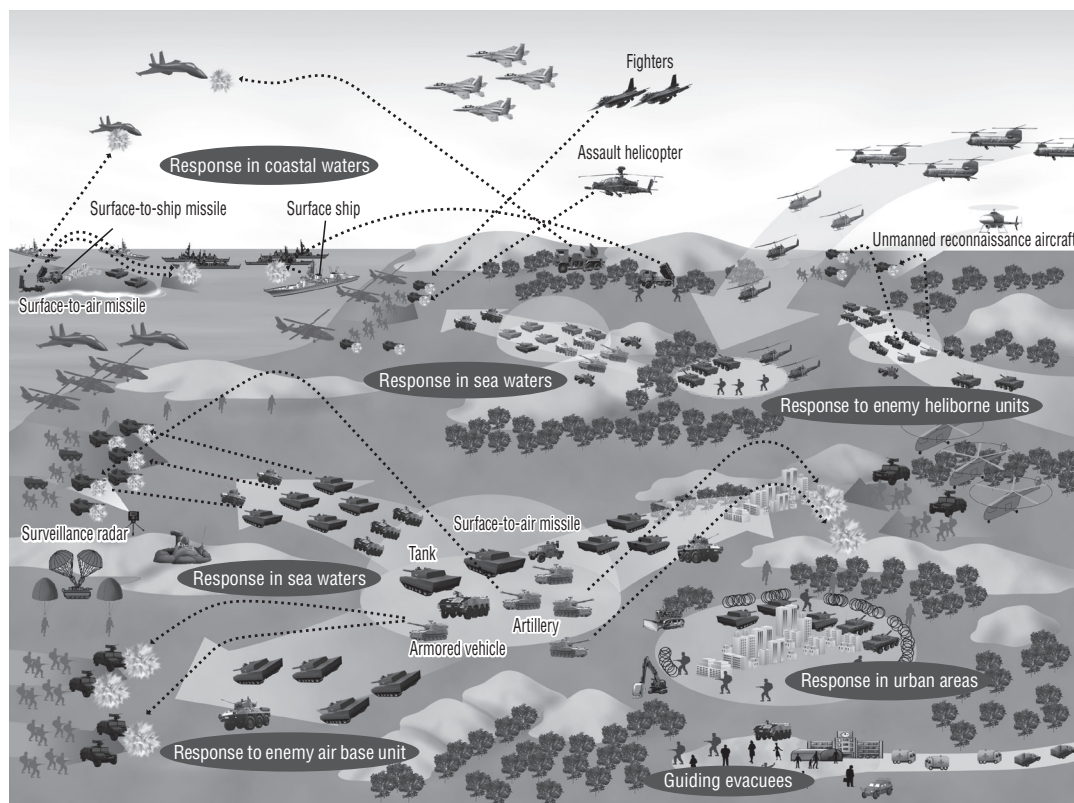
Air defense for ships in surrounding waters will be performed by destroyers (anti-air operations) and will receive support from fighters as necessary.

3. Operations for Land Defense

In the event of an attempt to occupy the island nation of Japan, the invading country will acquire air and sea superiority on the invading fronts and then land ground troops by ship, airborne troops by aircraft, etc.

However, it will be difficult for invading ground and airborne troops to demonstrate a systematic fighting force

Fig. III-1-3-3 Example of Operations for Coping with the Landing of Invading Forces



during movements by ship and aircraft, and before and after landing. Land defense operations must take advantage of this weakness to destroy enemy forces as early as possible by countering them between the sea and coastal areas, as well as at landing sites, etc. (See Fig. III-1-3-3)

(1) Defense in the Nearshore Waters

The ASDF, GSDF, and MSDF will endeavor, as much as possible, to destroy enemy ships transporting ground troops and such, whilst at sea using destroyers, submarines, patrol aircraft, fighters, and surface-to-surface missiles, and through doing so, eliminate the strength of the enemy, forcing it to abandon its invasion plans.

Further, the ASDF and GSDF will endeavor to destroy enemy aircraft transporting ground troops in the air using fighters and surface-to-air missiles.



Type 03 medium range surface-to-air missiles being fired

(2) Defense in Coastal Areas

Minesweeping mother ships will lay sea mines and amphibious mine-laying equipment will lay coastal mines to obstruct and counter the mobilization of landing enemy forces.

The response to enemy forces planning a landing will concentrate the use of tanks, anti-tanks and special artillery⁷⁴, etc., deployed close to the coast. In the event that an enemy lands, the enemy invasion will be obstructed and destroyed through mobile striking ability⁷⁵ provided predominantly by special artillery of the units, anti-tank missiles, and tanks. Fighting in the area will be supported by fighters.

Enemy airborne assaults⁷⁶ and helicopter-based assaults⁷⁷ conducted in coordination with the landing of ground troops will be destroyed in the early stages mainly through special artillery of the units and mobile striking ability.

Further, anti-air warfare (local) will be conducted using anti-aircraft firepower starting with surface-to air missiles.

(3) Inland Defense

In the event that the SDF is not able to destroy enemy ground troops immediately after their landing, an enemy invasion will be prevented by pre-deployed units in inland areas with the support of fighters (holding operations). In the meantime, to the utmost extent, units will be assembled from other areas to launch counterattacks to eliminate invading enemy ground troops.

(4) Countermeasures to be Implemented throughout the Stages of Operations

Throughout each of these stages, efforts will be made using destroyers, submarines, fighters and patrol aircraft, and by the ASDF using fighters to obstruct ocean transport ships providing reinforcements to enemy ground troops and to cut off maritime logistical support lines, while the necessary air defense, intelligence activities, transportation of troops and supplies, and other operations are performed.



Troops firing a Howitzer with live ammunition

4. Operations for Ensuring the Safety of Maritime Traffic

The sea lane is the lifeline of Japan, a country that relies on foreign sources for most of its food and resources. In the event that there has been an armed attack against Japan, the sea lanes will not only secure the foundation of Japan's survival and prosperity, but will also serve as a foundation for maintaining the capacity to continue war, as well as a foundation for when U.S. forces come to provide support for defending Japan. Therefore, operations to secure the safety of sea lanes are important.

There are cases when operations to secure the safety of sea lanes are performed in the few hundred nautical miles surrounding Japan, and cases when sea lanes⁷⁸ are established.

In the event that they are performed in the few hundred nautical miles surrounding Japan, various types of operations will be combined, such as anti-surface ship, anti-submarine, anti-aircraft, and anti-mine operations, while patrols, ship escort, strait and harbor defense, and so on are performed, thus securing the safety of the sea lanes.

In the event of operations following the establishment of sea lanes, shipping routes over a region of approximately 1,000 nautical miles will be created, and the sea lanes established will be patrolled continuously to quickly detect and respond to disturbances from enemy surface ships, submarines, etc. In addition, Japanese vessels will be escorted as necessary.

Air defense of Japanese ships traveling in maritime traffic routes will be conducted by destroyers (anti-air warfare). In this case, depending on the circumstances, support will be provided by fighters.



The destroyer *Yubetsu* firing an anti-submarine rocket