

### Section 3. Interaction between the Ministry of Defense & the SDF, and the Local Community & Japanese Citizens

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the various activities of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF cannot be carried out by the Ministry of Defense and the SDF alone. They are only possible with the understanding and cooperation of each and every citizen, local governments, and other organizations.

In addition to the details explained in Section 1 of this chapter, the SDF is executing its duties with support and cooperation from the local communities and the Japanese people in a variety of forms. Likewise, the SDF has been making various cooperation activities to support the people's lives. Such activities are further deepening the mutual trust between the local community and the people, and the SDF, not only contributing to the enhancement and strengthening of the foundation of defense bases, but also instilling a sense of pride and self-confidence in SDF personnel.

To ensure full function of defense facilities<sup>38</sup>, it is necessary to maintain a state of stable use by securing harmony with the local communities, and gaining the understanding and cooperation of local residents surrounding defense facilities. For this reason, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF strive to minimize the impact of the presence and operation of defense facilities on the daily lives of local residents through various measures.

#### [COLUMN]

#### VOICE

#### Volunteer Activities as a Sports Instructor for Disabled People

##### **Sergeant Major (at the time) Yoshitaka Nishina, 11th Engineer Company, 11th Brigade**

My wife and I have been sports instructors for disabled people for 15 years. The chance to start this activity was that we got to know a disabled person at a competition of archery, a sport we started together. The SAPPORO Association for Promotion of Sports for the Disabled invited us to a class to become a sports instructor for disabled people and since then we have obtained a variety of instructor's qualifications, and we have participated in a variety of events as volunteers up until now.

In particular, we could not hold back tears of joy and feelings of satisfaction when we saw guests break into tears seeing disabled athletes moving along sincerely with the Army Band of the GSDF, which took part in the attraction and performed music at a certain sports event. In addition, I participated as a manager of the flying disc team in the Hokkaido contingent to the 9th National Sports Festival for the Disabled in 2009 and it was a precious experience for me to instruct the disabled people, seizing each of their characters.

What I have learned through volunteer activities is that mutual trust is important, to say nothing of careful attention to details, and that is very helpful when I give instructions to subordinates in my daily work as a member of the SDF.

I feel gratitude to many people including my wife, I will keep three things in mind for normalization, "feelings of gratefulness, kindness, and independence," and I would like to contribute to building an environment where disabled people can enjoy sports in an uninhibited manner.



Mr. and Mrs. Nishina taking part in volunteer activities for disabled people in Sapporo

From the perspective above mentioned, this section explains the daily interaction between the Defense Ministry and the SDF, and the local communities and the people of Japan, and activities undertaken to gain public understanding and cooperation.

## 1. Cooperation from Local Public Organizations and Other Related Organizations for the SDF

### 1. Cooperation in Recruitment of Uniformed SDF Personnel and Support for Outplacement

As stated in Section 1, under the severe recruitment environment and employment situation, the cooperation of local public organizations and relevant organizations is vital to secure highly qualified personnel and to assist the outplacement of uniformed SDF personnel who retire at a relatively young age.

(See Section 1-2)

#### [COLUMN]

#### VOICE

### Message from the Mayor of Chitose City, Hokkaido

**Kotaro Yamaguchi**

**Mayor of Chitose City, Hokkaido**

**Chairman, Council for Improvement of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities,  
Association of City Mayors, Japan**



Mayor Yamaguchi chatting with family members of SDF personnel

Hokkaido shares a border with Russia, and since the early stages of the SDF, the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces have been stationed in Hokkaido based on the concept of a northern defense, and now there are 51 SDF camps and bases with more than 40,000 SDF personnel guarding the north and performing international duties. There are 3 SDF camps and bases in Chitose City, and more than one third of the population of 93,000 consists of SDF related personnel. Chitose and the local municipalities in Hokkaido have grown and

developed up to now along with the SDF, while creating a community in close cooperation and supporting each other. For that reason, the people of Hokkaido have warm feelings for the SDF.

In addition, half of all SDF facilities are located in Hokkaido (training areas, ammunition storage areas, etc.). The SDF in Hokkaido has used these training areas as a “dojo” to strengthen itself and fulfill the roles of national defense and the safety and peace of mind of the people of Hokkaido, while having been engaged actively as a major force in international activities such as in Iraq and Haiti.

Currently, reduction in the SDF is just in process in Hokkaido. This move could not only break off the deep ties built over many years between the SDF personnel and the people of Hokkaido, and furthermore deprive the SDF of its valuable “dojo,” but it might also lead to the disintegration of the local municipalities that have developed along with the SDF.

We, the people of Hokkaido, expect that in the future, the SDF will continue to make Hokkaido, blessed as it is with a training environment, a key base for SDF activities inside and outside of Japan.

## 2. Support for SDF Activities

SDF camps and bases are located in all prefectures, and maintain close relations with the local communities. Various forms of cooperation and support from the local communities are indispensable for the SDF to conduct diverse activities. The SDF has also received words of encouragement from the people including local residents and relevant organizations.

In addition to this kind of support and cooperation from the local communities, many letters of encouragement are sent by the people to personnel engaging in international peace cooperation activities which raise the morale of personnel and reinforce their awareness of serving the people of Japan.

## 2. Activities in Civic Life and Contributions to Society

The SDF is carrying out support activities for residents in a number of fields linked with the people, based on requests from local governments and relevant organizations, in addition to its role set forth in the 2004 National Defense Program Guidelines. For example, the GSDF still today handles unexploded ordnance found throughout Japan. In FY2009 there were 1,668 cases, about 66 tons in volume. In particular, the cases handled in Okinawa Prefecture accounted for 37.2% of the total. Furthermore, the MSDF handles underwater mines and other dangerous explosive materials. In FY2009 there were 2,241 instances, totaling about 26 tons.

These activities have deepened the mutual trust between the SDF and the people and contributed to expanding and strengthening the foundation of national defense. They also give SDF personnel a sense of pride and confidence in their constant contribution to the lives of the people.

(See Reference 80–81)

In addition, there are opinions of the local governments which accept camps or bases that the existence of the SDF supports local employment and economy. Furthermore, most of the camps and bases around Japan open their grounds and sports facilities, pools, etc., to local public groups or neighboring residents, unless their request interfere with unit activities. They, as a result, also contribute to the vitalization of local activities.



The very moment of an underwater mine being disposed of at Kobe port

### [COLUMN]

#### VOICE

### **Antarctic Observation Expedition Supported by the Crew of the *Shirase***

**Yutaka Katsuta, Second in Command, in charge of Summer Facilities,  
Summer Team, 51st Antarctic Observation Expedition  
(Currently a specialist in the Antarctic Observation Center, National Polar Research Institute)**

Last year I participated in the 51st Antarctic Observation Expedition as the second in command of the Summer Team, primarily responsible for the transport of materials for the expedition. The expedition's materials are transported to Showa Base by sea on the *Shirase* once a year. This time we loaded about 1,300 tons of materials in Japan for the expedition, and the crew of the *Shirase* performed all tasks, including inspections during the voyage, unloading at the destination, transporting materials by helicopter, and loading materials we needed to bring back. One character of the 51st Expedition was that it was the maiden voyage

of the second generation Shirase, and the other one was that the new 12ft containers\* were used for the first time. So there were many things to be concerned about, but with the cooperation of the crew in different sections, we were able to complete our transporting mission without any problems.

This was my sixth voyage to the Antarctic, and I have been impressed by the organizational strength of the Shirase crew every time. We could leave the materials for the expedition to them without anxiety. In addition, the voyage on the SDF vessel and exchanges with its crew were valuable experiences for the members of the expedition, and it was a very memorable experience for me as well.

\* A type of container, which is the main type of railway container in Japan. The container is 12ft (3.6m) long.



In Antarctica



Expedition members unloading materials from the *Shirase*

## [COLUMN]

## VOICE

### Air SDF Member Acts as a Leader in an Adult Football League Team

#### Staff Sergeant Teppei Kumagai, Materials Planning Section, 3rd Depot, ASDF

My job in the ASDF is to distribute parts correctly to ensure that communications and electronic equipment on aircraft and radar, etc., are operational at all times.

I started playing football when I was four years old, and after I graduated from college I played as a J League trainee, and then I gained valuable experience as a professional football player in the professional league in Singapore. I have been coaching an amateur league soccer team as a player-manager since I joined the SDF.

I learned that “effort is unending, the game is a moment” in the professional world. Daily effort is very precious for the important moment, and that is the same for the duties and mental readiness in the SDF. I am trying to convey this broadly to my colleagues and younger ones in the SDF. I think that could be a contribution to my organization and thus, a way to repay an obligation to football, which helped me to develop.

I hope in the future as well that through football, which is said to have the most players of any sport in the world, I can give courage and energy to supporters who cheer for their team, and to a lot of people in various regional exchange events, including football clinics for students, visits to nursing homes and to nursery schools, and cleanup activities in front of train stations.

#### Figure: History of team participation

Yorii High School Football Club, Saitama Prefecture — Football Club, Daito Bunka University — Yokohama FC (trainee) — Liaison Kusatsu (now Thespa Kusatsu) — Clementi Khalsa * — Senbawang Rangers* — Current affiliation: Sakado City FC (Saitama Prefecture Amateur Football 1st League)	* Singapore professional football league
--	--





Staff Sergeant Kumagai playing in the SDF All Japan Football Meet



Staff Sergeant Kumagai at work

### 3. Measures for Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

#### 1. Scale and Features of Defense Facilities

The uses of defense facilities can be extended in various ways such as maneuver areas, airfields, ports, and barracks<sup>39</sup>. Many defense facilities require large areas of land. Due to Japan's geographical characteristics, there are some cities and industrial facilities that must coexist with defense facilities on narrow plains. In particular, problems related to restricted presence and operations of defense facilities have emerged due to the urbanization of areas around many defense facilities as a result of economic development. Also, noise related to frequent takeoffs and landings by aircraft, firing, bombing, gunshots from artillery, tank operations, and so on, raise concern in the affected residential communities.

(See Figs. III-4-3-1, 2)

Fig. III-4-3-1 Situation of SDF Facilities (land plots)

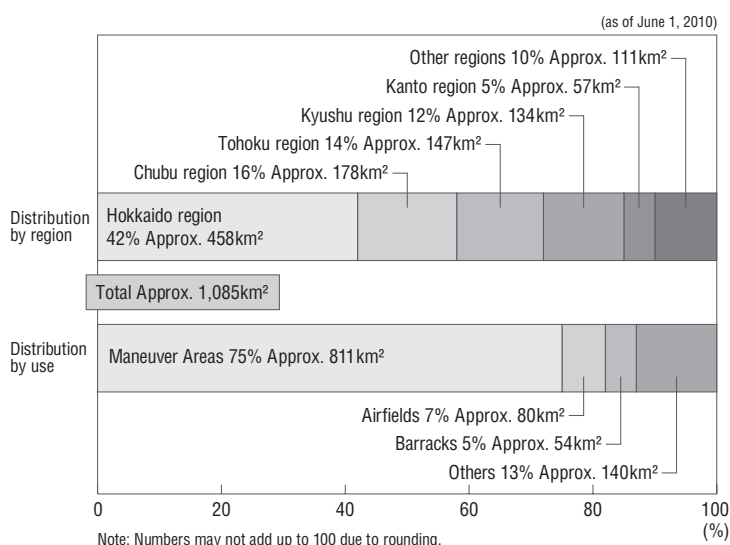
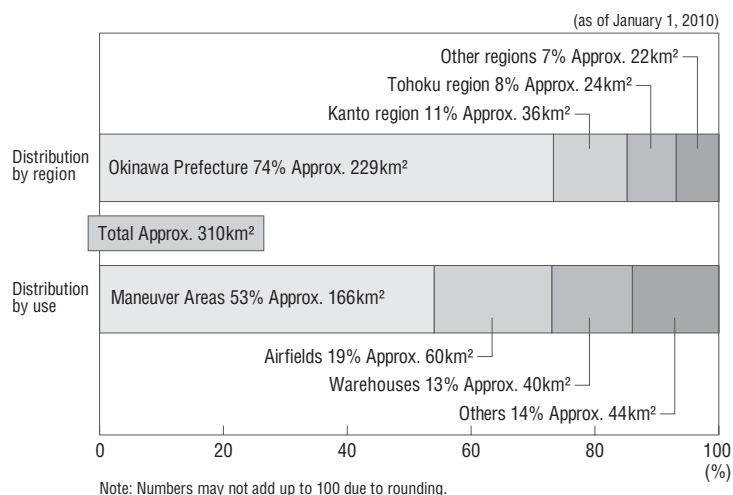


Fig. III-4-3-2 Situation of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan  
(exclusively used facilities)

## 2. Work on Various Measures Relating to Defense Facilities

Defense facilities, as bases which support the defense capabilities of Japan and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, are indispensable to the country's security. The Ministry of Defense has been securing harmony between the defense facilities and surrounding areas in order to fully maintain those capabilities, and working to obtain the understanding and cooperation of the local residents, as it is necessary to constantly maintain conditions for stable utilization. For that purpose, the Ministry of Defense has taken the measures shown in Figure III-4-3-3, Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas since 1974 based on the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Law).

(See Reference 82)

Fig. III-4-3-3 Measures for Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

Purpose	Measures	Description of Measures
Prevention of Noise Problems	Subsidies to finance sound insulation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational facilities such as elementary schools, junior high schools, and kindergartens; medical facilities such as hospitals and clinics; and welfare facilities such as nursery centers, day-service centers for the elderly, and 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>• Land procurement</li> <li>• Improvement of public facilities such as roads, water-supply systems, and sewage facilities in the area where housing, etc., is to be relocated</li> </ul>
	Improvement of green belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree planting, installation of grass fields</li> </ul>
Prevention of Nuisance Other Than Noise	Subsidies to finance trouble-prevention work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canals, reservoirs, roads, river improvement, television broadcast community reception facilities</li> </ul>
Reduction of Troubles Related to Living and Business	Subsidies to build facilities meant to stabilize people's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads, radio broadcast facilities, nursing homes, fire departments, parks, waste disposal facilities, welfare centers for the elderly, public facilities for learning, etc.</li> <li>• Agricultural facilities, fishing facilities</li> </ul>
Reduction of Impacts on Surrounding Areas	Provision of specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of public facilities such as traffic facilities, recreation centers, and welfare facilities</li> <li>• Medical expenses, operating costs of community buses, assessment fees for earthquake resistance for school buildings, etc.</li> </ul>

## (1) Review of the Measures of the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Law)

The Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Law) was enacted in 1974 from the viewpoint that it is unfair for only the local citizens living near defense facilities to bear the burden of the impacts of aircraft noise and other problems resulting from operations of defense facilities which include the activities of SDF and U.S. military forces or operations of airfields as described before, as well as the strong requests from related local public entities to take adequate measures for such negative impacts. The Ministry of Defense, based on the above law, has developed measures to prevent, reduce, and mitigate those impacts. (See Reference 83)

However, more than 30 years have passed since the Living Environment Improvement Law became effective, and as social conditions have changed and the lifestyles and a sense of value of Japanese nationals have diversified, there have been requests by related local public entities to review the current system for wider and more flexible application of the law for specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants and aid to public facilities for the stabilization of people's lives, and at the same time to expand the areas eligible for residential sound insulation works.

Meanwhile, in November 2009 the Government Revitalization Unit directed that the specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants and aid to public facilities for stabilization of people's lives be "reviewed to enhance the effectiveness of grants by improving flexibility in the use of grants and making the grants more convenient for local communities," and further that residential sound insulation works be given priority as much as possible.

Under the circumstances mentioned above, the Ministry of Defense reviewed the current system of the specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants in the first place, in order to make the measures more effective and more convenient for the related local public entities. Regarding the grants, a bill partially revising the Living Environment Improvement Law was submitted to the 174th meeting of the Diet in February 2010, so that the grants can be applied to activities so-called soft projects such as aid for medical expenses besides the improvement of public facilities. (See Fig. III-4-3-4)

Fig. III-4-3-4 Partial Revisions to the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities

Regarding Partial Revisions to the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities

- Review of the use of the specified defense facilities environs improvement and adjustment grants

### Background

- Diversification of local needs (requests for appropriation for "soft" projects)
- "Public projects review" evaluation results of the Government Revitalization Unit  
→ "Make use more flexible and convenient"

### Current

- Improvement of public facilities

Public facilities: transportation and communication facilities, sports and recreation related facilities, sanitation facilities, educational and cultural facilities, medical facilities, social welfare facilities, facilities for fire fighting, facilities helping to promote industry



### After revision

- Improvement of public facilities
- So-called "soft" projects ← (Newly added)
  - Aid for medical expenses (medical fees for children up to elementary school age, antenatal fees, etc.)
  - Aid for operating costs of community buses (operating costs for welfare buses, etc.)
  - Aid for assessment fees for earthquake resistance for school buildings, etc. (Assessment fees for earthquake resistance for elementary/junior high schools, etc.) Above-mentioned "soft" projects are envisioned

## (2) Considerations for Future Harmonization of Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

The Ministry of Defense is fully considering ways to more effectively and efficiently develop measures to harmonize defense facilities and surrounding areas, in light of the severe fiscal situation, based on requests by related local public entities and directions from the Government Revitalization Unit.

(See Fig. III-4-3-3, 4, 5, 6) (See Reference 82, 83)

Fig. III-4-3-5 FY2010 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas Near Bases  
(Based on Expenditures)

(¥100 million)

Project	Mainland	Okinawa
Projects to prevent disturbance	126	11
Sound-insulation projects	441	83
Measures related to relocations	101	2
Subsidies to stabilize people's livelihoods	159	22
Road improvement projects	71	4
Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants	118	21
Other projects	20	1

Fig. III-4-3-6 FY2010 SACO-related Spending (measures to expedite  
implementation of SACO projects) (based on expenditures)

(¥100 million)

Project	Measures in the mainland	Measures in Okinawa
Projects to prevent noise problems	0	0
Sound-insulation projects	2	0
Measures related to relocations	5	0
Subsidies to stabilize civil life	0	1
Road improvement projects	0	0
Grants to improve surrounding areas	14	3
Other projects	2	0

Note: Other projects are those meant to improve green belts.

## 4. Public Relations Activities, Information Disclosure, and Related Activities

The activities of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF to protect the peace and security of Japan can not be carried out without the understanding and support of the people of Japan toward the Ministry of Defense and the SDF. For this reason, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF have been making efforts to provide them with information<sup>40</sup> through active public relations activities, etc., from the perspective of responding to increased public attention to national defense and accountability to the public<sup>41</sup>.

### 1. Various Public Relations Activities

As the scope of SDF activities has expanded both domestically and internationally, including international peace cooperation activities such as the operations against piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and disaster relief dispatches, the public attention to the SDF and defense issues has been increasing.

With the recognition that it is necessary to proactively promote publicity on defense policies and SDF activities on a regular basis, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF conduct a variety of PR activities to ensure better understanding about the current situation of the SDF in consideration of the changing public awareness and needs as well as increasing overseas activities of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF.

(See Reference 84)

### (1) Website, Pamphlets, and Others

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF conduct PR activities using a wide variety of media, including providing information, gathering public opinions, distributing PR videos via the Internet, and broadcasting commercial films for each SDF service.

The Ministry of Defense has been making great efforts to provide accurate information on the SDF and the national defense more extensively to the public, in the form of creation and distribution of various pamphlets which explain the policies of the Ministry of Defense and the activities of the SDF, cooperation for media coverage, and assistance in editing the PR magazine *MAMOR*. Furthermore, as the SDF activities outside Japan have increased, oversea attention to the Ministry of Defense and the SDF has been enhanced. In order to address such a situation, the Ministry of Defense has been taking efforts to dispatch information overseas through such activities as publishing the English language quarterly newsletter Japan Defense Focus, promoting participation of foreign media in regular press conferences, expanding the English section of the Ministry of Defense website, creation of English defense white papers, various policy pamphlets and PR videos in English. The Ministry of Defense constantly works to make its website easy to use, and renewed it in April 2010. It strives to use its PR-related expenses actively, efficiently, and effectively.

Among those efforts, in particular, concerning such activities as anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and the international peacekeeping cooperation activities in Haiti, which have attracted public attention, we have been advancing PR activities predominantly by posting the SDF's performance and movies on special pages on the Ministry of Defense and Joint Staff website and by publishing special issues of PR magazines, creating and distributing pamphlets. Furthermore, pertaining to anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, various measures were taken, including publishing a manga version of the 2009 Defense White Paper, producing and PR video and advertising it in subway cars.

### (2) Events, PR Facilities, etc.

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF conduct activities to extensively inform the people of the current situation of the SDF<sup>42</sup>. These activities include



The Blue Impulse performing exhibition flights at an air show



A fleet review



the annual GSDF Fire Power Exercise conducted at the foot of Mt. Fuji; cruises for experience by vessels of the MSDF in each region; and demonstration flights and boarding experience on aircraft at open base festivals held at ASDF bases. In addition, at camps and bases throughout the country, events including equipment exhibitions, unit tours, and SDF band concerts are held on the anniversary of a unit's foundation. In some instances, they also hold parades through the city both in vehicles and on foot, with cooperation from the local community concerned.

Furthermore, in commemoration of the anniversary of the foundation of the SDF, events such as a SDF Marching Festival, a troop review, a fleet review, and an air review are held.

The 2009 SDF Marching Festival was held at the Nippon Budokan attracting a total audience of approximately 41,000. Concerning annual reviews by the SDF, a troop review, a fleet review, and an air review are hosted in rotation by the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, respectively, at which SDF equipment and results of daily training are



Children participating in a SDF Life Experience Tour in Ichigayadai

## [COLUMN]

## COMMENTARY

### Cooperation in Filming “*Saka no Ue no Kumo*” (Cloud Above the Slope)

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF cooperated in the filming of the special drama “*Saka no Ue no Kumo*” (Cloud Above the Slope), which NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) began to broadcast on November 29, 2009. It portrays the intense lives of people who lived in the tempestuous Meiji era, such as Saneyuki Akiyama, a Navy staff officer in the Combined Fleet during the Russo-Japanese War; Yoshifuru Akiyama, called the father of the Japanese Army cavalry; and Shiki Masaoka, who aimed to reform Japanese haiku and tanka poetry.

The MSDF facilities used in the filming (Kure Regional District Headquarters building, Officer Candidate School building, and the Suiko-kan at the First Service School) were built before the war, and helped to give the drama a feeling of authenticity. In addition, the GSDF and MSDF cooperated by inviting actors who appeared in the drama to gain experience by joining units and other steps to allow them to build roles based on specialized conduct and basic movements. In particular sailing a cutter, which is one of the MSDF's most representative basic trainings, was introduced in the drama's publicity program.



Masahiro Motoki and Takahiro Fujimoto being filmed at the MSDF First Technical School in Etajima [NHK]



Hiroshi Abe visits the Kutei-kan (Airborne Exhibition Hall, GSDF Narashino Camp) to prepare for his role [NHK]

## Fiftieth Anniversary of the Blue Impulse

The Blue Impulse marked its 50th anniversary this year. This is the only unit in the ASDF set up to fly for the purpose of public relations, and they show their acrobatic flight at air shows and at all kinds of events throughout Japan. The story about their amazing show at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics where they drew the five Olympic rings in the sky has been handed down from generation to generation.

In 2009 they performed at 21 events, including the 150th anniversary celebration of the opening of the Port of Yokohama, and the opening game for the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles, a Japanese professional baseball team, and in 2010 they plan to perform at 26 events, including the Chiba National Sports Festival and the opening ceremony for the JR Kyushu Shinkansen.

This year in commemoration of the 50th anniversary there will be ceremonies at the Matsushima Air Base in August and at the Hamamatsu Air Base in October. Moreover, in addition to 40 acrobatic maneuvers they have ever performed, they have developed 3 new ones. “Sunrise” has them rising in a fan shaped display that looks like the rays of the sun, “Back-to-back” has two aircraft flying belly to belly, and in “Double Roll Back” a unit of 6 aircraft roll back in turn from the lead aircraft while rolling. They will make a splash in the skies throughout the nation in concert with a newly composed BGM.

The Blue Impulse will continue to fly for the entertainment of the Japanese people, and as the face of the ASDF.

Figure: History of the Blue Impulse

Date	Summary	Aircraft
April 1960	Founded as a flight research unit, the 2nd Squadron, First Air Wing (Hamamatsu)	F-86F
November 1960	Held the first public exhibition flight (North Hamamatsu Air Base, now the Hamamatsu Air Base)	
October 1964	Exhibition flights at the Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony	
July 1982	Began flying the T-2 in public exhibitions (Matsushima Air Base)	T-2
April 1996	Began flying the T-4 in public exhibitions (National Defense Academy)	T-4
April 1997	Flew in exhibition overseas for the first time in the air show to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force	
February 2000	Flew in exhibition at the Nagano Olympics opening ceremony	



New maneuver “Sunrise”



New maneuver “Back-to-back”

exhibited to the public. In 2009 the MSDF held a fleet review. The newly constructed ships *Hyuga* and *Soryu* and the newly built US-2 aircraft participated in the review for the first time. People went on board the reviewed fleet, and the review was simultaneously broadcast on the Internet. With two rehearsals, about 26,300 people in total went on board the ships in this fleet review. The GSDF plans to have a review in 2010.

In addition, each of the Regional Defense Bureaus has organized seminars on defense issues to inform the public and gain their understanding of such defense policies and SDF activities as anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden and other defense activities, and has been also engaged in implementing Japan–U.S. exchange projects for sports and cultural exchanges between the local Japanese citizens near the U.S. facilities and areas in Japan and U.S. military personnel and their families.

In addition to such events, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF actively promote tours at PR facilities. For example, the PR facilities in the Ministry of Defense at Ichigaya including the Ichigaya Memorial Hall, are open to visitors on two guided tours each weekday; one each in the morning and afternoon. Since the tours were launched in June 2000, more than 250,000 people have visited the facilities so far. Each SDF service has also established its main PR facility and SDF camps and bases across Japan have PR stations and history museums open to the public.

(See Reference at the end of the book)

### (3) Enlistment Experience Programs

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF offer SDF Life Experience Tours<sup>43</sup> and Enlistment Experience Programs<sup>44</sup> at the request of private companies, etc. These programs are intended to deepen public understanding of the SDF by offering them the opportunity to experience at first hand the daily life and training of the SDF as well

#### [COLUMN]

#### Q&A

#### Questions from Youth (GSDF)



Q: Why is the GSDF uniform green?

(Elementary school boy, Osaka Prefecture)

A: Lieutenant Colonel Atsushi Ohara, Personnel Department, Ground Staff Office

I will answer the question, “Why are the GSDF uniforms green?”

The current green (dark green) uniforms were made in 1991, about 19 years ago. We conducted a survey to collect the opinions of many citizens and the GSDF personnel. Taking the result into account, we chose the color of green which is a color thought to represent the Japan’s abundant natural environment and image of preserving peace and safety.

We in the green uniforms are encouraged to face harsh training day and night, with a feeling of “We protect Japan’s abundant natural environment and peace!”

as to have direct contact with SDF members, while staying at an SDF camp or base for two to three days. In FY2009, 140 persons participated in 4 SDF Life Experience Tours held by the Ministry of Defense targeting university students and women. At the request of the private sector, the SDF has conducted about 1,100 Enlistment Experience Programs in which about 17,300 employees participated and experienced SDF life.

## 2. Appropriate Operation of the Information Disclosure System and Personal Data Protection System

An information disclosure system<sup>45</sup> was established in the Ministry of Defense, in line with the enactment of the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs in 2001. The Ministry of Defense discloses administrative documents, and a personal information protection system<sup>46</sup> (in MOD) was also established in line with the Law for the Protection of Personal Information Held by Administrative Organs of 2005. Along with

### [COLUMN]

### Q&A

#### Questions from Youth (MSDF)

Q: It was written that there were over 10,000 mines in the seas near Japan. Has it been possible to recover and remove all of those mines?  
(Male high school student, Kanagawa Prefecture)

A: MSDF Lieutenant Commander Tomoaki Kato,  
Staff officer in the Mine Warfare Force Headquarters, MSDF



During World War II approximately 10,700 mines were laid in the seas surrounding Japan. This caused a significant increase in damage to ships, some of which sank as a result of contact with the mines, and the maritime traffic surrounding Japan was paralyzed.

After the war, the disposal or removal of these mines became imperative for the reconstruction of Japan, and work began to remove the mines in 1945 as part of shipping route development. The development concluded in 1985, but mines have still continued to be discovered, such as when dredging work is conducted in ports and bays. In such a case we remove and dispose of the mines.

Mines are extremely destructive yet low in cost, which makes them very cost-effective as a weapon. That is why a large number of countries still possess them even today. In 1991, the Mine Warfare Force of the MSDF was dispatched to the Persian Gulf to remove and dispose of mines that had been laid by Iraq during the Gulf War, thus making an international contribution as a precursor to overseas activities of the SDF.

In addition to mines, the Mine Warfare Force is engaged in such a mission as to remove and dispose of artillery shells and other objects discovered in the ocean in order to contribute to ensuring the safety of maritime traffic. Moreover, it also provides water supply and transports supplies in disaster relief activities.



A minesweeper conducting water supply assistance



**[COLUMN]****Q&A****Questions from Youth (ASDF)**

**Q:** How do you fly to people to rescue them? (3rd grade boy in an elementary school, Shizuoka Prefecture)

**A: ASDF Captain Akihiro Muchima, Niigata Rescue Unit**

I'll answer the question, "How do you rescue people by using aircraft?"

The ASDF operates U-125-A search-and-rescue aircraft to search for people who need to be rescued, and UH-60J rescue helicopters to actually rescue them. After the search-and-rescue aircraft confirms the location of the people that need help, the rescue helicopter then flies to the position above them. The rescue helicopter has crew members called medic (rescue personnel: crew members who actually do the rescuing) on board who descend by cable from the hovering helicopter (keeping the helicopter in one position in the air) over the site to rescue the people that need help; the medic, if necessary, can also use parachutes and jump from a high altitude, or jump into the ocean equipped with scuba gear (equipment that allows them to swim underwater), or descend into mountains where the temperature is minus 20°C and perform activities for extended periods. Under such extremely harsh conditions that could cost them their lives if they make a single mistake, they are devotedly committed to their mission in order to help people who have met with mishap or have been injured.

When people who need help are in a place that is difficult to get by land, the ASDF rushes to the scene by air. It is our duty to help people who are in trouble, even one minute, or one second faster.



ASDF Captain Muchima in the cockpit of a UH-60J



A hovering UH-60J

measures to ensure the security of the personal information under its jurisdiction, the Defense Ministry also discloses such information in response to requests for disclosure, revision and termination of use.

For this reason, the receipt and implementation of disclosure applications are instigated at the Ministry of Defense offices and each Regional Defense Bureau and branch<sup>47</sup>.

(See Reference 85 and Reference at the end of the book)

### **3. Appropriate Operation of the Whistleblower Protection System**

In order to develop a safeguard system to protect workers who disclose information in order to serve public interest, the Whistleblower Protection Act entered into effect in April 2006. In accordance with this act, the Defense Ministry set up a system to handle public interest-related information disclosures by Defense Ministry employees and outside workers on issues where the Defense Ministry has the legal authority to punish or issue recommendations. Moreover, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF have established an internal contact desk for



information disclosure in the public interest by Defense Ministry employees, and an external contact desk for related disclosure by outside workers. Through the contact desks, the Defense Ministry deals with information disclosure that is in the public interest and whistleblower protection<sup>48</sup>.

#### **4. Engagement in Policy Evaluation**

In 2001, a system to evaluate government policies was introduced with the aim of improving the efficiency and quality of administration in the public's best interest, while the Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA) came into effect in 2002.

Based on this law, the Ministry of Defense is evaluating various policies designated to achieve the objectives of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF: to ensure the peace and independence of Japan and the security of the state. In addition to project evaluations, policy evaluations are primarily carried out using a comprehensive evaluation system<sup>49</sup> since the Ministry of Defense policy implementation involves analysis from diverse perspectives, such as domestic and overseas circumstances and technological innovation trends.

In FY2009, 63 policy evaluations were performed, including the participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations by the Ministry of Defense and the SDF. In addition, as of August 2010, 29 policy evaluations were performed, including on making the nurse training program into a four-year course.

**Notes:**

- 1) In January 2007, the Japan Defense Agency was upgraded to the Ministry of Defense. With this transition, the function of policy planning and capabilities for accurately and promptly responding to various emergency situations has been strengthened.  
Further, the SDF and the Ministry of Defense are parts of the same defense related governmental organization. “The Ministry of Defense refers to the administrative side of the organization with the mission to manage and operate the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, and the “SDF,” refers to the side which represents the effective organization for carrying out unit operations with the mission of defending this nation.
- 2) With the change in regime, each Ministry established the council of the Ministry’s top three politicians comprised primarily of the Minister, Senior Vice-Minister, and Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry, and at the Ministry of Defense as well, it is ensured that the politicians who were elected by the public have the responsibility for its operation both formally and practically.
- 3) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/gsdf/jieikanbosyu/>> for details on the recruitment of uniformed SDF personnel. For details on employment information, see <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/saiyou/>>
- 4) Notification of the recruitment period, checking of qualifications for application, processing of application forms, issuance of examination admission tickets, notification of examination dates and locations, provision of locations and facilities necessary for examinations, public relations and related works.
- 5) Until FY2006, the SDF had two “enlisted (upper)” recruitment systems for candidates between the ages of 18 and 27: the “Student Candidate for Enlisted (Upper) System” and the “Enlisted (Upper) Candidate System.” In FY2007, the two recruitment systems were reorganized and unified into a new appointment system, the “General Candidate for Enlisted (Upper) System”. It adopts some elements of the “Student Candidate for Enlisted (Upper) System,” which aims to raise awareness of candidates for the Enlisted (Upper), and of the “Enlisted (Upper) Candidates System,” which emphasizes individual capabilities in personnel management.
- 6) For SDF Youth Cadets employed as Recruit (GSDF), Seaman Recruit (MSDF), or Airman Basic (ASDF) in the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, respectively, FY2007 was the final year for employment of MSDF and ASDF Youth Cadets and no recruitment or employment has been conducted since then. In addition, from 2010 recruitment, the status of GSDF Youth Cadets was revised from uniformed SDF personnel to the newly established “Students,” not uniformed SDF personnel status and outside of the fixed number of SDF personnel. Fixed-term SDF personnel, prior to their formal employment as privates (GSDF)/seaman apprentice (MSDF)/airman third class (ASDF), will be employed as candidates for uniformed SDF personnel and receive education and training to foster their sense of mission, responsibility, unity, discipline, and compliance. This system will be adopted from July 2010.
- 7) SDF personnel must perform duties such as defense operations as specified in the Self-Defense Forces Law. They are, therefore, designated as special national government employees under Article 2 of the National Civil Service Law, and personnel management of SDF personnel is conducted independently from that of general civilian government employees.
- 8) The fixed term uniformed SDF personnel hired in FY2009 reached 5,574 individuals (41% of all new uniformed SDF personnel hires). Further, these fixed term personnel make up 11% of total personnel.
- 9) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/defense/yobiji/index.html>>
- 10) Many countries other than Japan also have reserve systems.

- 11) In the previous recruitment system, only administrative officials were employed through the Level 1 Examination for National Public Officials. However, it was decided that some technical and engineering officials whose main duties are administrative work would be recruited through the Level 1 Examination for National Public Officials from Apr. 2010. As a result, the Class I Examination for Defense Ministry Civilian Officials is used to employ officials engaged mainly in research.
- 12) Details on education and training can be found on each SDF website: GSDF at <http://www.mod.go.jp/gsdf/>, MSDF at <http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/>, and ASDF at <http://www.mod.go.jp/asdf/>.
- 13) Such external educational institutions in FY2010 include the Tokyo Institute of Technology and Waseda University in Japan, and the National Defense University (United States) and California University (United States) overseas.
- 14) Institutes of each SDF service where SDF officers of each service and others receive training on security, defense strategy, and other subjects.
- 15) In addition to reviewing the educational content at the Staff College of each SDF service after clarifying joint educational needs, efforts were made to achieve effective joint education such as strengthening collaboration with the Joint Staff College.
- 16) The Joint Staff College is part of the Joint Staff Office and educates SDF officers on joint operations.
- 17) Training includes SDF Joint Exercises, Japan-U.S. Combined Joint Exercises, and Ballistic Missile Response Exercises to prevent and remove direct threats to Japan, training such as International Peace Cooperation Exercises and Joint International Humanitarian Operation Training, in which the handling of prisoners is practiced, in preparation for international peace cooperation, and related activities.
- 18) For example, the GSDF has a Command Post Exercise Center for carrying out command and staff activities at the division/regiment level, and the Fuji Training Center and urban warfare training facilities for company-level training.
- 19) For example, some firing and launch training involving tanks, anti-tank helicopters, missiles, long-range artillery, surface-to-air guided missiles (improved Hawk and Patriot System), surface-to-surface missiles, torpedoes, and other weapons cannot be carried out at some firing ranges in Japan, or are prohibited in Japan as ranges exceed domestic limits. There are also various restrictions on exercises by large-scale units that require larger areas, minesweeping training, and submarine rescue drills that are carried out in relatively shallow sea areas, and early-morning and night-time flight training.
- 20) Activities to detect, exploit, and reduce or annul the effects of enemies' electromagnetic waves, while securing the use of electromagnetic waves by friendly forces.
- 21) The preventive measures prepared by the MSDF Ship Accident Review Committee chaired by the Vice Chief of Staff of the MSDF in May 2009 are the following.
  - 1) Strengthen watch and reporting/communication systems.
  - 2) Strengthen teamwork for safety navigations.
  - 3) Strengthen the navigational system by improving personnel capabilities.
  - 4) Thorough instructions by the commanding officer.

\* Furthermore, the Ministry of Defense has already taken measures to try to prevent a recurrence, such as the formulation of basic guidelines for the use of autopilot equipment, the enhancement of simplified sound recording equipment for the bridge of the vessel, and the development of appropriate warning and communication systems.
- 22) For instance, efforts for gender equality and measures to support the development of the next generation are being promoted.

See the next section, Efforts for Further Utilization of Female SDF Personnel, and <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/news/2006/07/12.html>> for details on gender equality; and <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/>>

- others/jinji/kosodate/index.html> for details on the promotion of measures to support the development of the next generation as well as Section 3, “The Promotion of Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation.”
- 23) See the following for the Report on Measures for the Comprehensive Reform in Personnel Field of the Defense Force:  
[<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report1\\_5.pdf>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report1_5.pdf)  
[<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report2\\_5.pdf>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report2_5.pdf)  
[<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report3\\_5.pdf>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report3_5.pdf)  
[<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report4\\_5.pdf>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report4_5.pdf)  
[<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report5\\_5.pdf>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/others/jinji/report5_5.pdf)
  - 24) No restrictions have been imposed on assignments to patrol helicopters for the purpose of education or research and development.
  - 25) It was determined to quickly and steadily implement as preventative measures 1) the enforcement of leading service disciplines and education, 2) the adoption of post recruitment drug testing (urine testing), and 3) the coordination of various counseling and reporting hot lines. Note that inspection regarding the use of drugs has been carried out at the time of recruitment since 2002.
  - 26) The Monument for SDF Members Killed in the Line of Duty was constructed in 1962, and reinforced in 1980, due to aging through weathering. Later, when the headquarters of the then Defense Agency was moved to Ichigaya in 1998, the Memorial Zone in its current form was located on the east side of the memorial area with the Monument for SDF Members Killed in the Line of Duty and other monuments. A memorial ceremony for SDF members killed in the line of duty is held annually at the Memorial Zone. This ceremony is attended by surviving family members of the honored dead, and also attended by the Prime Minister and high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Defense and SDF including the Minister of Defense, former Directors-General of the Defense Agency, and others. At the Monument for SDF Members Killed in the Line of Duty in the Memorial Zone, there is an iron plate containing the names and other information of personnel killed in the line of duty. When foreign dignitaries such as Defense Ministers visit the Ministry of Defense, they make offerings of flowers, expressing their respect and condolences to personnel killed in the line of duty. Memorial ceremonies are also held at individual SDF posts and bases.
  - 27) For further information on outplacement assistance, see [<http://www.mod.go.jp/gsd/retire/>](http://www.mod.go.jp/gsd/retire/) (GSDF), [<http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/formal/engo/engotop.html>](http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/formal/engo/engotop.html) (MSDF), [<http://www.mod.go.jp/asdf/engo/index.html>](http://www.mod.go.jp/asdf/engo/index.html) (ASDF)
  - 28) “Seclusion from private companies” is stipulated in Article 62 of the Self-Defense Forces Law.
  - 29) Costs incurred during the entire life cycle of equipment or materials, from the planning, development, mass production, and operation (including maintenance, repair, and improvement work) through to disposal
  - 30) The fighter (F-2) and fixed-wing patrol aircraft (P-1) were added to the list of target equipment for the trial in 2008. The Type-10 Tank, 2008 Minesweeper (MSC), and next transport aircraft were added in 2009.
  - 31) A system which due to the importance of evaluating other factors such as technological, differs from automatic bidding systems based on price alone, by deciding upon successful bidders through a comprehensive evaluation of factors other than price in addition to price.
  - 32) The Equipment Procurement Office was reorganized in September 2007 as the Equipment Procurement and Construction Office.
  - 33) For the interim report of the “Meeting on the Nature of Production and Technological Bases for Fighter Aircraft,” see [<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/agenda/meeting/sentouki/houkoku/houkoku.html>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/agenda/meeting/sentouki/houkoku/houkoku.html)
  - 34) For information regarding the “Conference on the Civilian Use of Ministry of Defense Developed Aircraft” see [<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/agenda/meeting/kaihatsukokuki/houkoku/houkoku.html>](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/agenda/meeting/kaihatsukokuki/houkoku/houkoku.html)

- 35) 1) “Operational demonstration research” is introduced. In this type of research, the SDF service (the future operator) will evaluate the prototypes of the equipment. The evaluation will be reflected in later R&D, procurement, and related operations. 2) “Evolutionary development” is introduced. At the start of the development phase, the performance requirements to be achieved are left undecided. Even after the start of the development phase, the precision of required performance can be upgraded, and up-to-date military science technology can be newly introduced.
- 36) Experiments conducted by the GSDF using specific units, for the purpose of specifying the “New Way of Fighting based on Information Supremacy” and the effective development of command and communications equipment.
- 37) For an overview of the “Contract Management Meeting” see  
<[http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/agenda/meeting/keiyaku\\_seido/gaiyo.html](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/agenda/meeting/keiyaku_seido/gaiyo.html)>
- 38) The generic term for the facilities used by the Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Forces in Japan based on the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty. It refers to maneuver areas, airfields, ports, communication stations, barracks, warehouses, ammunition depots, oil bunkers, and so on.
- 39) The land area of defense facilities, as of January 1, 2010 is approximately 1,399 km<sup>2</sup> (the sum of the land area of SDF facilities (approximately 1,085 km<sup>2</sup>), the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the U.S. forces in Japan (approximately 310 km<sup>2</sup>), and the land area of facilities other than SDF facilities which the U.S. forces in Japan are jointly using under the Status of Forces Agreement (approximately 4 km<sup>2</sup>)), which accounts for approximately 0.37% of the country’s land. Of which, approximately 42% of the land area of SDF facilities is situated in Hokkaido. Divided by use, approximately 75% of which is maneuver areas. Meanwhile, 74 km<sup>2</sup> of the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the U.S. forces in Japan is jointly used by the SDF under the Status of Forces Agreement.
- 40) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/publication/index.html>>
- 41) From the viewpoint of security, etc., there is some information which is not suitable for release to the public (such as 1) information that may hinder the operation of units, 2) information that may impair the relationship of mutual trust with the other nations and 3) personal information). However, the Ministry of Defense will continue to retain its policy to make efforts to release information as much as possible in order to enhance public understanding.
- 42) For details on events, etc., see the Ministry of Defense website <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/publication/events/index.html>
- 43) Further information on the Summer Tour/Spring Tour for College Students, etc.; Ms. Parsley Tour (experiential tour for women in their 20s); and One-Day Visit to SDF for Women; is available on the MOD website.
- 44) Tours to experience the daily life of the Ground, Maritime, or Air Self-Defense Force (For tour information, refer to the above-mentioned website).
- 45) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/joho/index.html>>
- 46) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/hogo/index.html>>
- 47) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/joho/johokokai06.pdf>>
- 48) See <[http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/koueki\\_tuho/index.htm](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/koueki_tuho/index.htm)>
- 49) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/hyouka/index.html>>