

Section 3

Measures Relating to the Stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan

Measures such as force posture realignment of U.S. forces in Japan are extremely important in reducing the burden on local communities, such as those in Okinawa, while maintaining deterrence. The Ministry of Defense will steadily advance the U.S. forces realignment described in the Roadmap while making

continuous efforts to gain the understanding and cooperation of local communities accommodating USFJ facilities and areas.

This chapter describes measures aimed at making the stationing of U.S. forces truly acceptable to the people of Japan.

1 Stationing of U.S. Forces in Okinawa

As of January 2012, approximately 74% of USFJ facilities and areas (for exclusive use) is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, occupying approximately 10% of the land area of the prefecture and 18% of the main island of Okinawa. The Government of Japan recognizes that the current situation in which USFJ facilities and areas are concentrated in Okinawa imposes a major burden on the local people. The Government of Japan has been making the maximum efforts to implement a range of measures in light of the security perspective in order to reduce the burden as much as possible.

Land, the Government of Japan decided to devote even greater efforts towards realignment, consolidation, and reduction, believing that the burden should be shared by the whole nation. In order to hold consultations on issues related to USFJ facilities and areas in Okinawa, the Government of Japan established the Okinawa Action Council between the central government and Okinawa Prefecture, and the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) between Japan and the United States and the so-called SACO Final Report was compiled in 1996.

See Reference 46

1 Efforts for Realignment, Consolidation, and Reduction of USFJ Facilities and Areas

When Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972, the Government of Japan provided 83 facilities and areas covering approximately 278 km² for exclusive use by the U.S. forces under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. However, their concentration in Okinawa has led to strong calls for their realignment and reduction on the grounds that they seriously affect the lives of people in Okinawa Prefecture.

Both countries have continued their efforts to realign, consolidate, and reduce USFJ facilities and areas, and, in relation to the so-called 23 issues¹, it was agreed in 1990 that both sides would proceed with the necessary adjustments and procedures for the return of land. Moreover, regarding the so-called Three Okinawa Issues such as the return of Naha Port², it was agreed in 1995 that efforts would be made to resolve these issues.

Subsequently, in response to an unfortunate incident that occurred in 1995, as well as the refusal of the then Governor of Okinawa to sign land lease renewal documents under the Special Measures Law regarding Use and Expropriation of

2 SACO Final Report and Progress

The SACO Final Report stipulates the return of land, the adjustment of training and operational procedures, the implementation of noise-reduction initiatives, and the improvement of operational procedures regarding the Status of Forces Agreement; the facilities and areas concerned are shown in Figure III-2-3-1. The land to be returned based on the SACO Final Report represents approximately 21% (about 50 km²) of USFJ facilities and areas in Okinawa at that time, exceeding the amount of land returned during the period between the reversion of Okinawa and the implementation of the SACO Final Report, which is roughly 43 km².

Major progress in regard to the SACO Final Report includes return of Gimbaru Training Area on July 31, 2011, and is shown in Figure III-2-3-2.

Moreover, as a result of such efforts, the number of USFJ facilities and areas (for exclusive use) in Okinawa, as well as the land area, has changed, as shown in Figure III-2-3-3.

See Reference 47

¹ See Reference 46

² The return of Naha Port, the return of Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield, and the relocation of artillery live fire training over Highway 104

Fig. III-2-3-1 Facilities and Areas Relating to the SACO Final Report

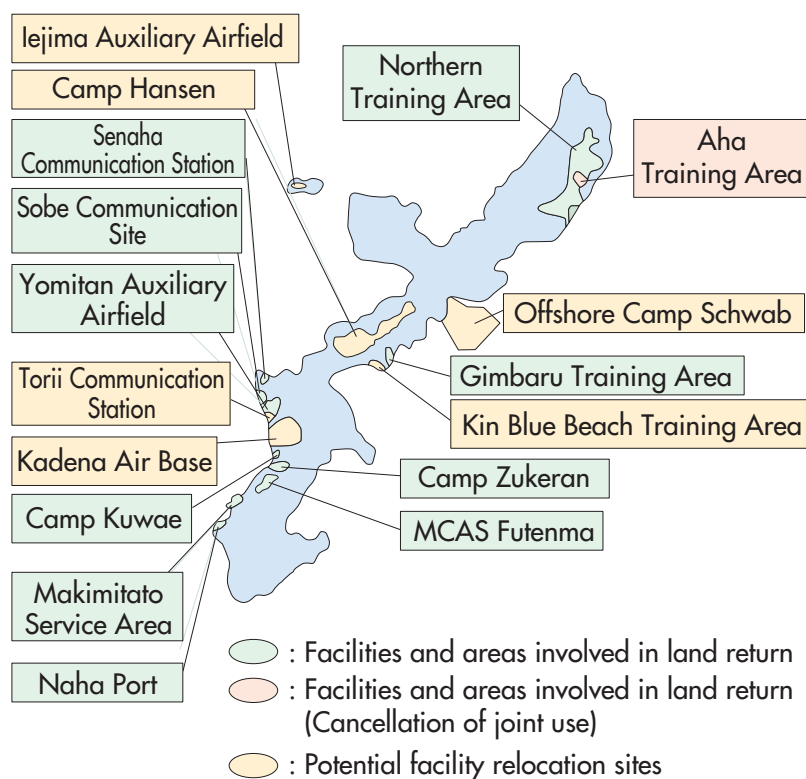


Fig. III-2-3-2 State of Progress of the SACO Final Report

1. Already Returned

Name of Facility (Project)	State of Progress
Aha Training Area (Return of total area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in December 1998 (cancellation of joint use)
Gimbaru Training Area (Return of total area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2008: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to agreement on land return after the HLZ was relocated to Kin Blue Beach Training Area, and the other facilities were relocated to Camp Hansen July 2011: Totally returned (approximately 60ha)
Sobe Communication Site (Return of total area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 1999: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on land return after the relocation of communication systems including communication facilities such as antennas and others to Camp Hansen June 2006: Land to which the Special Measure Law for USFJ Land was applied (approx. 236 m²) was returned December 2006: Remaining portion (approximately 53 ha) returned (Sobe Communication Site totally returned [approximately 53 ha])
Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield (Return of total area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2002: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on land return after the return of the Sobe Communication Site July 2006: Partially returned (approximately 138 ha) December 2006: Remaining portion (approximately 53 ha) returned (Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield totally returned [approximately 191 ha])
Senaha Communication Station (Return of most areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2002: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on land return after the relocation of communication systems including antennas and others to Torii Communication Station September 2006: Partially returned (approximately 61 ha excluding the microwave tower portion) October 2006: The microwave tower portion consolidated into Torii Communication Station

2. Negotiations for Return in Progress

Name of Facility (Project)	State of Progress
Northern Training Area (Return of major portion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 1999: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on land return following the relocation of seven helicopter landing zones (HLZ) and others December 1998–March 2000: Environmental survey (past year survey) November 2002–March 2004: Environmental survey (continuous environmental survey) February 2006: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the change of agreement in April 1999 (HLZs: from 7 HLZs to 6 HLZs, reduction of the scale of the site preparation from 75 m to 45 m in diameter) February–March 2007: Environmental impact assessment document was released and examined March 2007: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of the HLZs (three out of six) July 2007: Construction of HLZs started January 2008: The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of the HLZs (the remaining three)

3. Facilities that are to be returned in accord with the U.S. military realignment plan

Name of Facility (Project)	State of Progress
MCAS Futenma (Return of total area → Return of total area)*	* June 2011: According to the “2+2” joint statement, the design of the landing strip at the replacement facility is determined to be V-shaped. In addition, a commitment was affirmed for earliest possible completion of the replacement facility plan after 2014.
Camp Kuwae (Return of most areas → Return of total area)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2002: Youth center was furnished • March 2003: Part of northern side returned (approximately 38 ha) • January 2005: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the relocation and construction of the Naval Hospital and other related facilities • December 2006: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of the Naval Hospital • February 2008: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of support facilities (HLZ, etc.) of the Naval Hospital • December 2008: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of support facilities (Utility) of the Naval Hospital • May 2009: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of related facilities of the Naval Hospital (BEQ, etc.) • October 2009: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of related facilities of the Naval Hospital (First water tank facility) • October 2010: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of related facilities of the Naval Hospital (Second water tank facility) • September 2011: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the construction of related facilities of the Naval Hospital (BOQ and blood storage facility, etc.) <p>* May 2006: Described as total return in the United States–Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation</p>
Makiminato Service Area (Return of partial area → Return of total area)*	* May 2006: Described as total return in the United States–Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation
Naha Port Facility (Return of total area → Return of total area)*	* May 2006: Described as total return in the United States–Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation
Housing Consolidation Camp Zukeran (Return of partial area → Return of partial area)*	<p>(Phase I: Golf Range Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1999: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the relocation and construction of housing and others • July 2002: Two highrises were furnished • July 2006: An underpass was furnished <p>(Phase II: Sada Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2002: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the relocation and construction of housing and others • September 2005: Two highrises, 38 townhouses, and others were furnished <p>(Phase III: Eastern Chatan Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2004: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the relocation and construction of housing and others • June 2008: 35 townhouses and others were furnished <p>(Phase IV: Futenma and Upper Plaza Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2005: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on the relocation and construction of housing and others • February 2010: 24 townhouses constructed in Futenma and Upper Plaza Area were furnished <p>* May 2006: Camp Zukeran was described as partial return in the United States–Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation</p>

[Adjust Training and Operation Methods]

Project	State of Progress
Relocation of Artillery Live-fire Training over Highway 104	• Relocated to five maneuver areas in mainland Japan in FY1997
Parachute Drop Training	• Relocation training conducted at Iejima Auxiliary Airfield since July 2000

[Implement Noise Reduction Initiatives]

1. Already Implemented

Project	State of Progress
Installation of Noise Reduction Baffles at Kadena Air Base	• July 2000: Furnished

2. Measures for noise abatement in progress

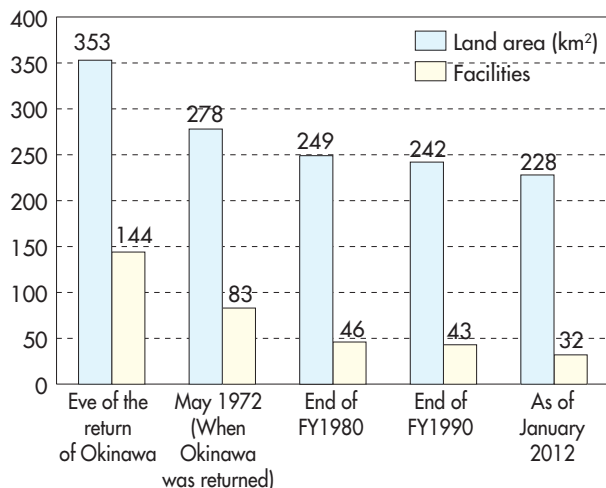
Project	State of Progress
Relocation of the U.S. Navy Ramp at Kadena Air Base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2008: Rinse Facility was furnished • February 2009: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to agreement on the relocation of Navy Ramp • October 2010: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on site preparation, implementation of construction of parking apron and taxiway. • April 2011: The Japan–U.S. Joint Committee came to an agreement on implementation of construction of parking and utilities.

3. Implementation of the U.S. military realignment plan in progress

Project	State of Progress
Transfer of KC-130 aircraft to Iwakuni Air Base*	* May 2006: United States–Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation stated that the KC-130 squadron would be based at MCAS Iwakuni with its headquarters, maintenance support facilities, and family support facilities, and that the aircraft would regularly deploy on a rotational bases for training and operations to MSDF Kanoya Base and Guam

Fig. III-2-3-3

Changes in Number and Area of USFJ Facilities and Areas (exclusive use) in Okinawa



Ceremony to mark the return of the Gimbaru Training Area, hosted jointly by the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa, and the town of Kin (Kin, Okinawa Prefecture; August 2011)

3 History and Progress of U.S. Forces Realignment in Okinawa

As well as efforts relating to realignment of the U.S. forces based on the Roadmap, measures have been taken to reduce the burden on the local communities in Okinawa Prefecture.

(1) Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma Replacement Facility, etc.

MCAS Futenma fulfills the following functions relating to the aerial capabilities of the U.S. Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa (USMC in Okinawa):

- Transport of Marine ground forces by helicopter, etc.
- Operation of air refueling aircraft
- A base for accepting aircraft in emergency

However, since the MCAS Futenma is located in an urban area, its prompt return has been strongly desired by the local residents due to problems such as the safety of the community, noise, and traffic. Therefore, coordination has been made toward the goal of returning the air station by implementing the following steps:

a. Transport of Marine Ground Forces by Helicopter, etc.

(a) The Necessity of Locating the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) within Okinawa Prefecture

The U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa consist of air, ground, logistics, and command elements. The interaction of those elements in operations is necessary, so it has been determined that the FRF needs to be located within Okinawa Prefecture so that rotary-wing aircraft stationed at MCAS Futenma will be located near the elements with which they train or operate on a regular basis.

(b) Background Concerning the Futenma Replacement Facility

Considering the occurrence of a U.S. forces helicopter crash in Ginowan City in August 2004, bilateral discussions on realignment have been made toward realizing the relocation and return of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date in order to resolve the unease of the residents living in the vicinity.

In the SCC document compiled in October 2005, the initiative to “locate the FRF in an ‘L’-shaped configuration that combines the shoreline areas of Camp Schwab and adjacent water areas of Oura Bay” was approved. Then, based on negotiation and agreement with the local municipalities including Nago City, it was decided to stipulate in the Roadmap that the FRF be located in a configuration that “combines Henoko-saki and adjacent water areas of Oura and Henoko Bays.” In regard to construction of this replacement facility, “a Memorandum of Basic Understanding” was exchanged between the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture and then Minister of State for Defense in May 2006.

The developments that have taken place since the SACO Final Report was published are shown in Figure III-2-3-4.

See Reference 40

(c) Review of Destination for MCAS Futenma Relocation

Following the change of government in September 2009, the entire government has carried out intensive studies on the FRF from the perspective of maintaining deterrence, while aiming to eliminate the risk posed to residents near MCAS Futenma and reducing the burden on Okinawa.

In December 2009, the Exploratory Committee for Okinawa Base Issues was established. As a result of the reviews conducted by the Committee, at the “2+2” meeting held in May 2010, both Governments confirmed the intention to locate the FRF in the Camp Schwab Henoko-saki area and the adjacent waters, and also agreed to take concrete measures to reduce the

Fig. III-2-3-4 Background for the Futenma Replacement Facility

Month & Year	Background
Apr. 1996	Prime Minister Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador Mondale held a meeting and the total return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (MCAS Futenma) was announced. SACO Interim Report. → The airfield will be returned within five to seven years after the completion of an adequate replacement facility
December	SACO Final Report → A maritime facility will be constructed off the east coast of the main island of Okinawa (one that can be dismantled)
Nov. 1999	Governor of Okinawa Inamine (then) stated that he had chosen the Henoko coast region of Nago city as a candidate for the facility relocation on the condition that it would be for joint military civilian use
December	Mayor of Nago City Kishimoto expressed that the city would accept the FRF "Government Policy on Relocation of MCAS Futenma" (Cabinet decision) → Construction in the "Nago city Henoko coastal region in the water area of Camp Schwab"
Jul. 2002	"Basic Agreement Regarding the Use of Replacement Facilities" concluded between the Secretary of Defense and the Governor of Okinawa. "Regarding the Basic Plan for Replacement Facilities for MCAS Futenma" prepared. → scale, construction methods, and specific construction site decided
Nov. 2003	Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld (then) visits Okinawa
Apr. 2004	The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure started (abolished in 2007)
August	A U.S. Force helicopter crashed into a university campus in Ginowan City, Okinawa
Oct. 2005	"2+2" Joint Statement → Agreement on a new plan (an L shape plan connecting the coastal area of Camp Schwab with the adjacent water area of Oura bay)
Apr. 2006	"Basic Agreement Regarding the Construction of the MCAS Futenma Replacement Facility" concluded between the Director General of the Defense Agency, the Mayor of Nago, and the village mayor of Ginoza → Agreement was reached by creating flight paths that do not fly over the surrounding region (the V shape plan)
May	"2+2" Joint Statement. → Final adjustments made for the "Japan-U.S. Roadmap for Realignment Implementation," V shape plan approved "Basic Confirmation Regarding the Realignment of U.S. Military Forces in Okinawa" concluded between the Director General of the Defense Agency and the governor of Okinawa "GOJ Efforts for USFJ Force Structure Realignment and Others" (Cabinet decision) → Cabinet decision of December 1999 was abolished
August	Establishment of the Council on Measures for Relocation of MCAS Futenma
Jun. 2007	Environmental survey of existing conditions started
August	EIA procedure started
Mar. 2008	Survey based on the EIA scoping document started
Apr. 2009	Draft Environment Impact Statement submitted to Okinawa Prefecture
May	"The Guam International Agreement" approved by the Diet
September	Conclusion of a three-party coalition government agreement between the Democratic Party of Japan, the Social Democratic Party, and the People's New Party → Agreement on reviewing the modalities for the U.S. Forces realignment and U.S. Forces bases in Japan
November	Establishment of the Ministerial-Level Working Group on the Replacement Facility for Futenma Air Station. Japan-U.S. summit meeting. → Agreement on resolving the relocation of Futenma Air Station expeditiously through the working group
December	Ministerial Committee on Basic Policies convened, Exploratory Committee for the Okinawa Bases Issue established
Jan. 2010	"2+2" Joint Statement → Confirmation of efforts to maintain deterrence and capabilities while reducing burdens on local communities, including Okinawa
May	"2+2" Joint Statement → Intention to locate the Futenma replacement facility at the Camp Schwab Henoko-saki area and adjacent waters was confirmed "Government Efforts Related to Items Authorized by the United States-Japan Security Consultative Committee on May 28, 2010" (Cabinet decision)
August	Futenma Replacement Facility Bilateral Experts Study Group Report
Jun. 2011	"2+2" Joint Statement → Confirming the commitment that a replacement plan should be completed as early as possible after 2014, while deciding that the shape of runway in the replaced facility should be V-shaped.
Dec. 2011 -Jan. 2012	The Environmental Impact Statement report submitted to Okinawa Prefecture
Feb. 2012	The United States-Japan joint statement was announced on the realignment of the U.S. military stationed in Japan → Official discussion was initiated to delink two issues: the movement of Marines to Guam and resuling land returns South of Kadena from progress on the FRF
Apr. 2012	"2+2" Joint Statement → The current plan to relocate the air base from Futenma to Henoko was reconfirmed to be the only viable solution



Then Defense Minister Tanaka and Governor of Okinawa Prefecture Hirokazu Nakaima

burden on Okinawa. Moreover, details regarding the location, configuration, and construction method for the two FRF options – the “V” Plan and “T” Plan – were studied by bilateral experts study group, and a report was compiled in August of the same year based on this study³.

Subsequently, at the “2+2” meeting held in June 2011, it was decided that the runway would take a “V” shape, and the Ministers confirmed their commitment to complete the relocation project at the earliest possible date after 2014 in order to avoid the indefinite use of MCAS Futenma and to remove the risks as early as possible.

During the deliberation process which led to these conclusions, first of all, it was determined that, from a security perspective, the deterrence of the U.S. forces including that of the Marine Corps cannot be lessened while there remains instability and uncertainty in the East Asian security environment. Furthermore, there was concern that the functions of the Marine Corps would be weakened if the helicopter units stationed at MCAS Futenma were to be detached from the other Marine units stationed in Okinawa and moved abroad or out of the prefecture. Therefore, it was concluded that the FRF had to be within Okinawa Prefecture.

Moreover, at the SCC Joint Statement in April 2012, the Governments of Japan and the U.S. reconfirmed their view that the FRF, planned for construction at the Camp Schwab Henokosaki area and adjacent waters, remains the only viable solution that has been identified to date.

The Government of Japan will continue to do its utmost to reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa and eliminate the risks of MCAS Futenma. (See Fig. III-2-3-4)

See References 42, 44, 45

(d) Implementation Status of Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures for the environmental impact assessment have been underway in accordance with applicable laws and regulations,

since the scoping document was submitted to stakeholders including the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture in August 2007.

In light of the decision at the “2+2” meeting in June 2011 and the Okinawa Prefectural Governor's opinions on the environmental impact assessment preliminary documents presented in October 2009, the environmental impact statement (hereinafter referred to as “EIS”) was compiled and sent to the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture from the end of 2011 to the beginning of 2012.

In light of the announcement that the U.S. Department of Defense intended to replace the CH-46s deployed at MCAS Futenma with MV-22s, the aircraft for the prediction and evaluation in the EIS were switched from CH-46s to MV-22s, and the flight path at the FRF was altered from trapezoidal to elliptical.

At present, amendments are being made to the EIS, in light of the opinions expressed by the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture on February 20 and March 27, 2012. Moreover, in making these amendments, the Ministry of Defense organizes study groups involving nine external experts in the fields of the natural environment and the living environment, and examines the amendments from both scientific and technical perspectives.

b. Operation of Air Refueling Aircraft

Air refueling aircraft KC-130 (12 in total) are to be relocated from MCAS Futenma to MCAS Iwakuni (in Yamaguchi Prefecture).

They will be regularly deployed on a rotational basis to the MSDF Kanoya Base (in Kagoshima Prefecture) and Guam for training and operations. Consultations are being held between Japan and the United States pertaining to training and operations at Kanoya Base.

c. A Base for Accepting Aircraft in Emergency

Use by U.S. forces of the ASDF Nyutabaru Air Base (in Miyazaki Prefecture) and Tsuiki Air Base (in Fukuoka Prefecture) in case of emergency will be enhanced. When site surveys are completed, facility improvements for this will be made according to necessity before Futenma Air Station is returned. These improved facilities, when completed, will also support bilateral training activities, which should be expanded according to the studies on roles, missions, and capabilities.

Furthermore, the improvement of use of civilian facilities by U.S. forces in case of emergency will be examined at the bilateral planning work, and appropriate measures will be taken in order to realize the return of MCAS Futenma.

d. Efforts to Eliminate Risks at MCAS Futenma

In August 2007, the Ministry of Defense announced various

3 See <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/sankou/report/20100831_j.html>

measures as efforts to remove risks at MCAS Futenma, including the improvement in approach and takeoff routes to avoid areas of high residential density as much as possible. The Ministry of Defense has steadily implemented these measures, and in May 2009, they were all completed.

Responding to claims made by the residents around MCAS Futenma that the traffic patterns, etc. prescribed in the aforementioned measures are not properly observed, the Ministry of Defense has been continuously conducting rotary-wing aircraft flight situation survey since January 2010 in order to obtain objective data of flight situation. In October 2011, the survey result from January 2010 to March 2011 was made public.

(2) Force Reductions and Relocation to Guam

In conjunction with the realignment of U.S. Marine Corps in the Asia-Pacific region, the “2+2” meeting in June 2011 and other agreements prescribe that approximately 8,000 personnel of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF), and their approximately 9,000 dependents, will be relocated from Okinawa to Guam at the earliest possible date after 2014.

Regarding the costs of the relocation, the Government of Japan held consultations with the United States with a view that each side should share an appropriate portion of the costs, and reached an agreement that, of the estimated \$10.27 billion (in U.S. fiscal year 2008 dollars) cost of the facilities and infrastructure development costs, Japan would provide \$6.09 billion, including \$2.8 billion in direct cash contribution, while the U.S. would fund the remainder, estimated \$3.18 billion in fiscal spending plus approximately \$1 billion for a road.

Of the costs to be borne by Japan, with regard to projects for which Japan takes measures in the form of direct cash contributions (so-called Mamizu projects)⁴, in order to legally guarantee that actions taken by Japan and the United States such as funding over multiple years by Japan are on a more solid footing, the Japanese government signed the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Implementation of the Relocation of III Marine Expeditionary Force Personnel and Their Dependents from Okinawa to Guam (the Guam International Agreement) in February 2009 (entered into force in May of the same year). As part of the measures based on this Agreement, the transfer of funds to the U.S. Government in relation to the Mamizu projects has been taking place since JFY2009⁵.

Subsequently, in the “2+2” Joint Statement in April 2012, the unit composition and the number of personnel to be relocated to Guam were revised. More specifically, in the Roadmap, it was



Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Jimpu and Dr. Miller then Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (May 2012)

stated that, of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) located in Okinawa, the main focus of the relocation to Guam would be the command elements such as headquarters, but as a result of the adjustment, it is planned that Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTF), consisting of command, ground, aviation and logistic support elements, will be positioned and deployed in Japan, Guam, and Hawaii as well as in Australia as a rotational force. While approximately 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps personnel along with their associated dependents will be relocated from Okinawa to locations outside of Japan and the authorized strength of U.S. Marine Corps forces in Guam is to be around 5,000 personnel, the end-state for the presence of Marines in Okinawa will be consistent with the levels envisioned in the Roadmap.

In this Joint Statement, the preliminary cost estimate by the U.S. Government for the relocation is \$8.6 billion (in 2012 U.S. fiscal year dollars). With regard to Japan's financial commitment, it was reaffirmed that it was to be the direct cash contribution up to the amount of \$2.8 billion (in U.S. fiscal year 2008 dollars) as stipulated in Article 1 of the Guam International Agreement. It was also confirmed that Japan's equity investment and loans for family housing projects and infrastructure projects would not be utilized. Moreover, it was stipulated that any funds that had already been transferred to the U.S. Government under the Guam International Agreement would be counted as part of the Japanese contribution. Furthermore, as new initiatives, both governments are to consider cooperation in developing training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as shared-use facilities by Japan and the U.S.,

⁴ With regard to Japanese Mamizu projects, approximately 34.6 billion yen, 46.8 billion yen and 14.9 billion yen, in FY2009, FY2010 and FY2011 respectively, were budgeted for expenses relating to construction projects and design projects. In FY2012, approximately 700 million yen was budgeted.

⁵ Funds of approximately 34.6 billion yen in FY2009 and approximately 46.8 billion yen in FY2010 were transferred to the United States.

and identify specific fields of cooperation by the end of 2012. Any contributions from Japan in developing such training areas are to be part of the aforementioned commitment. In addition, it was agreed that the remaining costs and any additional costs would be borne by the U.S., and that the two governments were to complete a bilateral cost breakdown.

See References 45, 48

See Section 2-3

(3) Land Returns and Joint/Shared Use of Facilities

a. Return of Significant Land Areas South of Kadena Air Base

The Roadmap stipulated that, following the relocation and return of Futenma Air Station, and the transfer of III MEF personnel to Guam, the remaining facilities and areas on Okinawa will be consolidated, thereby enabling the return of significant land areas south of Kadena, and total or partial return of land of the six candidate facilities will be examined (Camp Kuwae, Camp Zukeran, Futenma Air Station, Makiminato Service Area, Naha Port, and Army POL Depot Kuwae Tank Farm No.1). However, at the SCC Joint Statement in April 2012, it was decided to delink the progress on the Futenma Replacement Facility from both the relocation of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) personnel from Okinawa to Guam and resulting land returns south of Kadena. In addition,

with regard to the land to be returned, it was agreed to conduct consultations focusing on three stages, namely 1) land eligible for immediate return; 2) land eligible for return once the relocation of functions is completed; and 3) land eligible for return after the relocation abroad.

(See Fig. III-2-3-5)

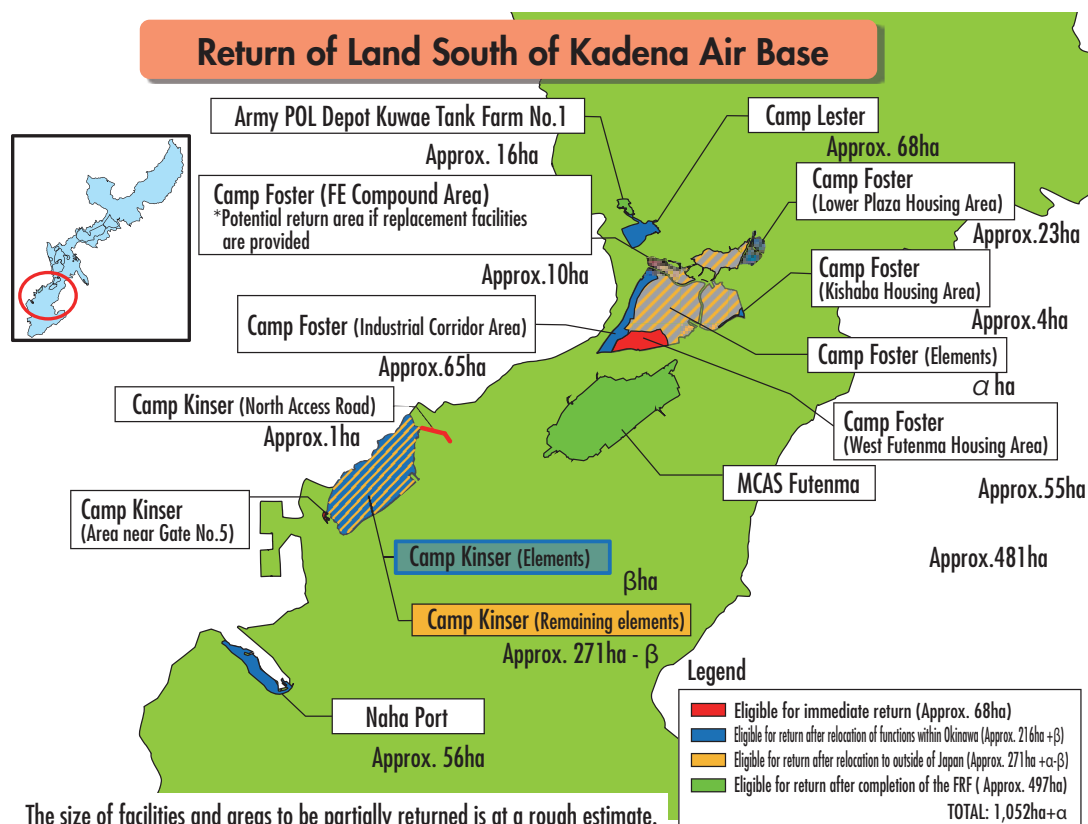
Moreover, it was stipulated that a working group should be established between Japan and the U.S., which should jointly develop a consolidation plan concerning the remaining facilities and areas on Okinawa by the end of 2012. Work is progressing steadily, aimed at achieving the return of land south of Kadena as soon as possible.

See Section 2-1

b. Joint/Shared Use of USFJ Facilities and Areas

The SDF has only a limited number of facilities in Okinawa, including Naha Air Base, and most of them are located in urban areas, which put some operational restriction. The joint/shared use of USFJ facilities and areas in Okinawa will greatly improve the SDF's training environment in Okinawa, and facilitate bilateral training and interoperability between the SDF and U.S. forces. It will become possible to improve readiness and contribute to maintaining the safety of local people at a time of disaster.

Fig. III-2-3-5 The Return of Land South of Kadena Air Base





U.S. Air Force fighter (F-15) stationed at Kadena Air Base relocating its training to Guam (Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; February 2012)

Based on such concepts, it was decided that Camp Hansen would be used for GSDF training, and the training has been conducted since March 2008. The ASDF will use Kadena Air Base for bilateral training with U.S. forces while taking into account noise impacts on local communities.

4 Measures Aimed at Reducing the Burden of the U.S. Bases on Okinawa

A large number of USFJ facilities and areas still remain on Okinawa today as a result of historical backgrounds and issues, beginning with the United States' occupation of Okinawa and slower progress of returning bases compared to other areas of Japan even after the occupation ended. In order to reduce the burden of the concentrated bases in Okinawa, the Government of Japan has taken efforts for realizing the SACO Final Report and the Roadmap. Moreover, with the aim of addressing issues pertaining to the Status of Forces Agreement and to reducing the burden posed by the U.S. bases, in September 2010, the Government of Japan established the Subcommittee on Burden Reduction under the Okinawa Policy Council⁶. Chief Cabinet Secretary, Minister of Defense, Minister for Foreign Affairs and others participated in this Council to report various initiatives and discuss them with the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture and the Vice-President of the Council for Promotion of De-zoning and Reutilization of Military Land in Okinawa⁷. At the Council held in December 2011, it was reported that the training involving aircraft from Iwakuni Air Station that had originally been due to take place at Kadena Air Base in October and December 2011 had been relocated to Guam.

This training relocation to Guam was the first such relocation to take place since the January 2011 agreement by the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, and was achieved as a result of the close cooperative relationship between the two Governments.

Furthermore, efforts are being made to reduce the burden of Okinawan bases, by such means as relocating the aviation training involving aircraft from Kadena Air Base to Guam, which took place for the first time in February 2012.

Thus, through the subcommittee and other means, the Ministry of Defense listens to the opinions of the local residents, and intends to do its utmost to further reduce the burden on Okinawa.

5 Efforts for the Use of Lands Previously Provided for Use by the Stationed Forces

Matters concerning the use of returned lands previously used for USFJ facilities and areas in Okinawa Prefecture were originally prescribed in the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Reversion of Lands in Okinawa Provided for Use by the Stationed Forces (Reversion Special Measures Act) and Chapter 7 of Special Measures Act on the Promotion and Development of Okinawa.

Due to the expiration of these Acts at the end of FY 2012, in response to the requests from Okinawa Prefecture, etc., "Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion of Effective and Appropriate Use of the Lands in Okinawa Prefecture Previously Provided for Use by the Stationed Forces" (partial revision of Reversion Special Measures Act) was enacted on March 30, 2012, which integrates the provisions regarding use of the returned lands prescribed in the aforementioned two Acts. The new Act stipulates obligation for the Government of Japan to mediate in relation to access for surveys and measurements implemented by local governments in Okinawa Prefecture on the lands which are agreed to be returned; measures applying to the whole returned lands to remove impediments such as soil pollution and unexploded ordnance, not only those caused by the activities of the stationed forces; expansion of systems for benefit to be paid to the owners of the returned lands in order to reduce the burden on them.

The Ministry of Defense will continue its efforts to promote the effective and appropriate use of returned lands in coordination and cooperation with related ministries and local governments in Okinawa Prefecture.

⁶ Based on the "Establishment of the Okinawa Policy Council" (decided by the cabinet on 17 September 1996), the Council was established to provide an opportunity for discussing Okinawa-related basic policies, in order to contribute to the independence of the Okinawan economy, employment security, and the improvement of lives for Okinawan residents, as well as to develop the region so that it may contribute to the development of Japanese economy and society

⁷ Established with the objective of mutual cooperation between the Okinawa Prefectural Government and other local governments in Okinawa Prefecture which accommodate military bases for the resolution of various issues arising from the USFJ and JSDF bases and the promotion of the use of returned lands

2 Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Regions Other than Okinawa

In regions other than Okinawa, the Ministry of Defense is implementing measures to secure the stable presence of the U.S. forces by maintaining its deterrence and trying to reduce the burden on local communities. This section will explain the current situation regarding measures of this kind, such as the realignment of U.S. forces, including the question of how they are being executed in each of the regions other than Okinawa.

1 Realignment of USFJ Facilities and Areas in Kanagawa Prefecture

The ideal state of USFJ facilities and areas in Kanagawa Prefecture has been discussed between Japan and the United States due to the strong desire from local public bodies and other organizations for their return. As a result, the basic concept pertaining to the return of six facilities and areas (including Naval Communication Facility Kamiseya in Yokohama), as well as the construction of approximately 700 housing units for U.S. forces families in the Yokohama area of the “Ikego Housing Area and Navy Annex” were agreed in October 2004, by the Japan–U.S. Joint Committee.

Thereafter, two facilities and areas (Koshiba oil storage facility and Tomioka warehouse district) were returned; with regard to the construction of housing units for U.S. forces families the Japan–U.S. Joint Committee¹ stipulated in September 2010 that the number of housing units would be around 400, as an interim measure to facilitate the relocation of the Negishi Housing Area, and although deliberations are continuing regarding the partial return of land in the Zushi area for the Ikego Housing Area, which was requested by Japan to the U.S., it has been agreed that joint use will take place once the requirements have been fulfilled, as a stopgap measure until the land is returned.

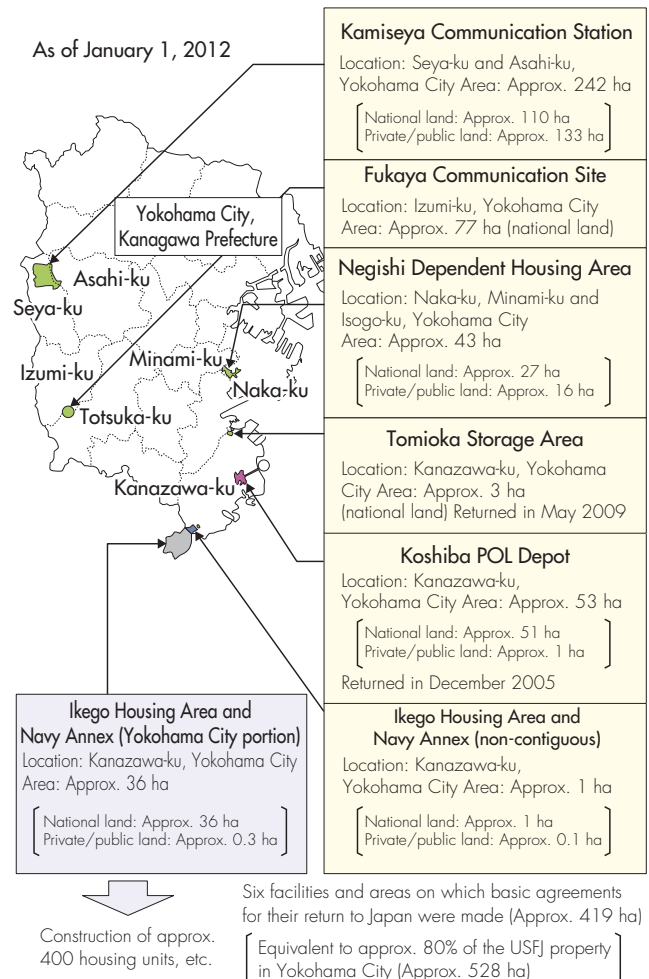
Furthermore, in November 2011, the Japan–U.S. Joint Committee agreed on the basic matters relating to the construction of housing units for U.S. forces families and the basic requirements for their shared use.

The construction of these U.S. forces family housing units ① paves the way to the return of four USFJ facilities and areas remaining in Yokohama and ② solves the current housing shortage faced by the U.S. Navy in Japan, and is thus vital to attaining the objectives of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty. Therefore, the Ministry of Defense is continuing to coordinate with the United States and local public entities and others, and striving toward the realization of this goal.

(See Fig. III-2-3-6)

Fig. III-2-3-6

Facilities and Areas Related to the Realignment of USFJ Facilities and Areas in Kanagawa Prefecture



2 Current Situation Regarding the Realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan as Laid Out in the Roadmap

(1) Improvement of U.S. Army Japan Command and Control Capability

To have enhanced mobility and readiness as well as to enable joint missions, the headquarters of U.S. Army Japan (USARJ) at Camp Zama (in Kanagawa Prefecture) was reorganized into the headquarters of the USARJ I Corps (Forward) in December 2007 and the reorganization² took place at the end of September 2008.

1 See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2010/09/30a.html>>

2 According to the United States there are approximately 70 personnel as of the end of September 2008.

This reorganization is based on the global realignment of the U.S. Army as part of the overall transformation of U.S. forces. The reorganized USARJ headquarters in Japan will continue to hold the same core mission of “defending Japan and maintaining the peace and security of the Far East”.

To enable rapid responses to various contingencies, the GSDF Central Readiness Force Headquarters that unitarily controls mobile operation units and specialized units will be relocated to Camp Zama³ by FY2012 so as to strengthen coordination with the reorganized USARJ headquarters.

In accordance with the transformation of USARJ headquarters, a mission command training center and other support facilities were constructed within U.S. Forces Sagami General Depot (SGD, in Kanagawa Prefecture) using U.S. funding. In addition, measures will be implemented for more effective and efficient use of Camp Zama and the SGD, including partial release of facilities and areas. The partial release of land (approx. 17 ha) at SGD was approved by the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee in June 2008, while the partial release of land (approx. 5.4ha) at Camp Zama, and the joint use of a portion of land at SGD (approx. 35ha) were approved in October 2011 and June 2012, respectively, by the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee.

(2) Yokota Air Base and Airspace

a. Establishment of the Bilateral Joint Operations

Coordination Center (BJOCC)

Enhancement of coordination between headquarters, combined with the transition to joint operational posture, is quite important from the perspective of ensuring flexible and rapid responses of the SDF and U.S. forces. The headquarters of the USFJ located at Yokota Air Base (in Tokyo) plays an important role in the various mechanisms⁴ under the Guidelines. Therefore, along with the relocation of ASDF Air Defense Command HQ as mentioned below, the Bilateral Joint Operations Coordination Center (BJOCC)⁵ was established and commenced operations at the end of FY2011.

b. Relocation of ASDF Air Defense Command HQ

The ASDF Air Defense Command HQ not only defends the airspace, but also functions as a headquarters for ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations. In the case of air defense and BMD, response time is very short. Therefore, it is quite important for the SDF and U.S. forces to immediately share necessary information. Thus, at the end of FY2011,



Bilateral Joint Operations Coordination center established at Yokota in accordance with the U.S.-Japan Roadmap

approximately 800 personnel from the ASDF Air Defense Command HQ, which used to be located in Fuchu (Tokyo), and its relevant units were relocated to Yokota Air Field where it is controlled with the headquarters of the U.S. 5th Air Force. This arrangement and the establishment of the above-mentioned BJOCC have made it possible to enhance coordination between the headquarters of the SDF and the U.S. forces, including the sharing of information concerning air defense and BMD.

c. Yokota Airspace

At Yokota Air Base, U.S. forces conduct radar approach control for the Yokota airspace spreading from the western part of the Tokyo Metropolitan area to Niigata Prefecture. Measures have been taken to facilitate the operation of civilian airplanes that enter the airspace.

Since September 2006, the temporary transfer of responsibility for air traffic control of portions of Yokota airspace to Japanese authorities, when not required by military purposes, has been started.

Moreover, the collocation of U.S. forces and ASDF air traffic controllers at the Yokota Radar Approach Control (Yokota RAPCON) facility started in May 2007. The area adjacent to the west side of Haneda Airport was reduced by about 40% in September 2008 and the control operation was returned to Japan. In addition, the review of the conditions required for the possible return of the entire Yokota air space⁶ was completed in May 2010.

(See Fig. III-2-3-7)

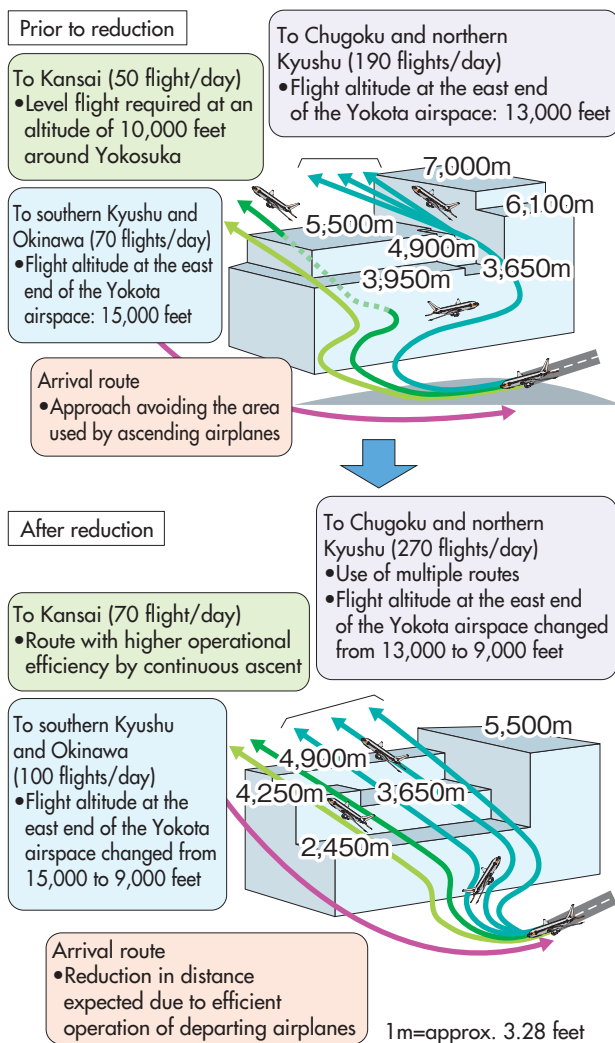
³ An agreement was approved at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee on March 5, 2009 regarding the joint use of land, such as the site for GSDF Central Readiness Force Headquarters building.

⁴ See Section 1-2.

⁵ The Bilateral Joint Operations Coordination Center (BJOCC) functions to contribute to providing a joint response for Japan's defense. To that end, it works to enhance information sharing between the Japanese and U.S. headquarters, close coordination, and interoperability.

⁶ This study was conducted as part of a comprehensive study of options for related airspace reconfigurations and changes in air traffic control procedures that would satisfy future patterns of civilian and military demand for use of Japanese airspace.

Fig. III-2-3-7 Yokota Airspace



d. Civilian-Military Dual Use of Yokota Air Base

At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in May 2003, it was agreed that the dual civilian-military use of Yokota Air Base would be studied, and a Liaison Conference was then established as a working panel attended by relevant government ministries and agencies⁷ and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, with discussions ongoing since then.

The Governments of Japan and the United States have conducted a study, starting in October 2006, on the specific conditions and modalities, with the understanding that dual use will not compromise the military operations and safety of Yokota Air Base. Based on further coordination and the

outcome of the study, both governments will consult and then make appropriate decisions.

(3) Measures relating to U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Atsugi Air Base and Iwakuni Air Base

a. Deployment of U.S. Aircraft Carriers

The presence of the U.S. Pacific Fleet plays an important role in maintaining the regional peace and stability, including the safety of maritime traffic, in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. aircraft carriers are the core capability of the Fleet. In order to ensure the long-term forward deployment capabilities of aircraft carriers and carrier-based aircraft, it is necessary to secure an operational base in Japan. The nuclear aircraft carrier⁸ USS George Washington is currently forward deployed to Yokosuka (Kanagawa Prefecture). Having a strong U.S. Navy presence continuously maintained in areas surrounding Japan, as a result of this forward deployment, contributes to the security of Japan and to the maintenance of peace and security in the region. Furthermore, it symbolizes the deep commitment of the United States to the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

The U.S. Navy vows that it will continue to ensure that all of its nuclear-powered warships (including the nuclear carrier USS George Washington) adhere to the relevant safety policies. For example, the nuclear reactor will normally be shut down while the aircraft carrier is anchored, and repair work and fuel changes will not be carried out in Japan. The Government of Japan intends to continue taking all possible measures to ensure safety.

With regard to the nuclear aircraft carrier USS George Washington, since September 2006, working level talks for disaster prevention and safety measures pertaining to nuclear aircraft carriers have been underway between Japan and the United States. Since 2007, organizations such as government agencies, Yokosuka City, and the U.S. Navy have been participating in joint Japan-U.S. training, and the nuclear aircraft carrier George Washington has been taking part as of 2008.

b. Relocation of Carrier Air Wing

When the U.S. aircraft carrier is in port in Yokosuka, Atsugi Air Facility (in Kanagawa Prefecture) is currently used as a base for carrier-based aircraft. Since Atsugi Air Facility is located in the center of an urban district, noise of carrier jets taking off and landing particularly has been a problem for a long time. It is necessary to resolve such problems as soon as possible in order to stably maintain the operations of carriers.

On the other hand, after the completion of the runway

⁷ Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan Defense Agency (then), Defense Facilities Administration Agency (then)

⁸ Nuclear-powered aircraft carriers are driven by energy generated in a nuclear reactor, so there is no need to replenish their fuel and they are able to maintain the high speeds necessary for the operation of aircraft, giving them excellent combatant and operational capabilities.



Relocation of the Air Defense Command to Yokota



ASDF Air Defense Operations Group's operation commencement ceremony (March 2012)

In the Security Consultative Committee (2+2) Document "U.S.-Japan Alliance: Transformation and Realignment for the Future" in October 2005, it was clearly stated that Japan's Air Defense Command would be collocated with the headquarters of the U.S. 5th Air Force at Yokota Air Base. Through subsequent consultations the governments of Japan and the United States agreed on "United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation" in May 2006.

Based on the Roadmap, the ASDF developed facilities necessary for the operation of the Air Defense Command at Yokota Air Base while moving command and control systems including command system and Japan Aerospace Defense Ground Environment (JADGE) as well as

associated equipments. The ASDF completed the relocation of the Air Defense Command and relevant units on March 26, 2012 and started operation of the Air Defense Command at Yokota Air Base.

With the Air Defense Command, the Air Intelligence Wing and the Air Defense Operations Group relocating from Fuchu Base to Yokota Air Base, the number of personnel at the Base is now about 800.

The collocation of the Air Defense Command with the headquarters of the U.S. 5th Air Force enables more rapid Japan-U.S. information sharing necessary for air defense and ballistic missile defense that need only a short period of time for response and strengthens cooperation between the headquarters organizations of the two countries to improve interoperability. This collocation has an essential importance for the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and contributes to the enhancement of the effective deterrent and response capabilities.

relocation project⁹ at MCAS Iwakuni (the relocation of the runway approximately 1,000 meters offshore), the safe aircraft operations will be realized with less impact on the living environment of the surrounding communities.

In consideration of these, Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW-5) squadrons will be relocated from Atsugi Air Facility to MCAS Iwakuni. This relocation, consisting of F/A-18 and other aircraft, will be completed by 2014, subsequent to the follow-

ing: 1) completion of necessary facilities, and 2) adjustment of training airspace and the Iwakuni RAPCON airspace.

The relocation will be ① conducted after the runway is moved offshore to mitigate impacts of the increased operations at MCAS Iwakuni due to this relocation. Related measures will also be taken, including ② the relocation of MSDF EP-3 and other aircraft from MCAS Iwakuni to Atsugi Air Facility, ③ the regular rotational deployment of KC-130 aircraft (which are to

⁹ A project involving the relocation of the runway at MCAS Iwakuni by approx. 1,000m to the east (offshore), in response to requests from Iwakuni City and other local authorities. The new runway began operations in May 2010. The project was completed at the end of FY2010.

be relocated from Futenma Air Station to MCAS Iwakuni) to MSDF Kanoya Base and Guam, and ④ the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps CH-53D helicopters from MCAS Iwakuni to Guam.

As a result of these measures, it is expected that the noise around MCAS Iwakuni will be alleviated. For instance, area requiring residential noise-abatement work (so-called first category area) will decrease from approximately 1,600 ha to 500 ha. Furthermore, the safety will be enhanced as the runway relocation enabled the approach and takeoff routes to be established above the water.

With regard to the site (Atagoyama) for constructing family housing required for the relocation of carrier-based aircraft to MCAS Iwakuni, as a result of coordination with Yamaguchi Prefecture, etc., the Prefectural Governor of Yamaguchi and the Mayor of Iwakuni advised the Minister of Defense that they would sell the site to the Ministry of Defense. The sales contract of the site was concluded on March 23, 2012.

c. Field-Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP)

A bilateral framework to conduct a study on a permanent FCLP facility is to be established with the goal of selecting a permanent site at the earliest possible date in the Roadmap. In the “2+2” document of June 2011, it was stated that the government of Japan will explain to local authorities that Mageshima is considered to be the candidate for the new SDF facility. This SDF facility would be used to support operations in response to a variety of situations including large-scale disasters as well as regular exercises and other activities, including use by U.S. forces as a permanent field carrier landing practice site. In addition, the 2005 SCC document confirmed that U.S. forces will continue to conduct FCLPs at Iwo Jima in accordance with existing temporary arrangements until a permanent FCLP training facility is identified.

See Reference 43

d. Resumption of Commercial Aviation at MCAS Iwakuni

Considering that the local public entities, including Yamaguchi Prefecture and Iwakuni City, have been working together to request the resumption of commercial aviation operations, in October 2005, it was agreed that commercial aviation operations of four round trips per day would be allowed as long as such operations do not compromise U.S. military operational requirements.

It was then agreed in the Roadmap that portions of the future civilian air facility would be accommodated at MCAS Iwakuni. Furthermore, in the “2+2” document of June 2011, it

was determined to work toward the resumption of commercial aviation at MCAS Iwakuni in FY2012.

(4) Ballistic Missile Defense

Japan and the United States will continue close coordination on ballistic missile defense (BMD) as the two countries improve their respective BMD capabilities.

In June 2006, the new X-Band Radar System (AN/TPY-2) was deployed to ASDF Shariki Base (in Aomori Prefecture) and has commenced operating¹⁰. Also in October 2006, U.S. Army Patriot PAC-3 (Patriot Advanced Capability 3) were deployed to Kadena Air Base and Kadena Ammunition Storage Area, and in addition, Aegis-equipped ships, which are forward-deployed in the Western Pacific region, have been installed with BMD capabilities over some phases since August 2006.

This deployment of U.S. Forces' BMD capabilities to Japan contributes to the improvement of our country's defense capabilities against missile attacks, the maintenance of deterrence of the U.S. forces in Japan and the safety of Japanese citizens.

See Chapter 1, Section 2-5

(5) Training Relocation

Concerning training relocation¹¹, aircraft from three U.S. military facilities — Kadena Air Base, Misawa Air Base (in Aomori Prefecture), and Iwakuni Air Station — participated in bilateral training with the SDF at the following SDF facilities: Chitose (in Hokkaido), Misawa, Hyakuri (in Ibaraki Prefecture), Komatsu (in Ishikawa Prefecture), Tsuiki, and Nyutabaru for the time being. Based on this, since March 2007, U.S. forces in Japan have conducted training relocation from Misawa Air Base, Iwakuni Air Station, and Kadena Air Base to JASDF Chitose, Misawa, Hyakuri, Komatsu, Tsuiki, and Nyutabaru Air Bases. Based on the past site surveys, the Ministry of Defense, is now making necessary improvements to infrastructure to facilitate the training relocation at the SDF facilities.

Relevant Regional Defense Bureaus are currently striving to ensure the smooth implementation of the relocation of training in order to support the U.S. forces (cooperating with the JASDF) and achieve the safety and peace of mind of the local residents during training periods. These efforts include the establishment of local contact headquarters, establishment of liaison with concerned government institutions, and support for local residents.

Furthermore, based on the “2+2” meeting in May 2010, at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee held in January 2011, the addition of Guam as a relocation site for aircraft training and the increase in the scale of training were agreed upon. Further discussions

¹⁰ The radar was thereafter transferred to the neighboring U.S. Shariki Communication Site.

¹¹ USFJ aircraft conduct bilateral exercises at SDF facilities in order to improve interoperability and reduce the impact of training activities on the areas surrounding USFJ air bases.

subsequently took place between Japan and the U.S. and, after agreement was reached at the meeting of the Japan–U.S. Joint Committee¹² in October that year, concerning details such as the locations where training should take place, training involving

USFJ aircraft was relocated to areas such as Guam for the first time, with steady progress being achieved in regard to this since then.

3

Initiatives for Smooth Implementation of the Realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan

In order to smoothly implement the realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan based on the Roadmap, the “Law concerning Special Measures on Smooth Implementation of the Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan and Related SDF Forces¹ (“USFJ Realignment Special Measures Law”) was enacted in August 2007. The following is a general description of that law.

1 Realignment Grants

During a period of time before and after the implementation of realignment (10 years in principle), realignment grants will be awarded to help cover the expenses of projects² which contribute to increasing the convenience of the lives of residents of local municipalities³ affected by the realignment, and to stimulate local industries. To this end, they will be awarded in accordance with progress in steps of the U.S. forces realignment, after the Defense Minister designates the specified defense facilities and neighboring municipalities affected by realignment⁴.

Based on the Realignment Special Measures Law, in October 2007, 14 defense facilities and 33 municipalities were designated, and by 2008 further 6 municipalities had been additionally designated. At present, 39 municipalities have been designated to receive realignment grants.

2 Special Subsidy Rates for Public Projects, etc.

Due to large-scale relocation of forces, some municipalities must promptly carry out public projects (such as improvement of roads and harbors). Therefore, special subsidy rates have been set for such projects.

The public works, as mentioned above, will be implemented by the national government or prefectures and, in some cases, will be beyond the areas of certain municipalities. In these cases, public works may be infeasible with the realignment grants. Therefore, the Realignment Special Measures Law provides such measures as the establishment of a Council for Local Development concerning Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan and Related SDF Forces⁵ in order to promote industrial development of the areas consisting of municipalities with particularly heavy burdens and surrounding municipalities (Special Area for Development concerning Realignment)⁶. (See Fig. III-2-3-8)

3 Measures Such as Special Provisions Concerning the Operations of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

To properly and stably implement long-term overseas projects for which private-sector initiatives are utilized, it will be necessary to utilize the capability of the Japan Bank for International

² - ¹² See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2011/10/04a.html>>

³ - ¹ <<http://law.e-gov.go.jp/announce/H19HO067.html>>

² Approximately 9.3 billion yen in the FY2012 budget

³ Under the Realignment Special Measures Law, changes in the composition of units of those naval vessels that conduct operations integrally with US air wings subject to realignment (replacement of the aircraft carrier at Yokosuka Naval Base with a nuclear aircraft carrier) will be treated in the same way as the realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan.

⁴ The scope of specific projects includes 14 projects identified by Article 2 of the enforcement ordinance of the Realignment Special Measures Law, including education, sports, and cultural projects.

⁵ With regard to neighboring municipalities, based on the natural, economic, and social conditions, it will be limited to those that have a recognized need for revitalization efforts to be undertaken as a single unit with municipalities that suffer under a particularly heavy burden.

⁶ The Council is chaired by the Defense Minister, and composed of those designated by the Prime Minister from the Chief Cabinet Secretary; the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications; Minister for Foreign Affairs; Minister of Finance; Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare; Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries; Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; Minister of the Environment; and the Ministers of State.

As for public works projects under the Development Plan for Special Area for Development concerning Realignment that have been deliberated and approved at the Council, the percentage of costs borne by the Government, or grant rate, will apply to the seven projects concerning road, ports, fishing ports, water supply, sewage system, land reform, and facilities for compulsory education that should be immediately implemented in consideration of the content and degree of adverse influences caused by the realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan on local communities and funding will be higher than those for ordinary cases.

Fig. III-2-3-8

Exceptional Subsidy Rates for Public Projects (examples)

Project Name ¹	Ordinary Grant Rates	Exceptional Subsidy Rates	
		Mainland	Okinawa
Roads	1/2	5.5/10	Rate prescribed by the Special Measures Law for Okinawa Development (9.5/10 and others)
Harbors	1/2 (4/10) ²	5.5/10 (4.5/10) ²	
Fishing ports	1/2	5.5/10	

Notes: 1. In addition, waterworks, sewage, land improvement, and facilities for compulsory education are treated as exceptions.

2. The figures in parentheses show the examples of subsidy rates for the construction and improvement of small-scale water facilities, outlying facilities, and berthing facilities specified by the ordinance of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism as provided for in Article 42.1 of the Port and Harbor Law.

Cooperation (JBIC)⁷ which has expertise and experience in this field. Therefore, a special provision to JBIC's operations was provided that adds U.S. Forces Realignment Expenditure Financial Service and authorizes JBIC to conduct financial services to facilitate the U.S. forces realignment as exceptional operations so that JBIC can conduct such operations as the equity investments and loans that will be needed for projects to facilitate the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam, and furthermore, a special provision that the Government of Japan will take special financial measures for such

operations. However, in light of the fact that the financial commitment on Japan's part was stipulated in the April 2012 "2+2" Joint Statement to involve solely direct cash contribution, further deliberations are taking place concerning the future handling of these measures.

See Section 3-1

4 Measures for USFJ Local Employees

Under the U.S. forces realignment, some USFJ facilities and areas will be returned, and U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa will be relocated to Guam. Since this may affect the employment of USFJ local employees, the Government of Japan will take measures to maintain their employment, including education and skills training.

5 The Term of Validity of the Law

Although the Realignment Special Measures Law shall be valid for 10 years, measures including special operations of the JFC shall remain effective for a considerable length of time even after its term has passed.

4 Measures to Alleviate the Impacts Caused by USFJ Facilities and Areas

1 Efforts to Conserve the Environments Around USFJ Facilities and Areas

At the "2+2" meeting in September 2000, based on the recognition that environmental conservation is important, the governments of both nations agreed to make it a common objective to ensure the health and safety of residents in the vicinity of USFJ facilities and areas, U.S. forces personnel, their families and other such parties, and made the "Joint Statement of Environmental Principles¹." In order to follow up on this statement, discussions between Japan and the United

States were intensified. Specifically, the concerned ministries and agencies have been working together to address the issue of discussions relating to the strengthening of collaboration in periodical reviews of the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS)², information exchange pertaining to the environment, and dealing with environmental pollution³.

Additionally, at the "2+2" meeting in May 2010, from the perspective of shared responsibility for environmental conservation, Japan and the United States instructed their staffs to discuss the possibility of taking a "Green Alliance" approach

³⁻⁷ The Japan Bank for International Cooperation merged with National Life Finance Corporation, etc., on October 1, 2008, to become the Japan Finance Corporation. However, in order to enhance the functions of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and expand its operations, it became a separate entity from the Japan Finance Corporation on April 1, 2012. As a result, the financial services for the U.S. Forces realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan have been taken over by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

⁴⁻¹ Consisting of four items, ① environmental governing standards, ② information sharing and access, ③ response to environmental contamination, and ④ environmental consultation.

² The Japan Environmental Governing Standards were drawn up by the USFJ with an objective of guaranteeing that the activities and facilities of the USFJ can protect the health of citizens and the natural environment. It establishes handling and storage methods for environment polluting materials.

³ Japanese translation of the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (provisional translation) See <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/chouwa/2010_jegs/index.html>

for the U.S. forces facilities and areas in Japan, and the adoption of renewable energy for U.S. bases under development in Japan as one of the elements of the Host Nation Support (HNS) was reviewed along with other issues. The result was reflected in the comprehensive review of HNS.

Furthermore, it was stipulated that a prompt and serious review of environmental-related agreements was to be conducted, including the reasonable access to U.S. forces facilities and areas in the event of an environmental accident and for environmental survey prior to the return of such U.S. facilities and areas. In response to this, a working group was established and the action officers of both the Japanese and U.S. sides have conducted many discussion sessions toward the realization of these objectives.

2 Other Measures

Japan is engaged in steps⁴ for the improvement of the living environment in regions surrounding USFJ facilities and areas. It also provides municipalities with base grants⁵ which have alternate features in terms of municipal tax on real estate.

Moreover, in the vicinities of USFJ facilities and areas, incidents and accidents caused by U.S. military personnel and others have affected local areas and their residents, so the Government of Japan has requested USFJ to take effective measures for the prevention of recurrence, such as educating military personnel and others, and enforcing strict discipline among them. The Government of Japan is cooperating with USFJ in these preventive measures; at the same time it has taken measures for prompt and appropriate compensation for the damage caused by the incidents and accidents.

⁴ See Chapter 4, Section 3.

⁵ Furnished by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.



Column

VOICE
Commentary
Q&A

Exchange between Local Residents and US Forces

Understanding and cooperation of residents living in the vicinity of U.S. bases are essential for the presence of US forces in Japan. Since 2008 MOD has been holding Japan-US exchange events in areas surrounding U.S. base for interaction of U.S. military officials, their families and residents living in the vicinity of U.S. base through sports and culture.

In FY2011, MOD held a Japan-US exchange joint concert near Iwakuni Base (Iwakuni City). In this concert Japanese and American elementary and junior high school students played koto (Japanese harp), consort and chorus incorporating marching and danced to a version of soranbushi (folk song of Hokkaido.) After the last consort and chorus by all players, about 1,000 thousand audience generously applauded the students.



Music exchange (Iwakuni City)

Other exchange events include a food culture exchange near Misawa Base (Misawa City,) a music exchange by elementary and junior high school students near Yokota Base (Hamura City) and a tea ceremony exchange by high school students near Yokosuka Base (Yokosuka City), which were all received well by the participants and residents.

MOD intends to actively promote such Japan-US exchange events to deepen exchange between residents living in the vicinity of U.S. and U.S. officials and their families.



Food culture exchange (Misawa City)



Music exchange (Hamura City)



Tea ceremony exchange (Yokosuka City)