

Section 3

Interaction between the Ministry of Defense and the SDF, and the Local Community and Japanese Citizens

The various activities of the MOD and the SDF cannot be carried out by the MOD and the SDF alone. They are only possible with the understanding and cooperation of each and every citizen, local governments, and other organizations.

Moreover, the MOD and the SDF have been conducting various cooperation activities to support the lives of the populace, as well as striving to minimize the impact of the establishment and operation of defense facilities¹ on the lives of

surrounding citizens. Such activities are further deepening the mutual trust between the local community and the people, and the SDF, and contributing to the enhancement and strengthening of social infrastructure.

From this perspective, 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 Activities in Civic Life and Contributions to Society

The SDF is carrying out welfare support activities for local residents in a number of fields linked with the Japanese people's livelihood, based on requests from local governments and relevant organizations. These activities further deepen mutual trust between the populace and the SDF, while giving the troops a sense of pride and confidence in the fact that they are playing a useful role in the daily lives of the Japanese people.

See References 76, 77

1 Activities under Normal Circumstances

Even today, the GSDF still handles the disposal of unexploded ordnance found throughout Japan. In FY2011, there were 1,578 such cases, weighing about 38 tons in total. In particular, cases handled in Okinawa Prefecture accounted for 60% of the total. Furthermore, the MSDF continues to clear and



GSDF troops disposing of a 250kg bomb discovered at Miyazaki Airport. In order to remove the fuse from the payload, it was necessary to cut through the casing.



A P-3C maritime patrol aircraft observing ice floes flowing into the Sea of Okhotsk as part of its civilian support activities

dispose of underwater mines and other dangerous explosives. In FY2011, there were approximately 510 explosives, totaling about 4.4 tons. In addition, most of the SDF camps and bases in Japan open their facilities to local authorities and neighboring residents upon request, unless the requests interfere with unit activities. They, as a result, also contribute to the vitalization of local activities. Furthermore, SDF musical bands visit brass bands of local schools to give them instruction, thus striving to foster friendly interaction with local residents.

2 Activities Relating to the Great East Japan Earthquake

As part of their disaster relief activities, the SDF provided support to civilians by supplying water and bathing facilities, as well as visiting evacuation shelters, interacting with local children, and holding concerts at which SDF musical bands performed to cheer up disaster-affected citizens, thereby

¹ The generic term for facilities used by the Self-Defense Force and the facilities and areas used by the U.S. forces in Japan based on the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty. It refers to training areas, airfields, ports, communication stations, barracks, warehouses, ammunition depots, oil bunkers, and so on.



A member of an MSDF band gives a flute recital. Bathing support and performances by bands to cheer up disaster-affected citizens were provided on board the amphibious ship Osumi.



ASDF troops visit an evacuation shelter and interact with local children



Column

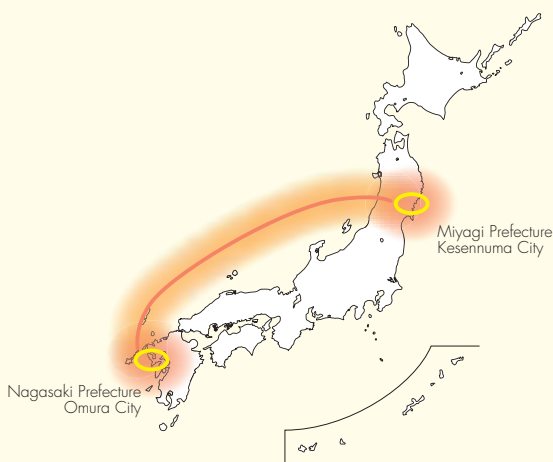
VOICE

Commentary

Q&A

Continuing Exchange between Afflicted Areas and Troops

Let us introduce an exchange between Kesennuma City (Miyagi Prefecture) and the troops of the Camp Omura (Nagasaki Prefecture).



Ms. Takahashi, Ms. Sasaki and Ms. Miura (from left), invited from Kesennuma City to a Fureai Concert held in Omura City.

On March 18, 2012, about one year after the Great East Japan Earthquake, five guests including Ms. Kaai Takahashi, Ms. Masaka Sasaki and Ms. Toshie Miura were invited from Kesennuma City (Miyagi Prefecture) to "Fureai Concert" held by the Camp Omura (Nagasaki Prefecture).

At the time of the disaster, the 16th Infantry Regiment of the Camp Omura was working on disaster relief operation. Then, Ms. Takahashi and Ms. Sasaki who were members of a high-school brass band participated in a musical performance played by the regiment to entertain local people, where Ms. Miura, an employee of Kesennuma City, acted as MC, which triggered the exchange.

At the concert Ms. Miura looked back the circumstances at that time:

"I lost everything in the tsunami. Chased by the tsunami, I had a narrow escape from death, but I was spent mentally as well as physically. Then I had a chance to listen to the musical performance. Songs sung by personnel were a ray of light in utter darkness. It gave courage to me. I felt greatly comforted. Citizens of Omura and members of the regiment, I thank you very much!"

Even now over one year after the Great East Japan Earthquake, exchange continues between the people of the disaster-affected areas and the troops that conducted disaster relief operation there.

providing support for both the bodies and minds of local citizens. Moreover, even after their withdrawal from the region,

some troops have continued to engage in exchange activities with people in disaster-afflicted areas.

2 Cooperation from Local Public Organizations and Other Related Organizations for the SDF

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

Amid the recent harsh 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 relatively younger ages.

2 Support and Cooperation 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. Moreover, some of the local authorities hosting camps and bases have commented that the presence of the SDF in their communities helps to support the local economy and employment in the region.

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



Column

VOICE

Commentary

Q&A

Message from the Mayor of Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture

Yuto Yoshida, Mayor of Yokosuka City

Yokosuka is the center of Japan's sea defense where not only the Self Defense Fleet Headquarters and Yokosuka District Headquarters of JMSDF headquarters are located, but also the U.S. Seventh Fleet Headquarters and the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan are situated. We also have JGSDF and JASDF troops here as well as the National Defense Academy educating future JSDF officials. Yokosuka is truly essential to Japan's security.

Today, as the security environment of the region surrounding Japan is unclear and uncertain, it is important that JSDF and the U.S. Navy base in the city are securely operated while gaining local understanding. As the Mayor, I believe it is one of my major jobs to create such environment.

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake last year, the Commander of the Self Defense Fleet Headquarters issued sailing order to all available vessels 6 minutes after the earthquake, and a large number of U.S. vessels turned out from the Yokosuka Base in "Operation Tomodachi." Seeing these activities with their own eyes, the residents of Yokosuka City felt that JSDF and the U.S. forces are reliable in case of an emergency.

Approximately 10,000 JSDF personnel and 13,000 U.S. force personnel are living in the City. In order to provide a comfortable environment for the troops and their families, we will continue to work our best in improving the municipal administration.



At the send-off party for JMSDF Training Squadron 2012

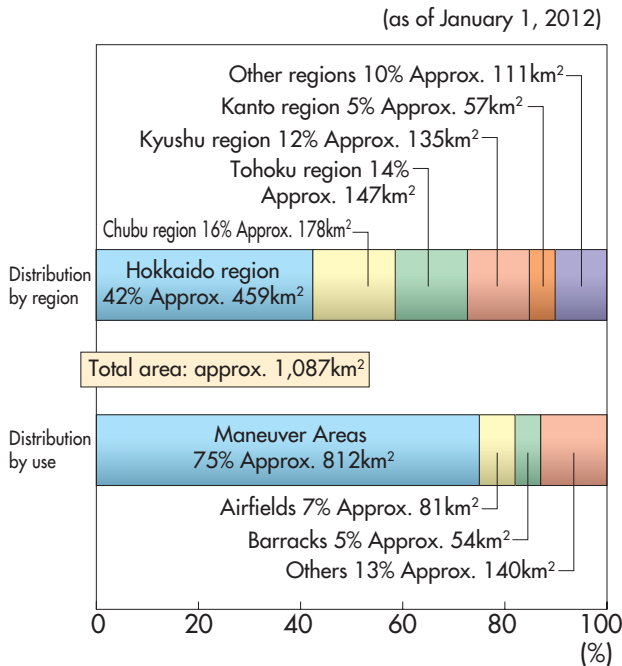
3 Measures for Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

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 barracks¹. 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

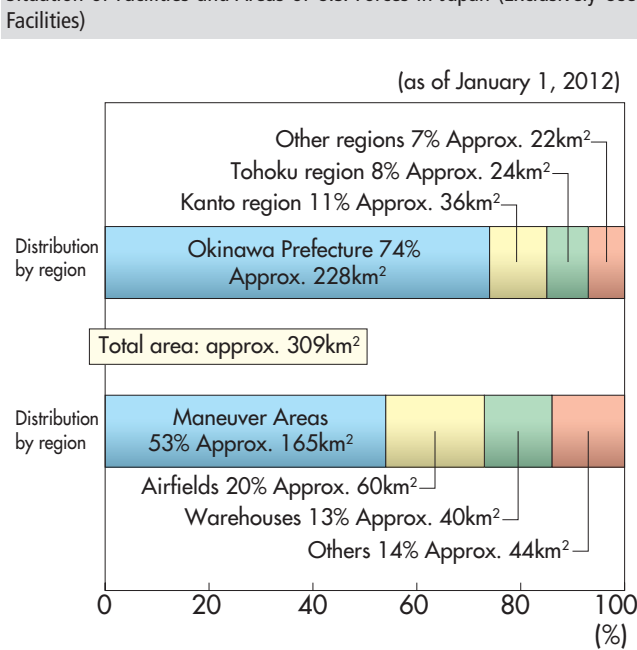
and operations of defense facilities have emerged due to the urbanization of areas around many defense facilities as a result of economic development. Also, noise related to frequent takeoffs and landings by aircraft, firing, bombing, gunshots from artillery, tank operations, and so on, raise concern in the affected residential communities.
(See Figs. III-4-3-1, 2)

Fig. III-4-3-1 Situation of SDF Facilities (Land Plots)



Notes: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Fig. III-4-3-2 Situation of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan (Exclusively Used Facilities)



Notes: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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 MOD 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 MOD has taken the measures shown in Fig. 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 78

¹ The land area of defense facilities, as of January 1, 2012 is approximately 1,400 km² (the sum of the land area of SDF facilities (approximately 1,087 km²), the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the U.S. forces in Japan (approximately 309 km²), 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 km²)), 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, 76 km² 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.

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	○ 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 ○ Housing
	Compensation for relocations	○ Compensation for relocating buildings ○ Land procurement ○ Improvement of public facilities such as roads, water-supply systems, and sewage facilities in the area where housing, etc., is to be relocated
	Improvement of green belts	○ Tree planting, installation of grass fields
Prevention of Nuisance Other Than Noise	Subsidies to finance trouble prevention work	○ Canals, reservoirs, roads, river improvement, television broadcast community reception facilities
Reduction of Troubles Related to Living and Business	Subsidies to build facilities meant to stabilize people's lives	○ Roads, radio broadcast facilities, nursing homes, fire departments, parks, waste disposal facilities, welfare centers for the elderly, public facilities for learning, etc. ○ Agricultural facilities, fishing facilities
Reduction of Impacts on Surrounding Areas	Provision of specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants	○ Improvement of public facilities such as traffic facilities, recreation centers, and welfare facilities ○ Medical expenses, operating costs of community buses, assessment fees for earthquake resistance for school buildings, etc. ¹

Notes: 1. New inclusion with the partial revision of the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities (implemented on April 27, 2011)

(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 well as the strong requests from related local public entities to take adequate measures for such negative impacts. The MOD, based on the above law, has developed measures to prevent, reduce, and mitigate those impacts.

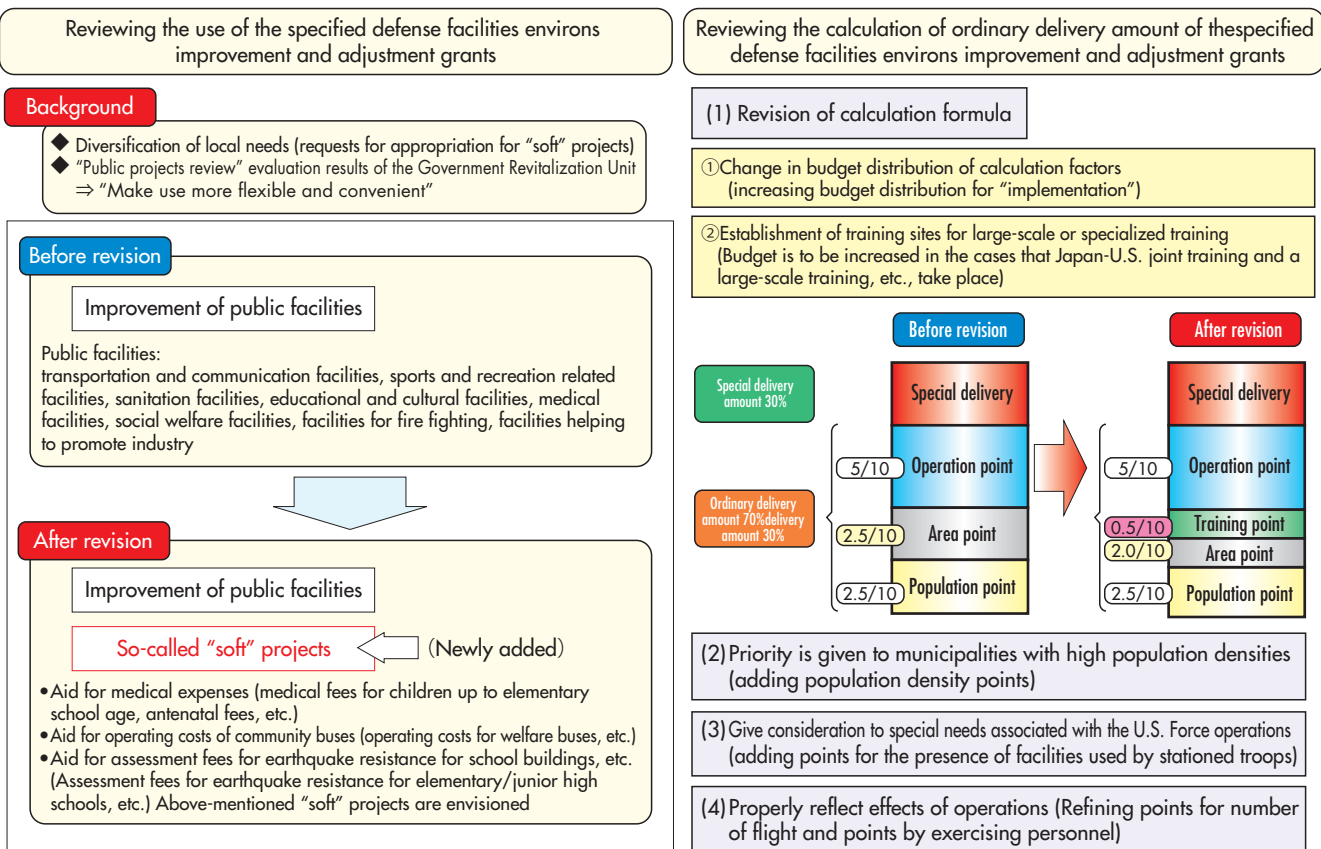
However, as social conditions have changed and the lifestyles and values of Japanese nationals have diversified, there have been requests by related local public entities to review the current system for wider and more flexible application of the law for specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants and aid to public facilities for the stabilization of people's lives, as well as expanding the areas eligible for residential sound insulation work. Moreover, in November 2009 the Government Revitalization Unit directed that "grants be reviewed to enhance their effectiveness by improving flexibility in the use of grants and making the grants more convenient for local communities," and also that residential sound insulation work be prioritized, as much as possible.

Accordingly, in April 2011, the MOD partially revised the Living Environment Improvement Act and made it possible for

the specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants to be applied to so-called soft projects, such as aid for medical expenses, as well as their conventional purpose focused on the improvement of public facilities, in order to make the measures more effective and more convenient for the related local public entities. In addition, considering effects of establishment and operation of defense facilities on living environment of neighboring areas, measures were taken in which the calculation method of the specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants was reviewed and more defense facilities were designated to be specified defense facilities. (See Fig. III-4-3-4)



As a specified project undertaken by the Ojojihara Maneuver Area (Miyagi Prefecture), a maintenance adjustment grant for areas around specified defense facilities was provided to the municipal government of Taiwa in Miyagi Prefecture, to be used for the maintenance and running of the school meals center.

Fig. III-4-3-4 Partial Revisions to the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities**Defense facilities and municipalities that were newly designated as specified defense facilities or specified defense facility related municipalities**

Specified defense facility	Specified defense facility related municipalities
Matsumura Airfield	Ishinomaki City
Iwoto Airfield	Ogasawara Village, Tokyo Metropolis
Atsugi Airfield	Fujisawa City
Ashiya Airfield	Mizumakimachi, Ongangun, Fukuoka Prefecture
Torishima Firing Practice Field	Kumejimacho, Shimajirigun, Okinawa Prefecture
Shimokita Testing Field	Higashidori Village, Shimokitagun, Aomori Prefecture

Specified defense facility	Specified defense facility related municipalities
Kasumigaura Airfield	Tsuchiura City
Amimachi, Inashikigun, Ibatagi Prefecture	
Utsunomiya Airfield	Utsunomiya City
Somagahara Airfield	Shinto Village, Kitagunmagun, Gunma Prefecture
Kisaradu Airfield	Kisaradu City
Camp Zama	Sagamihara City
	Zama City

Specified defense facility	Specified defense facility related municipalities
Sagamihara General Supply Depot	Sagamihara City
Tokushima Airfield	Matsushigecho, Itanagun Tokushima Prefecture
Metabaru Airfield	Yoshinagaricho, Kanzakigun Saga Prefecture
	Kaminecho, Miyakigun Saga Prefecture
Hokubu (North) Training Site	Kunigamison, Kunigamigun Okinawa Prefecture
	Higashison, Okinawa Prefecture

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

The MOD 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-4-3-5)

Fig. III-4-3-5

FY2011 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas Near Bases
(Based on Expenditures)

(¥100 million)

Project	Mainland	Okinawa
Projects to prevent disturbance	120	13
Sound-insulation projects	436	80
Measures related to relocations	64	1
Subsidies to stabilize people's livelihoods	161	23
Road improvement projects	69	6
Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants	166	29
Other projects	17	1

1 Various Public Relations Activities

The activities of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF to protect the peace and security of Japan cannot be carried out without the understanding and support from the people of Japan. For this reason, it is important to be proactive in undertaking easily-comprehensible public relations activities and to secure the trust and cooperation of the public.

Moreover, the public expectations and evaluation have been increasing as the scope of SDF activities has expanded both domestically and internationally, including international peace cooperation activities in the Republic of South Sudan, anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and domestic disaster relief activities in relation to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

With regard to this point, in a Public Opinion Survey conducted by the Cabinet Office (survey conducted in January 2012), in relation to a question about their impression of the SDF, 91.7% of respondents – the highest rate since the survey began – replied that they “Have a positive impression of them”¹; in addition, 97.7% responded that they “Appreciate”² the SDF in relation to their disaster relief activities associated with the Great East Japan Earthquake, while 87.4% responded that they “Appreciate”³ the SDF’s activities overseas. Thus, the public expectations and support to the MOD and SDF are at their highest level to date.

In light of this vitalization of the MOD and SDF activities and the high level of expectation and support to the SDF among the public, the Ministry and SDF will continue to conduct a variety of PR activities, thereby striving to ensure better understanding of the current status of the SDF.

See Reference 79

(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 service⁴.

The Ministry of Defense has been making great efforts to provide accurate information on the SDF and national defense to the public more extensively and in a more timely fashion, in the form of the creation and distribution of various pamphlets

which explain the policies of the MOD and the activities of the SDF, cooperation with media coverage, and assistance in editing the PR magazine MAMOR. Furthermore, as SDF activities outside Japan have increased, people overseas are increasingly interested in the MOD and the SDF. In order to address such a situation, the MOD has been making efforts to get across information overseas through such activities as publishing the English pamphlet, JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS, which in 2012 switched from quarterly to monthly publication, as well as actively promoting the participation of foreign media in regular press conferences, expanding the English section of the Ministry of Defense website, and publishing English version of the defense white papers, various policy pamphlets, and PR videos in English.

Among those efforts, we have been intensively undertaking PR activities in regard to such activities as the international peacekeeping cooperation activities in the Republic of South Sudan, anti-piracy operations off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and efforts on Great East Japan Earthquake, all of which have attracted considerable public attention, by posting videos and facts and figures concerning the SDF’s performance on special pages on the MOD and Joint Staff Office websites, as well as by publishing special issues of PR magazines, and creating and distributing pamphlets.

(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 SDF⁵. These activities include the annual GSDF Fire Power Exercise conducted at the foot of Mt. Fuji; cruises to experience



The Blue Impulse team providing a dynamic display of aerobatics at an air show

1 The figure for “Have a positive impression of them” is the total for the responses “Have a positive impression of them” and “Tend to have a positive impression of them”.

2, 3 The figure for “Appreciate” is the total for the responses “Highly appreciate” and “Appreciate to a certain degree”.

4 See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/publication/index.html>>

5 For details on events, etc., see the Ministry of Defense website <<http://www.mod.go.jp/publication/events/index.html>>



The FY2011 SDF Marching Festival was held at the Nippon Budokan, based on the theme "Love, Hope, and Courage: Overcoming the Present for the Future"

being aboard MSDF vessels 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 musical band concerts are held on the anniversary of a unit's foundation. In some instances, they also hold parades through cities both in vehicles and on foot, with cooperation from the local communities concerned. Furthermore, in commemoration of the anniversary of the foundation of the SDF, events such as the SDF Marching Festival, a troop review, a fleet review, and an air review are held. In 2011, the SDF Marching Festival⁶ was held at the Nippon Budokan arena, in a spirit of mourning for the deceased of the Great East Japan Earthquake and hope for the recovery of the region and



Column

VOICE

Commentary

Q&A

Cooperation with the Filming of "Yamamoto Isoroku"

In summer of 2010, we were asked by a studio to cooperate with a film production. The producer said: "I wish to depict the fact that an Imperial Navy officer, who was against war to the end, was to open the war, but actually aimed to conclude a peace at an early date." The movie was "Yamamoto Isoroku."

Let me introduce some of its impressive scenes. First, the scene of a heated debate between the Tripartite Pact proponents and opponents in the 1st Technical School's Auditorium (Etajima City) that was used to resemble the National Diet Building. The Auditorium, a historic building built in 1917 made of granite that was also used for the National Diet Building, added profound feeling to the picture. Next, the scene on the flagship "Nagato" was shot on our transport ship "Kunisaki." Pure white uniforms make navy more attractive, and some may feel them dazzling. Transport ship "Kunisaki" had just returned to Kure after three months of disaster relief dispatch in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. In this movie, about 110 MSDF personnel cooperated as extras. After the completion of shooting on "Kunisaki" all crew members sent off the leading actor Mr.Koji Yakusho. The shooting lasted only for one day, but Mr.Yakusho was moved to tears by the traditional "Swing Cap" of MSDF.



The 1st Technical School's Auditorium (Etajima City) where the heated debate scene was shot



Transport "Kunisaki" where the scene on the flagship "Nagato" was shot

⁶ This was also on broadcast live via the internet.

its people, and the event attracted a total of 39,000 visitors. Furthermore, in December that year, in order to promote public awareness of the international cooperation initiatives undertaken to date by the MOD and the SDF, the Ministry held its first symposium on international cooperation, entitled the “20th Anniversary of Launch of International Cooperation.”

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 achievements of daily training are exhibited to the public. In 2011, an air review was hosted by the ASDF at Hyakuri Air Base, attended by 12,300 people, including during the rehearsal. In 2012, a fleet review is scheduled to be held by the MSDF.

Each of the Regional Defense Bureaus has organized seminars on defense issues to inform the public and gain their understanding of defense policies and SDF activities. It has been also engaged in Japan–U.S. friendship programs, which have promoted exchanges between Japanese citizens living near the U.S. facilities and areas in Japan and U.S. military personnel and their families through sports and culture.

In addition to such events, the MOD and the SDF actively promote tours at PR facilities. For example, the PR facilities in the MOD 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 290,000 people have visited the facilities so far.

Furthermore, each SDF has its large-scale PR facility, and SDF camps and bases throughout Japan also made PR centers and archives open to the public.

Furthermore, as the results of the budget screening process of November 2009 decided that SDF’s PR programs (large-scale PR facilities and events) should “reduce (their) budget (by privatizing the facilities and collecting admission fees)”, a trial run of collecting admission fees was conducted from November 2010 to January 2011 at large-scale PR facilities (GSDF PR Center, MSDF Sasebo Archives, and ASDF Hamamatsu PR Center) with the purpose of examining the effects on changes in the number of visitors due to charging admission fees. As a result, the number of visitors declined considerably (by between 35% to more than 60%) compared with the same period of the previous year. In light of these results, the MOD has been making use of surveys conducted by private sectors with expert knowledge of such matters in terms of whether it can cut expenditures without reducing the publicity effect as far as possible, and has been considering commissioning private sectors to operate and manage some of the exhibitions,



Prime Minister Noda inspecting ASDF units at the FY2011 Air Review (Hyakuri Base, Ibaraki Prefecture; October 2011)



Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Shimozo giving a speech at a seminar on defense issues

who would collect fees from visitors of these exhibitions. The Ministry intends to address this matter appropriately as soon as possible from FY2012 on.

(3) Trial Enlistment Programs

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF offer SDF Life Experience Tours⁷ and Enlistment Experience Programs⁸ 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 firsthand the daily life and training of the SDF as well as to have direct contact with SDF members, while staying at an SDF camp or base for two to three days. In FY2011, about 170 persons participated in SDF Life Experience Tours. From private sectors, the SDF received about 650

⁷ Information on the Summer Tour/Spring Tour for College Students, etc.; Ms. Parsley Tour (trial tour for women in their 20s); and One-Day Visit to SDF for Women is available on the MOD website.

⁸ Tours to experience the daily life of the Ground, Maritime, or Air Self-Defense Force. To participate in a Enlistment Experience Program, please contact local Provincial Cooperation Offices through the following website: <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/profile/plo/plo.html>>

requests for Enlistment Experience Programs and about 9,300 employees experienced SDF life.



Miss Parsley Tour. This tour was organized to enable women in their 20s to experience life in the SDF at MSDF facilities at Yokosuka and Takeyama

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

An information disclosure system⁹ was established in the MOD, in line with the enactment of the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs in 2001. Under this system, the MOD discloses its administrative documents properly.

In addition, a personal information protection system¹⁰ (in MOD) was also established in line with the Law for the Protection of Personal Information Held by Administrative Organs of 2005. Along with measures to ensure the security of the personal information under its jurisdiction, the MOD also discloses such information in response to requests for disclosure, revision, and termination of use.

To make these systems work, the receipt and implementation of disclosure applications are instigated at the MOD offices and each Regional Defense Bureau and branch¹¹.

See Reference 80

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 the public interest, the

Whistleblower Protection Act entered into effect in April 2006. In accordance with this act, the MOD set up a system to handle public interest-related information disclosures by its employees and outside workers on issues where the MOD has the legal authority to punish or issue recommendations. Moreover, the MOD and the SDF have established an internal contact desk for information disclosure in the public interest by its employees, and an external contact desk for related disclosure by outside workers. Through the contact desks, the MOD deals with information disclosure that is in the public interest and whistleblower protection¹².

4 Engagement in Policy Evaluation

In 2001, the policy evaluation system was introduced with the aim of improving the efficiency and quality of administration for the benefit of the people. Following that, the Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA) came into effect in 2002.

Based on this law, the MOD has been conducting the evaluation of all kind of policies of the Ministry. In FY2011, the MOD conducted 33 policy evaluations, including the evaluation of the “Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.”

In addition, in accordance with the new “MOD Policy Evaluation Basic Guideline” formulated in March 2011, the MOD is now conducting objective, impartial policy evaluations of measures based on the 2010 National Defense Program Guidelines and the 2011 Mid-Term Defense Program, and is seeking to fulfill its duty of accountability to the public, as well as appropriately reflecting the results of those evaluations in its policies.

5 Other Initiatives

In response to various comments concerning the lecture held by the Director General of Okinawa Regional Defense Bureau in January 2012, the MOD Committee on the Regulation of Duties was established and investigated the appropriateness of the lecture. As a result, the Committee was not able to confirm the facts involving violation of the Self-Defense Forces Act. However in light of the fact that personal information had been handled beyond the scope necessary for the achievement of the objectives, the relevant officials were penalized and the measures to prevent the recurrence have been taken.

⁹ See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/joho/index.html>>

¹⁰ See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/hogo/index.html>>

¹¹ See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/joho/johokokai06.pdf>>

¹² See <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/koueki_tuho/index.htm>



SDF Personnel Who Are Active on the World Stage -Olympic and SDF Personnel-

Question 1 Let us know about SDF personnel who will participate in London Olympic Games.

A total of 13 personnel will participate including: Captain Hitomi Obara, who won a gold medal in women's 48-kg class of the World Wrestling Championships twice in 2010 and 2011; First Lieutenant Shinichi Yumoto, who competes in 55-kg class freestyle wrestling; Second Lieutenant Tatsuhiro Yonemitsu, who won a silver medal in 66-kg class freestyle of the 2011 World Wrestling Championships; Sergeant First Class Tsutomu Fujimura, who competes in 66-kg class Greco-Roman; Second Lieutenant Katsuaki Susa, who competes in flyweight class in boxing; Second Lieutenant Satoshi Shimizu, who competes in bantamweight class in boxing; Second Lieutenant Yasuhiro Suzuki, who competes in welterweight class in boxing; Sergeant First Class Midori Yajima, who is the winner of the 2012 Asian Championships in rifle; Sergeant First Class Yuki Yamazaki, who competes in a 50-km walk; Ensign Ken Takakuwa, who competes in 200-meter individual medley swimming; Sergeant Shinichi Tomii, who competes in the modern pentathlon; Leading Private Shino Yamanaka, who is the first Japanese woman to participate in the modern pentathlon; and Reserve Sergeant First Class Yukari Konishi (Aska Kotsu Co.), who competes in pistol shooting.

Question 2: Let us know about past Olympic athletes who were SDF personnel.

Many SDF personnel flourished in the past Olympic games. For example, at the Tokyo Olympics, then Second Lieutenant and weightlifter Yoshinobu Miyake won the first gold medal for Japan and then Sergeant Koukichi Tsuburaya, who made the entire country glued to the game, won a bronze in marathon. At the Mexico Olympics, in addition to Miyake, then Second Lieutenant Masaaki Kaneko and Sergeant First Class Shigeo Nakata each won a gold medal in wrestling. At the Los Angeles Olympics, then Second Lieutenant Takeo Kamachi, who was 49 years old when participated the game, and then Sergeant Atsuji Miyahara both won gold medals in pistol and wrestling, respectively.

13 Athletes Participated in 2012 London Olympics



Captain, Hitomi Obara



First Lieutenant, Shinichi Yumoto



Second Lieutenant, Tatsuhiro Yonemitsu



Sergeant First Class,
Tsutomu Fujimura



Second Lieutenant,
Katsuaki Susa



Second Lieutenant,
Satoshi Shimizu



Second Lieutenant,
Yasuhiro Suzuki



Ensign, Ken Takakuwa



Sergeant First Class,
Yuki Yamazaki



Sergeant 1st Class,
Midori Yajima



Reserve Sergeant First Class,
Yukari Konishi



Sergeant, Shinichi Tomii



Leading Private,
Shino Yamanaka