Chapter 3
Strengthening of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements

Based on the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty, the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements constitute one of the pillars of Japan’s national defense. The Japan–U.S. Alliance, having the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements as its core, is indispensable to maintain not only the peace and security of Japan, but also that of the entire Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the close cooperative relationship between Japan and the United States based on the alliance is proving to be extremely significant for effectively dealing with global security issues. Furthermore, the Japan–U.S. Alliance is playing an increasingly important role in promoting the shared fundamental values in the international community such as democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a capitalist economy.

The military presence of the U.S. forces in Japan not only contributes to the defense of Japan, but also functions as deterrence against and response to contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region, and serves as a core element of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements. On the other hand, since the stationing of U.S. forces in Japan impacts upon the living environment of local residents, efforts that correspond to the actual situation of each region must be made to reduce the burden on regions such as Okinawa.

With regard to the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, which holds great significance to the security of Japan, Section 1 of this chapter explains the significance of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and its basic framework and provides an overview of the U.S. forces stationed in Japan. Section 2 focuses on the deepening and expansion of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and explains its historical background and the Japan-U.S. agreement and discussions concerning the coordination of the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. Section 3 explains the deployment of the MV-22 Osprey in Okinawa. Section 4 describes the efforts aimed at strengthening the Japan–U.S. defense cooperation. Finally, Section 5 describes measures pertaining to the stationing of U.S. forces in Japan, including the realignment of U.S. forces.
1 The Significance of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements

1 Maintenance of Japan’s Peace and Security

In the current international community, a watertight defense system capable of responding to every contingency, ranging from all types of armed attacks including the use of nuclear weapons to coercion or intimidation by the military power, is necessary to secure the peace, security, and sovereignty of the nation. It is impossible even for a superpower like the United States to guarantee its security on its own. Therefore, it would be practically impossible for Japan to ensure its national security solely through its unilateral efforts given its population, land, and economy. Moreover, such a strategy would not be politically appropriate for our country and would not necessarily contribute to regional stability.

Consequently, Japan has maintained its peace and security, centered on the Security Arrangements with the world’s dominant military superpower, the United States, with which it shares basic values such as democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a capitalist economy as well as an interest in maintaining the peace and security of the world, and has strong economic ties. (See Fig. II-3-1-1)

Specifically, as well as providing facilities and areas for the U.S. military, based on Article 6 of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty, Article 5 of that treaty stipulates that Japan and the United States will take bilateral action in the event of an armed attack against Japan. The U.S. obligation to defend Japan in the event of an armed attack means that, if a country plans to attack Japan, the attacker must be prepared to confront not only the defense capability of the SDF, but also the overwhelming military strength of the United States when planning such an act. As a result, the opposing nation is aware that they will suffer grievously if they carry out an invasion and such desires are stopped at the planning stage. In other words, this serves to deter attacks.

Japan intends to continue to effectively utilize the deterrence power of the U.S. military in addition to maintaining adequate Japanese defense forces in order to create a seamless posture and secure Japan’s peace and safety.

2 Maintenance of Peace and Stability in the Region Surrounding Japan

Article 6 of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty states contributing to the security of Japan, and the maintenance of international peace and security in the Far East as the purpose of the use of facilities and areas by the U.S. forces within Japan. This provision is based...
on the recognition that the security of Japan is closely tied to the peace and security of the Far East region to which Japan belongs. Large-scale military forces, including nuclear forces, still exist in the areas surrounding Japan, and many countries are modernizing their military forces and increasing their military activities, etc. In addition, there remain unclear and uncertain elements in the region, including disputes over territories and the maritime domain, and issues over the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait. In such a security environment, the military presence of the U.S. armed forces in Japan provides deterrence against unexpected contingencies caused by unclear and indeterminate regional factors, providing a great sense of security to the nations of the region and thus fulfilling a role as public goods. Also, the close bonds of cooperation based on the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements constitute the foundation of the United States commitment to the peace and security of the region surrounding Japan. These arrangements, complemented by the alliances established between the U.S. and other countries in the region such as Australia, South Korea and the Philippines and also by the friendly relations developed with other countries, play an essential role in maintaining the peace and security of the region.

3 Further Stabilization of the International Security Environment

The Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements are the foundation for a comprehensive and friendly cooperative relationship between Japan and the United States, not only in the defense but also in a wide range of areas, including political, economic, and social aspects. The cooperative relationship between Japan and the United States, founded on their security arrangements, also forms the basis for Japan’s foreign policy. It contributes to Japan’s ability to implement positive measures to maintain the peace and security of the international community, including promoting multinational security dialogue and cooperation and cooperation in various activities of the United Nations.

Current security issues in the international community include responses to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, international terrorism, and acts of piracy, as well as new risks concerning stable access to the seas, space, and cyberspace. It is extremely difficult for any single country to tackle such global security challenges alone, and it is important for countries involved to work together regularly. In this international environment, the strong bonds forged between Japan and the United States are also playing an important role in the efforts implemented by Japan to effectively respond to such issues.

In particular, under the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements, the SDF and U.S. forces are working together in peacetime in a variety of areas to improve the levels of coordination. This kind of close coordination forms the foundation for various international collaboration, such as antipiracy, undertaken by the SDF and U.S. forces, and is resulting in the heightened operational effectiveness of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements.

The peace and prosperity of the international community are closely linked to that of Japan. Accordingly, by cooperating with the United States, which possesses preeminent international operational capabilities, Japan is able to advance its measures to further stabilize the international security environment. This in turn is enhancing the security and prosperity of Japan.

2 Basic Framework Supporting the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements

1 Policy Consultations between Japan and the United States

Close policy consultations on security are conducted through diplomatic channels as well as between officials in charge of defense and foreign affairs at multiple levels in the Governments of Japan and the United States through meetings such as the Japan-United States Security Consultative Committee (“2+2” meeting), the Security Subcommittee (SSC) and the Subcommittee for Defense Cooperation (SDC).

In addition, the Ministry of Defense organizes Japan–U.S. defense ministerial meetings between the Japanese Minister of Defense and the U.S. Secretary of Defense as necessary where discussions are made with a focus on the defense policies of the respective governments and defense cooperation.

Furthermore, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense, Chiefs of Staff of SDFs, and other MOD officials have working level meetings when necessary and exchange information with the U.S. Department of Defense and others under the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements. The importance of these opportunities has further increased as Japan–U.S. defense
cooperation enhanced in recent years.

The sharing of information and views at every opportunity and level between Japan and the United States is undoubtedly conducive to increased credibility of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements, and results in further enhancement of close collaboration between the two countries. Therefore, the Ministry of Defense is proactively engaging in these efforts.

See Reference 22

2 Guidelines for U.S.–Japan Defense Cooperation and Policies to Ensure Their Effectiveness

It is necessary for both Japan and the United States to discuss and decide the roles each will fulfill in case of an armed attack on Japan or other situation in advance in order to respond rapidly in that event. There is a framework pertaining to those roles between Japan and the United States, the Guidelines for U.S.–Japan Defense Cooperation (Guidelines) and the various policies for ensuring its effectiveness. Based on that framework and the changing security environment surrounding Japan, both Japan and the United States continuously study bilateral cooperation plans for the two countries, and hold consultations on them. In addition, they have been making a study on future review of the Guidelines to adapt to the current situation. The following is an overview of the framework.


The outline of the Guidelines acknowledged at the Security Consultative Committee (SCC) (“2+2” meeting) in 1997 is as follows. See Reference 23

a. Objectives of the Guidelines

The Guidelines aim to create a solid basis for more effective and more credible Japan–U.S. cooperation under normal circumstances, as well as in the event of an armed attack against Japan and in situations in areas surrounding Japan1.

b. Cooperation Items Prescribed in the Guidelines

(a) Cooperation under Normal Circumstances

Both governments will maintain close cooperation for the defense of Japan and for the creation of a more stable international security environment, and will promote cooperation in various fields under normal circumstances. Such cooperation includes information sharing and policy consultations; security dialogues and defense exchanges; U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO) and international humanitarian operations; bilateral defense planning, and mutual cooperation planning; enhancing bilateral exercises and training; and establishing a bilateral coordination mechanism.

(b) Actions in Response to Armed Attack against Japan

Bilateral actions in response to an armed attack against Japan remain a core aspect of Japan–U.S. defense cooperation. The
SDF will primarily conduct defensive operations while U.S. forces conduct operations to supplement and support the SDF’s operations. Both parties will respond based on respective concepts of operations in a coordinated manner.

(c) Cooperation in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan

The Governments of both Japan and the United States will make every effort, including diplomatic means, to prevent situations in areas surrounding Japan from occurring.

See Reference 24

(2) Policies for Ensuring the Effectiveness of the Guidelines

a. Measures for Ensuring the Effectiveness of the Guidelines

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the Guidelines, it is important to properly take necessary measures, including legal ones, regarding Japan–U.S. cooperation in case of armed attack situations.

Part II Japan’s Defense Policy and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

Chief of Staff Joint Iwasaki and U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Dempsey and situations in areas surrounding Japan. From this perspective, it is necessary for the Government of Japan as a whole to collaborate in advancing bilateral work between Japan and the United States, including examination of bilateral defense planning and mutual cooperation planning of the Guidelines in peacetime.

Based on this, laws such as the Law concerning Measures to Ensure the Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan (1999) and the Ship Inspection Operations Law (2000) were established in light of Japan–U.S. cooperation in areas surrounding Japan.

Also, measures are being taken to facilitate U.S. force operations as a part of strengthening of security cooperation legislation for situations such as armed attacks.

See Part III, Chapter 1, Section 2

b. Outline of the Law concerning Measures to Ensure the Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan and the Ship Inspection Operations Law

The Law concerning Measures to Ensure the Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan establishes the measures (response measures) that Japan will implement in response to situations in areas surrounding Japan and the actual implementation procedures. The Ship Inspection Operations Law provides for the types, measures, and other matters of ship inspection operations implemented by Japan in response to situations in areas surrounding Japan.

The Prime Minister, facing a situation in areas surrounding Japan and deeming it necessary to adopt measures including such SDF activities as rear area support, rear area search and rescue operations, and ship inspection operations, must request a Cabinet decision on such measures and on a draft basic plan of response measures. The Prime Minister must obtain prior approval, or ex post facto approval in case of emergency, from
the Diet in order for the SDF to conduct response measures. Furthermore, the Prime Minister reports to the Diet without delay when the Cabinet has made a decision or approved a revision, or when the response measures have been completed.

- In accordance with the basic plan, the Minister of Defense will draw up an implementation guideline (including designation of implementation areas), obtain approval for the guideline from the Prime Minister, and give the SDF orders to conduct rear area support, rear area search and rescue activities, and ship inspection operations.
- Heads of relevant administrative organizations will implement response measures and may request the heads of local governments to provide the necessary cooperation for the organizations to exercise their authorities in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and the basic plan. In addition, the heads of relevant administrative organizations may ask persons other than those from the national government to cooperate as necessary in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and the basic plan.5

c. Rear Area Support
Rear area support means support measures, including the provision of goods, services, and conveniences, given by Japan in rear areas to U.S. forces conducting activities that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty in situations in areas surrounding Japan. As rear area support, the SDF provides goods and services, including supplies, transportation, repair, maintenance, medical services, communications, airport and seaport activities, and base activities.

d. Rear Area Search and Rescue Operations
Rear area search and rescue operations mean operations conducted by the SDF in situations in areas surrounding Japan to

5 If any person other than the central government who had been requested to cooperate suffers a loss as a result of such cooperation, the Government shall take necessary fiscal measures for the loss.
search and rescue those who were engaged in combat and were stranded in rear areas (including transporting those rescued). If there are non-combatants who face a mishap, he/she will be also rescued. In addition, if there is anyone in the territorial waters of a foreign country adjacent to the area in which the SDF is conducting activities, the SDF will also rescue that person, after having obtained approval from that foreign country. However, this is limited to cases in which no combat operations are conducted at that time and are expected to be conducted in those waters throughout the period during which the SDF conducts rescue activities.

```text
6 Article 3, Paragraph 1, Item 2 of the Law concerning the Measures to Ensure the Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan
7 Warships and such vessels that are possessed or operated by foreign governments that are exclusively used for non-commercial purposes
8 The state that has the right to fly its flag as prescribed in Article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
9 Article 1 of the Law on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf.
10 Article 2 of the Ship Inspection Operations Law
```
Fig. II-3-1-5 Deployment Map of the U.S. Forces in Japan

Atsugi
- U.S. Navy: F/A-18 fighters and others (Carrier-based aircraft)
- U.S. Army: X-Band Transportable Radar System for BMD (AN/TPY-2, so-called X-Band Radar System)

Iwakuni
- U.S. Marine Corps: Marine Air Group 12
  - F/A-18 fighters
  - AV-8 Harriers
  - EA-6 electronic warfare aircraft
  - UC-12F and others

Sasebo
- U.S. Navy: Fleet Activities
  - Amphibious assault ships
  - Minesweeping ships
  - Transport ships
- U.S. Army: 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)/10th Support Group

Misawa
- U.S. Air Force: 35th Fighter Wing F-16 fighters
- U.S. Navy: P-3C antisubmarine patrol aircraft and others

Yokota
- Headquarter, U.S. Forces, Japan
  - U.S. Air Force: Headquarters, Fifth Air Force
  - 374th Airlift Wing
  - CR-135 transport aircraft
  - HH-60 helicopters
  - E-3C airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft
- U.S. Navy: P-3C antisubmarine patrol aircraft and others

Torii
- U.S. Army: 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)/10th Support Group

Kadena
- U.S. Air Force: 18th Wing
  - F-15 fighters
  - KC-135 tankers
  - HH-60 helicopters
  - E-3C airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft
- U.S. Navy: P-3C antisubmarine patrol aircraft and others
- U.S. Army: 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion Patriot missiles (PAC-3)

Futenma
- U.S. Marine Corps: Marine Air Group 36
  - CH-46 helicopters
  - CH-53 helicopters
  - AH-1 helicopters
  - UH-1 helicopters
  - KC-130 tankers
  - MV-22 Osprey aircraft and others

Hansen
- U.S. Marine Corps
  - 12th Marine Regiment
  - 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit
- Camp Courtney U.S. Marine Corps facilities and areas
  - U.S. Marine Corps: HQ III Marine Expeditionary Force
- U.S. Army: 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion Patriot missiles (PAC-3)

Fig. II-3-1-6 Significance and Role of the U.S. Forces in Japan

Adversaries must be prepared to confront not only the defense capability of the SDF, but also the overwhelming military strength of the United States. This is why the U.S. presence in Japan is essential.

Prima, the U.S. Forces in Japan play a crucial role in the defense of Japan and the region.

Japan maintains appropriate defense capabilities.

The U.S. Forces in Japan provide powerful military capability.

Reinforcement from the U.S. homeland and other places.
For USFJ facilities and areas to fully exert their capabilities, it is vital to gain the cooperation and understanding of the local communities. Meanwhile, the social conditions in the surrounding areas have changed significantly through, for example, their urbanization over the past several decades since the conclusion of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty. In light of such changes, it is necessary to reduce the impact of the facilities and areas as much as possible in order to gain the acceptance and support of the public in the true sense as well as to allow them to perform to the best of their capabilities.

Our national land is narrow with limited plains and there are many cases where USFJ facilities and areas are located close to urban and business areas. In such areas, factors including the existence of those facilities and areas and the takeoff and landing of U.S. forces’ aircraft have considerable impact on the residents’ living environment and local development. It is therefore necessary to make efforts to reduce the burden with the realities of each area in mind.

In comparison to areas such as the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, and Guam, Okinawa is located closer to East Asia. It is situated in an extremely important location with regard to security—it is located roughly in the center of the Southwestern Islands and is close to Japan’s sea lanes. Thus, the stationing of U.S. forces in Okinawa — including the U.S. Marine Corps, which has high mobility and readiness and is in charge of various contingencies — with the abovementioned geographical characteristics, enhances the effectiveness of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and strengthens the deterrent effect, contributing greatly not only to the security of Japan but also to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Meanwhile, many USFJ facilities and areas are located in Okinawa Prefecture, including airfields, maneuver areas, and logistics support facilities. As of January 2013, approximately 74% of the land area of the USFJ facilities and areas nationwide (for their exclusive use) was concentrated in Okinawa. Utmost efforts must therefore be given to mitigate the impact on Okinawa while keeping in mind the aforementioned security perspective.

The stationing of the U.S. forces in Japan forms the core of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements and also demonstrates the deep commitment of the United States to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. Thus, the Government of Japan tries to enhance the credibility of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements by actively taking various measures to ensure the smooth stationing of the U.S. forces in Japan.

Matters pertaining to USFJ facilities and areas and the status of the U.S. forces in Japan are stipulated in the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which has provisions regarding facilities and areas for the use by the U.S. forces (USFJ facilities and areas), satisfying labor requirements of the USFJ, etc.

Japan provides USFJ facilities and areas under the provisions of the SOFA, in accordance with agreements reached through the Joint Committee between the governments of Japan and the United States.

The Government of Japan has entered into agreements and concluded lease contracts with owners of private and public land on which these facilities and areas exist in order to ensure the stable use of necessary USFJ facilities and areas. However, should the Government be unable to obtain the approval of

---

1 The official title is the Agreement Under Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between Japan and the United States of America, Regarding Facilities and Areas and the Status of United States Armed Forces in Japan
landowners, it will acquire title under the Special Measures Law Regarding Use and Expropriation of Land, etc.\(^2\), after compensating the landowners for any loss they may have suffered in the process\(^3\).

(2) Satisfying Labor requirements of the USFJ

The USFJ requires manpower (labor) to maintain its forces, and SOFA stipulates that the requirements of the USFJ shall be satisfied with the assistance of the Government of Japan.

As of the end of FY2012, approximately 26,000 USFJ local employees (hereinafter referred to as the “employees”) work at USFJ facilities and areas throughout Japan, working as office workers at headquarters, engineers at maintenance/supply facilities, etc.
ities, members of security units and fire departments on base, and sales staff at welfare/recreational facilities. They perform functions essential for the smooth operations of the USFJ, and support its activities.

The Government of Japan hires these employees in accordance with the provisions of SOFA. The Ministry of Defense supports the stationing of the U.S. forces in Japan by performing administrative work for personnel management, payment of wages, health care, and welfare, etc.

2 Burden of Host Nation Support (HNS)

HNS plays an important role to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements.

Due to soaring prices and wages in Japan since the mid-1970s, and changes in the international economy, the United States has felt considerable pressure in bearing the costs for the stationing of the U.S. forces in Japan. In consideration of such circumstances, and with a view to making efforts to the greatest extent possible within the framework of SOFA, the Government of Japan began to bear labor costs such as welfare costs in FY1978. Then in FY1979, due to the suddenly stronger yen against the dollar, Japan began to bear the burden of the Facilities Improvement Program (FIP).

Furthermore, as the labor costs soared due to changes in economic conditions that affected both countries, employment stability of the employees was adversely influenced, and there was even concern that it would affect the activities of the USFJ. Therefore in 1987 the governments of Japan and the United States agreed on a special measure in Article 24 of SOFA (the Special Measures Agreement) as a provisional measure for an exception to the cost principle in SOFA.

Based on this agreement, the Government of Japan would bear labor costs of eight categories such as the adjustment allowance (currently replaced by the regional allowance), and as the Special Measures Agreement (SMA) was revised later on, the costs borne by the Government of Japan expanded to cover labor costs for base pay, etc., and utility costs from FY1991, and its financial responsibility further expanded to cover training relocation costs from FY1996.

Still, Japan carefully considered its own difficult financial situation when reviewing HNS, and it peaked in the FY1999 budget (annual expenditure base) and has since been declining.

According to the comprehensive review conducted in 2010, the Japanese and the U.S. Governments agreed that the overall expense borne by Japan to station the U.S. Forces in Japan during the period in which the SMA is in effect (for five years from FY2011 to FY2015), was determined to be at the same level of FY 2010 (approximately 188.1 billion yen).

3 The Special Measures Agreement (SMA)

The key points of the SMA that took effect in April 2011 are as follows:

- Effective period: Five years
- Cost sharing: Japan shall bear labor costs, utilities costs, and all or part of the costs incurred in training relocation. With regard to training relocation costs, on top of the additional costs incurred on domestic relocations, costs incurred on training relocation to areas under the control of the U.S. Government, such as Guam, have also been added.

<Operational Guidelines (Exchange of Notes)>

*Labor costs: The upper limit of the number of workers to be funded by Japan will be reduced in stages from 23,055 to 22,625*. The adjustment will be phased in over the new SMA period.

*Utilities costs: The upper limit for utilities costs is set at 24.9 billion yen for each fiscal year. At the same time, the share of costs to be borne by Japan is reduced in stages from the current 76% (approximate) to 72% (approximate). The adjustment will be phased in over the new SMA period.*

- Cost-saving efforts: It is clearly stipulated that the United States shall make further efforts to reduce these expenditures.

4 Costs Associated with the U.S. Forces Stationed in Japan

In addition to costs of stationing U.S. forces in Japan the various costs associated with the U.S. forces in Japan include costs for implementing the stipulations of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) Final Report (see Section 5-1) for alleviating the burden on the people of Okinawa, as well as costs for implementing measures that will contribute to reducing the burden on local communities associated with the initiatives for the realignment of the U.S. armed forces.

*Reference 25*

---

4 The official title is the Agreement between Japan and the United States of America concerning Special Measures relating to Article XXIV of the Agreement under Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America, Regarding Facilities and Areas and the Status of United States Armed Forces in Japan

5 The Security Consultative Committee Document issued on June 21, 2011: "The Ministers shared the view to continue to exert maximum effort to maintain stable employment of the employees of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan while reducing labor costs."

6 Any amount of reduction in the labor costs and the utilities costs resulting from the measures described above will be added to the current level of FIP funding.
5 Japan–U.S. Bilateral Training and Exercises

The SDF and the U.S. forces have been conducting various bilateral training and exercises in peacetime to strengthen Japan-U.S. joint response capabilities while improving interoperability and facilitating mutual understanding in regard to tactical aspects, etc. and closer communication. Since FY1985, mostly on an annual basis, command post exercise and field training exercise have alternated as the Japan–U.S. Bilateral Joint Training Exercise; the field training exercise held in November 2012 was the 11th of its kind. In addition, the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF are expanding the scope of joint exercises, by such means as dispatching units not only to areas within Japan, but also to the U.S., such as participation in exercises including the Japan–U.S. Bilateral Regional Army command post exercises, special anti-submarine exercises, and Japan–U.S. Bilateral Fighter combat training. Thus, continuous efforts are being made to improve interoperability and bilateral response capabilities at the military service and unit levels. As part of the efforts, Stryker Battalion, with its high maneuvering and deployment capabilities and equipped with wheeled armored personnel carrier Stryker, participated for the first time in field training jointly held with the U.S. army and GSDF in Japan from October to November 2012. GSDF troops participating in the exercise trained in coordination procedures with the battalion.

Such joint training and exercises in peacetime not only greatly contribute to maintaining and enhancing the Japan-U.S. joint response capabilities by deepening mutual understanding of capabilities and tactics, but also are effective for improving tactical skills on each side. In particular, the knowledge and techniques that the Japanese side can learn from U.S. forces, which have vast experience in actual fighting, are invaluable and greatly contribute to improving the JSDF’s capabilities. In addition, holding bilateral exercises at effective times, places, and scales demonstrates the unified commitment and capabilities of Japan and the United States, which has a deterrent effect. In light of these perspectives, the MOD and the SDF are continuing their efforts to enrich the contents of bilateral training and exercises.
The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan and the United States is that if either of the SDF and the U.S. forces requests the provision of goods or services, the other side can provide them.

The Agreement is designed to positively contribute to the smooth and effective operation under the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty and to efforts for international peace made under the leadership of the United Nations. Its scope of application includes various occasions such as bilateral training and exercises in peacetime, disaster relief activities, U.N. peacekeeping operations, situations in areas surrounding Japan, and armed attack situations.

The amendment of the Self-Defense Forces Act on November 26, 2012, enabled the provision of goods and services to the U.S. forces by the SDF units engaging in international disaster relief activities.

(See Fig. II-3-1-9)

1 The official title is the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Logistic Support, Supplies and Services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.”

2 The categories of supplies and services as provided under the Agreement include: food; water; billeting; transportation (including airlift); petroleum; oils; and lubricants; clothing; communications; medical services; base support; storage; use of facilities; training services; spare parts and components; repair and maintenance; airport and seaport services; and ammunition (only in armed attack situations and anticipated situations). (Provision of weapons is not included.)
Mutual Exchanges in the Areas of Defense Equipment and Technology

Japan proactively promotes cooperation in areas of defense equipment and technology while bearing in mind the maintenance of Japan’s technology and production base and the mutual cooperation principle based on the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty and the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement between Japan and the United States of America.

In view of the progress in technological cooperation between Japan and the United States, the improvement of technological level, and other factors, Japan decided to transfer its military technology to the United States regardless of the provisions of the Three Principles on Armed Exports and related regulations. In 1983, Japan concluded the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Military Technologies to the United States of America. In June 2006, the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Arms and Military Technologies to the United States of America was concluded to replace the foregoing Exchange of Notes.

Under these frameworks, the Government of Japan decided to provide the United States with 20 items of arms and military technology, including military technologies related to joint technological research on BMD.

Japan and the United States consult with each other at forums such as the Systems and Technology Forum (S&TF), which provides opportunities for exchanging opinions about military equipment and technology, and conduct cooperative research and development regarding the specific projects agreed upon at the forums.

Cooperation in Response to Large-Scale Disasters

In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011, the SDF and the U.S. military demonstrated their high joint response capabilities based on the strong ties they had developed.

The success of the joint response in which the U.S. military provided large-scale support in disaster-affected areas in partnership with the SDF in “Operation Tomodachi” was the result of joint exercises involving Japanese and U.S. troops over many years, and will lead to the Alliance being deepened further in the future.

“Operation Tomodachi,” as the U.S. military named its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief rescue operation following the Great East Japan Earthquake, involved the deployment of a large-scale force, including up to approximately 16,000 troops, around 15 ships, and around 140 aircraft; in this operation, the U.S. military carried out extensive support activities in disaster-affected areas, including search and rescue, transporting supplies, restoring Sendai Airport, cleaning schools ahead of the new semester, removing rubble on Oshima Island, Kesennuma, and participating in an intensive search for the missing, which was a joint Japan-U.S. endeavor.

The support activities of the U.S. military took place on an unprecedented scale; as well as contributing greatly to the recovery and reconstruction of Japan, the activities led to many people of Japan, including disaster victims, deepening their trust and gratitude to U.S. forces in Japan.

The main factors behind the success of the joint Japan-U.S. response to the Great East Japan Earthquake were the cooperation between the two countries that takes place even under normal circumstances, the swift, thorough implementation of coordination between them, and the presence of the U.S. military in Japan. In addition, the success of these endeavors was also due not only to the ongoing policy discussions and joint exercises carried out between the two countries, but also to the fact that the stationing of the U.S. military in Japan means that their troops here are well-acquainted with the geography and culture of the country.

At the same time, some issues have emerged; such as clarifying the roles, missions and capabilities of Japan and the U.S. in the event of a disaster within Japan, as well as stipulating more concrete joint guidelines to facilitate greater participation by the U.S. military in disaster prevention drills, and examining mechanisms for the sharing of information and more effective coordination.

In light of these facts, in order to enable the SDF and the U.S. military to support each other so that they can respond to a diverse range of situations in the future more effectively, the MOD and the SDF are at present conducting concrete deliberations based on the lessons learned.

(See Fig. II-3-1-10)
Activities of the U.S. Forces during Operation Tomodachi

**Support activities by the U.S. military**
(U.S. military forces at their maximum period)
- Personnel: approx. 16,000
- Ships: approx. 15
- Aircraft: approx. 140

**April 21–25**
- Japan-U.S. joint operation for removal of rubble around train stations (Operation Soul Train)
- USS Tortuga dock landing ship (Tomakomai → Ominato)

**From March 16**
- Transport support (for approx. 300 GSDF troops, etc.)

**From March 13**
- 10 U.S. vessels including the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (waters off Sendai)

**From March 19**
- Restoration of Sendai Airport by U.S. Marine Corps & Army

**From March 16**
- U.S. Air Force C-130s, etc. commence operations
- USS Tortuga dock landing ship (Tomakomai → Ominato)
- Transport support (for approx. 300 GSDF troops, etc.)

**March 11**
- MCAS Futenma (Okinawa)
- Airlift using CH-46s, etc.

**Establishment of bilateral coordination centers**
(Ichigaya, Yokota, Sendai)

**From March 25**
- Transport of fresh water to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant by barge

**From March 13**
- Establishment of bilateral coordination centers (Ichigaya, Yokota, Sendai)
- Provide comprehensive coordination functions to facilitate U.S. aid

**March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2011</th>
<th>April 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search activities (March 13～)</td>
<td>(Intensive search)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of Sendai Airport (March 19～31)</td>
<td>(Intensive search)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubble removal on Oshima Island (April 1～6)</td>
<td>(Intensive search)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Soul Train (April 21～26)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School restoration activities (March 30～April 18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakura Class cultural exchange (April 26～28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These are just some of the activities carried out in March & April