

Section 2 Organization of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces

1 Organizational Structure Supporting Defense Capability

1 Organization of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces

To fulfill their mission of defending Japan, the MOD and the SDF¹ consist of various organizations, mainly the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces as armed forces, but also a number of other organizations including the National Defense Academy, National Defense Medical College, National Institute for Defense Studies, Defense Intelligence Headquarters (DIH), Technical Research and Development Institute (TRDI), Equipment Procurement and Construction Office, and the Inspector General's Office of Legal Compliance.

See ► *Fig. II-2-2-1 (Organizational Chart of the Ministry of Defense); Fig. II-2-2-2 (Outline of the Ministry of Defense)*

2 Systems to Support the Minister of Defense

The Minister of Defense is responsible for issues related to the defense of Japan as the head of the Ministry of Defense, and is in overall charge of the SDF duties in accordance with the provisions of the SDF Act. The Minister is supported by the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of Defense (two) and a Senior Adviser to the Minister of Defense. There are also Special Advisers to the Minister of Defense, who advise the Minister of Defense, and the Defense Council in which deliberations concerning general policies related to the MOD take place. Furthermore, there is an Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense who organizes and supervises administrative affairs of each bureau and organization to support the Minister of Defense. In addition, the bill for partial amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Defense, was passed on June 6, 2014, and a Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs, who will be responsible for the overall coordination of important duties such as those related to international affairs, will be newly established in order to ensure the support system for political appointees, including the Minister of Defense, is in place.

Moreover, the Internal Bureau, Joint Staff, the Ground Staff Office, Maritime Staff Office and Air Staff Office have been established as organizations to support the Minister of Defense. The

¹ The Ministry of Defense and the SDF form a single organization for national defense. Whereas the term "Ministry of Defense" refers to the administrative aspects of the organization, which manages and operates the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, the term "SDF" refers to the operational aspects of the organizations whose mission is the defense of Japan.

Internal Bureau is responsible for basic policies relating to the work of the SDF. The Directors-General of each Bureau within the Internal Bureau, as part of their own responsibilities, support the Minister of Defense when the Minister of Defense gives instructions and authorization to the Chief of Joint Staff and the Chiefs of the Ground Staff, the Maritime Staff, and the Air Staff. The Joint Staff is a staff organization for the Minister of Defense concerning the operation of the SDF. The Chief of Joint Staff provides centralized support on the operation of the SDF for the Minister of Defense from a military expert's perspective. The Ground Staff, Maritime Staff, and Air Staff are the staff organizations for the Minister of Defense concerning their respective services except operations of the SDF, with the Chiefs of Staff for the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF acting as the top-ranking expert advisors to the Minister of Defense regarding these services.

3 Base of Defense Administration in Regional Areas

The Ministry of Defense has Regional Defense Bureaus in eight locations across the country (Sapporo City, Sendai City, Saitama City, Yokohama City, Osaka City, Hiroshima City, Fukuoka City, and Kadena Town) as its local branch offices in charge of comprehensive defense administration.

In addition to implementing measures to alleviate the burden on local communities hosting the U.S. bases in Japan and inspecting equipment, Regional Defense Bureaus carry out various activities to obtain the understanding and cooperation of both local public entities and local residents in relation to the MOD's and SDF's activities.

See ▶ Part IV, Chapter 2, Section 2 (Interaction between the Ministry of Defense and the SDF, and Local Communities and Japanese Citizens)

2 Joint Operations System of the Self-Defense Forces

In order to rapidly and effectively fulfill the duties of the SDF that are expanding and diversifying, the MOD and the SDF have adopted the joint operation system in which the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF are operated uniformly. As the joint operations system should continue to be strengthened in light of the current security environment, the MOD and the SDF are making efforts to strengthen the foundation of the joint operations, as well as enhancing the functions of the Joint Staff.

1 Outline of Joint Operations System

(1) Role of the Chief of Staff

- a. The Chief of Staff, Joint Staff develops a joint operations concept for SDF operations, and centrally supports the Minister of Defense on SDF operations from a military expert's perspective.
- b. The Minister's commands concerning the operations of the SDF shall be delivered through the Chief of Staff, Joint Staff and orders concerning operations of the SDF shall be executed by the Chief of Joint Staff. In doing this, the Minister's commands and orders shall be delivered through the Chief of Joint Staff not only in cases where a joint task force² is organized, but also in cases where a single SDF unit is employed to respond.

(2) Relationship between Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, and Other Chiefs of Staff

The Joint Staff Office undertakes the functions relating to the operation of the SDF that was transferred and consolidated from the Ground, Maritime and Air Staff Offices, while the Ground, Maritime and Air Staff Offices undertake functions for unit maintenance, such as personnel affairs, building-up defense capability, and education and training.

See ▶ Fig. II-2-2-3 (Operational System of the SDF and Roles of the Chief of Joint Staff and the Chiefs of Staff of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces)

2 Establishment of Foundation to Enhance the Joint Operations Structure

Within the joint operations structure, communication of accurate commands and prompt information sharing between the units in GSDF, MSDF and ASDF are crucial. As the foundation to support these essential requirements, the Defense Information Infrastructure (DII), which is the common network of the MOD and the SDF, and the Central Command System (CCS), which supports Defense Minister's command and supervision, collecting intelligence by connecting with the primary command systems of each SDF Staff Office and other systems, have been developed. The MOD and the SDF are required to maintain a command and control function utilizing an advanced communication network that includes satellite communications and a system for sharing intelligence³ in order to strengthen the joint operational foundation. Thus, they continue to develop a flexible and wide-ranging communications system, which uses advanced communications technology available both within and outside Japan.

² This applies to the case in which a special unit is organized to carry out a specific duty, or the required troops are placed partly under the authority of a commander outside of their usual command structure based on Article 22, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the SDF Act, and refers to units, which are made up of more than two units of the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF.

³ Satellite communications are used for communication with destroyers and aircraft engaged in warning and surveillance operations in nearby seas, and for communications between Japan and units deployed in disaster areas and overseas, by taking advantage of its features of broad coverage and immediacy.

At the unit level, they are always required to create plans to be able to respond to various situations, while at the same time they are also required to maintain conditions to be ready for executing duties through joint training and other means. For this purpose, personnel from other SDF branches are stationed at major command headquarters under normal circumstances, and the number of staff personnel will be increased as necessary.

Based on the achievement to date, topics such as the improvement of education and training, the SDF Headquarter structure, and the human resources development, and standardization of equipment will continue to be reviewed, aiming for a more effective joint operations system, and necessary measures will be taken to realize this.