

Section 3 Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Japan

Measures such as force posture realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan are extremely important in mitigating the impact on local communities, such as those in Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence capabilities of the U.S. Forces. The Ministry of Defense will steadily advance the U.S. Forces realignment set forth in the Roadmap while making continuous initiatives to gain the understanding and cooperation of local communities accommodating USFJ facilities and areas.

1 Measures to Ensure the Smooth Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Japan

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 has been actively taking various measures to enhance the credibility of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements in order to ensure the smooth stationing of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

1 Measures in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement

The Status of Forces Agreement¹ (SOFA) stipulates matters pertaining to USFJ facilities and areas and the status of the U.S. Forces in Japan, including provisions of facilities and areas for the use by the U.S. Forces (USFJ facilities and areas), and satisfying the labor requirements of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

(1) Provision of USFJ Facilities and Areas

Japan provides USFJ facilities and areas for the U.S. Forces under the provisions of 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 USFJ facilities and areas. However, should the Government be unable to obtain the approval of landowners, it will acquire title under the Act on Special Measures for USFJ Land Release², while compensating the landowners for any loss they may have suffered in the

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.

² The official title is the Act on Special Measures for USFJ Land Release, Incidental to the Agreement

process³.

(2) Satisfying Labor Requirements of the USFJ

The USFJ require 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 FY2013, approximately 25,000 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, members of security guards 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 MOD 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 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 Government of Japan began to bear labor costs such as welfare costs in FY1978. Then in FY1979, Japan began to bear the Facilities Improvement Program (FIP) respectively.

Furthermore, as the labor costs soared due to changes in economic conditions that affected both countries, the employment stability of the employees was adversely influenced, and there was even concern that it would affect the activities of the U.S. Forces in Japan. 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)⁴ as a provisional measure for an exception to the cost principle in SOFA.

Based on this agreement, the Government of Japan started to bear labor costs of eight categories

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.

³ The term “title” means a legal cause that justifies a certain act.

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.

such as the adjustment allowance (currently replaced by the regional allowance). 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 utilities costs from FY1991. The financial responsibility of the Japanese Government was further expanded to cover training relocation costs from FY1996.

Japan has been reviewing HNS with careful consideration to its own difficult financial situation. The amount of Japan's HNS budget peaked in FY1999 (annual expenditure base), and has since been declining.

According to the comprehensive review conducted in 2010, the Japanese and U.S. Governments agreed that the overall expense borne by Japan to support the stationing of 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 maintained at the same level of FY 2010 (approximately 188.1 billion yen).

3 Special Measures Agreement (SMA)

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

- (1) Effective period: Five years
- (2) 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 training relocations, costs incurred in 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 from 23,055 to 22,625⁵. 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 from the current 76% (approximate) to 72% (approximate). The adjustment will be phased in over the new SMA period.

- (3) Cost-saving initiatives: It is clearly stipulated that the United States shall make further efforts to reduce these expenditures⁶.

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

See ► *Reference 36 (Outline of Cost Sharing of the Stationing of the USFJ)*

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

In addition to costs of stationing the 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 for alleviating the impact on the people of Okinawa, as well as costs for implementing measures that will contribute to mitigating the impact on local communities associated with the initiatives for the realignment of the U.S. Armed Forces.

See ► *Part III Chapter 2 Section 3-3-1 (Initiatives for Realignment, Consolidation, and Reduction of USFJ Facilities and Areas)*

See ► *Fig. III-2-3-1 (U.S. Forces Japan-related Costs (Budget for FY 2014))*

2 Background to the Realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan

Progress of the force posture realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan, set forth in the United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation of May 2006, is shown in Fig. III-2-3-2.

See ► *Fig. III-2-3-2 (Progress of the Realignment of Force Structure of USFJ and the SDF Described in “Japan-U.S. Roadmap for Realignment Implementation”)*

1. Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting (April 27, 2012)

As to the USFJ realignment, Japan continued to hold discussions with the U.S. at various levels. Following these discussions, the Governments of Japan and the U.S. decided to conduct full-scale bilateral discussions concerning the plan for USFJ realignment, in view of factors including the following: 1) The necessity of implementing measures to promptly and steadily enable visible mitigation of impact on Okinawa; 2) The necessity of coordinating the realignment package and strategic rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, which was set out in the U.S. Defense Strategic Guidance released in January 2012; and 3) The fact that a reduction in the cost associated with the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps to Guam has been demanded by the U.S. Congress. The discussions led to the release of the “2+2” Joint Statement on April 27, 2012.

As described above, this “2+2” Joint Statement on April 27, 2012, stated that, in light of important progress made in regard to the plan for USFJ realignment since the “2+2” Joint Statement in June 2011, it had been decided to adjust the plans outlined in the 2006 Roadmap.

above will be added to the current level of FIP funding.

Originally, the 2006 Roadmap stated that, among the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) stationed in Okinawa, the main focus of the relocation to Guam would be the command elements, but the U.S. decided to alter the composition of the units in line with the basic approach detailed above. As a result, the U.S. Government decided to continue to retain the U.S. Forces in Okinawa, and deploy Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTF)—consisting of command, ground, aviation and logistic support elements—in Japan, Guam, and Hawaii, as well as in Australia as a rotational unit, in order to continue to ensure the presence of the U.S. Forces in Okinawa. This reflects the U.S. review of the composition of the units of the U.S. Marine Corps following the evolving security environment in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years. As a result, the Governments of Japan and the United States decided to delink both the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to Guam and resulting land returns south of Kadena Air Base from the progress on the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF).

An outline of the “2+2” Joint Statement of April 2012 is given below:

(1) Preamble

- 1) The Ministers decided to adjust the plan set forth in the May 2006 Roadmap for Realignment.
- 2) The Ministers decided to delink the progress in regard to the Futenma Replacement Facility from both the relocation of Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to Guam, and the return of land south of Kadena that would arise as a result.
- 3) The Ministers confirmed that the overall deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance would be reinforced by strengthening Japan's defense posture and promoting dynamic defense cooperation between Japan and the U.S., as well as through the new posture of the U.S. Marine Corps.

(2) Unit Composition in Guam and Okinawa (The personnel numbers shown are authorized strength)

- 1) As well as stationing MAGTF in Okinawa, Guam and Hawaii, a rotational presence will be established in Australia
- 2) Approximately 9,000 U.S. Marines, along with their associated dependents, are to be relocated from Okinawa to locations outside of Japan
- 3) The final Marine Corps presence in Okinawa will be consistent with the levels envisioned in the Realignment Roadmap.
- 4) The number of Marine Corps personnel in Guam will be approximately 5,000
- 5) The preliminary cost estimate by the U.S. Government for the relocation of the Marine Corps

to Guam is \$8.6 billion (in U.S. Fiscal Year 2012 dollars). Japan's financial commitment will consist of direct cash contribution up to the amount of \$2.8 billion (in U.S. FY2008 dollars), as stipulated in Article 1 of the 2009 Guam International Agreement. Other forms of financial support such as loans or equity investment will not be utilized. Even if Japan makes a contribution through cooperation with Item (3) 2) below, it shall be included in this commitment

(3) New Initiatives Aimed at Promoting Regional Peace, Stability and Prosperity

1) The Ministers confirmed the importance of promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The Japanese Government will take various measures, including the strategic use of ODA (e.g. provision of patrol boats to coastal states)

2) The Governments of Japan and the U.S. will consider cooperation aimed at developing training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for shared use by Japanese and the U.S. Forces, and will identify fields for cooperation by the end of 2012

(4) Land Returns in Okinawa

1) 1. Areas eligible for immediate return upon completion of procedures: Part of Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster) (West Futenma Housing area and part of the warehouse area of the Facilities and Engineering Compound), part of Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser) (the north access road, area near Gate 5)

2. Areas eligible for return after relocation within the prefecture: Part of the Makiminato Service Area (the majority of the storage area), part of Camp Zukeran (the Industrial Corridor, etc.), Camp Kuwae (Camp Lester), Naha Port, Army Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricant Depot Kuwae Tank Farm No.1

3. Areas eligible for return after relocation of the Marine Corps overseas: Additional elements of Camp Zukeran, the remainder of Makiminato Service Area

2) A consolidation plan for facilities and areas remaining in Okinawa will be jointly developed by Japan and the U.S. by the end of 2012

(5) Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma

1) The Ministers reaffirmed that the existing relocation proposal is the only viable solution.

2) Japan and the U.S. will both contribute to any refurbishment projects required at MCAS Futenma in order to protect the environment and ensure that the air station can be run safely until the FRF is fully operational.

See ► Reference 34 (Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee)

2. Achievements of the “2+2” Meeting (October 3, 2013)

The Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in October 2013 cited the achievements in bilateral consultations on the realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan since the release of the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in April 2012. Japan and the United States renewed their strong determination to complete the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Camp Schwab, and agreed to continue to consult on other possible measures while implementing the previous agreements as early as possible and steadily from the perspective of mitigating the impact on Okinawa. The following is a description of the realignment of the U.S. Forces in the Joint Statement;

○Realignment on Okinawa

- Returns of land: The Ministers welcomed the progress on land returns based on the Consolidation Plan of April 2013
- Relocation of MCAS Futenma: the Ministers confirmed that the plan to construct the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) at Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and adjacent waters is the only solution that avoids the continued use of MCAS Futenma. They reaffirmed the strong commitment of both Governments to the plan
- Hotel-Hotel training area: The Ministers directed the Joint Committee to reach an arrangement in principle for the partial lifting of restrictions for a portion of the Hotel-Hotel training area by the end of November 2013. The two sides committed to continue to consult on other possible measures
- Environment: The Ministers decided to reach a substantial understanding by the end of November 2013 on a framework for access to U.S. facilities and areas slated for return, for the purpose of facilitating local authorities’ planning of land use prior to its return

○Iwakuni

- The Ministers confirmed that the bilateral consultations on the relocation of a KC-130 squadron from MCAS Futenma to MCAS Iwakuni would be accelerated
- The Ministers affirmed that the MSDF would continue to have a presence at MCAS Iwakuni
- The Ministers acknowledged that the relocation of Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW-5) from Atsugi Air Facility to MCAS Iwakuni should be completed by around 2017.

○Guam

- The Ministers confirmed the importance of the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to locations outside of Japan (as it mitigates the impact of Okinawa, contributes to sustaining the forward presence of the U.S. Forces and facilitates the development of Guam as a strategic hub)
- The Ministers announced the signing of a Protocol to amend the 2009 Guam International

Agreement

- The Ministers noted the significance of Japanese cash contributions to the development of training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, which benefit the Alliance by supporting the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps units to Guam and by enabling the shared use of these training areas by the U.S. Forces and the SDF
- The Ministers completed work reflecting the breakdown of costs associated with developing facilities, including training areas, and infrastructure.
- The Ministers announced U.S. Marine Corps units are to begin to relocate from Okinawa to Guam in the first half of the 2020s.

○Advanced Capabilities

- The Ministers confirmed that deployment of more advanced capabilities in Japan has strategic significance: 1) MV-22; 2) P-8 maritime patrol aircraft (beginning in December 2013); 3) Global Hawk unmanned aircraft (beginning in spring 2014); and 4) F-35B aircraft (in 2017).
- The Ministers confirmed their intention to designate the Air Self-Defense Force Kyogamisaki sub-base as the deployment site for a second AN/TPY-2 radar (X-band radar) system.

See ▶ Reference 35 (Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee (October 3, 2013))

3 Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Okinawa

As of January 2014, approximately 74% of USFJ facilities and areas (for exclusive use) are 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 impact on the local people. The Government of Japan has been making the maximum initiatives to implement a range of measures in light of the security perspective in order to mitigate the impact as much as possible.

1 Initiatives 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, consolidation and reduction on the grounds that they seriously affect the lives of people in Okinawa Prefecture.

Both countries have continued their initiatives to realign, consolidate, and reduce USFJ facilities and areas, and, in relation to the so-called 23 issues, 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 Port⁷, it was agreed in 1995 that initiatives would be made to resolve these issues.

See ▶ Reference 37 (Outline of 23 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 Act on Special Measures for USFJ Land Release, the Government of Japan decided to devote even greater initiatives towards realignment, consolidation, and reduction, believing that the impact 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.

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 abatement initiatives, and the improvement of operational procedures regarding the Status of Forces Agreement, and also refers to the related facilities and areas covered. 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.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-3-3 (Facilities and Areas Related to the SACO Final Report); Fig.III-2-3-4 (Changes in Number and Area of the USFJ Facilities and Areas (Exclusive Use) in Okinawa)

See ▶ Reference 38 (The SACO Final Report); Reference 39 (State of Progress of the SACO Final Report)

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

As well as initiatives relating to realignment of the U.S. Forces based on the Roadmap, measures have been taken to mitigate the impact on the local communities in Okinawa Prefecture.

(1) MCAS Futenma Replacement Facility, etc.

MCAS Futenma fulfills the following functions relating to the aviation capabilities of the U.S.

⁷ The return of Naha Port, the return of Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield, and the relocation of artillery live fire training over Highway 104.

Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa:

- Transport of Marine ground forces by helicopter, etc.
- Operations 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 consists of air, ground, logistics, and command elements. The interaction of those elements in operations of the U.S. Marine Corps 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 the 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 Henokosaki 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.

After the change of government in September 2009, the Exploratory Committee for Okinawa Base Issues was established. After reviews conducted by the Committee, both Governments, at the “2+2” Meeting held in May 2010, confirmed the intention to locate the FRF in the Camp

Schwab Henokosaki area and the adjacent waters, and also agreed to take concrete measures to mitigate the impact on Okinawa.

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

At the “2+2” Meeting in October 2013, that followed the “2+2” Meeting of April 2012, the Governments of Japan and the United States also confirmed that the plan to construct the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) at Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and adjacent waters is the only solution that avoids the continued use of MCAS Futenma.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-3-5 (Background for the Futenma Airfield Replacement Facility)

See ▶ Reference 34 (Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee); Reference 35 (Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee); Reference 40 (Estimated Timelines for the Return of Facilities and Areas South of Kadena)

(c) Environmental Impact Assessment

Procedures for the environmental impact assessment had been proceeded with in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, since the scoping document was submitted to the Governor of Okinawa and other related local governments in August 2007. In response to the opinions expressed by the Governor of Okinawa on the environmental impact statement in February and March 2012, the MOD organized an expert working group and amended the statement based on the scientific and specialist advice provided by the external experts. Later, in December 18, the MOD sent the amended statement to the Governor of Okinawa and other related local governments and completed the procedure of environmental impact assessment by making the statement open for public inspection for the period from December 27, 2012, to January 29, 2013.

(d) Futenma Replacement Facility Construction Project, etc.

On March 22, 2013, an application was submitted to the Governor of Okinawa for approval of the reclamation of the public water body related to the Futenma Replacement Facility construction project. With the Governor of Okinawa approving the application on December 27, 2013, the construction project is being pushed forward steadily toward the relocation and return of MCAS Futenma.

As MCAS Futenma is located at the center of Ginowan City, Okinawa, surrounded by residents' houses and schools, it is imperative to avoid a permanent fixation of the air station in this location. Taking special notice of the approval of the application for the reclamation of the public water body by the Governor of Okinawa, the government will promptly embark on the construction project and continue to make all-out initiatives to achieve the return of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible time.

b. Operations of Air Refueling Aircraft

Air refueling aircraft KC-130 are to be relocated from MCAS Futenma to MCAS Iwakuni (in Yamaguchi Prefecture) between early July and late August 2014.

KC-130 will be regularly deployed on a rotational basis to 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. Accepting U.S. Aircraft in an Emergency

Contingency use of the JASDF bases at Nyutabaru (in Miyazaki Prefecture) and Tsuiki (in Fukuoka Prefecture) by the U.S. Forces will be strengthened. To support this, the facilities in those bases will be improved as required, after site surveys are completed, but the improvement work needs to follow an on-site survey, and will be conducted before MCAS Futenma is returned. After the facilities are improved, they are also expected to support Japan-U.S. joint exercises, which are to be expanded according to the study on roles, missions, and capabilities.

Furthermore, consideration will be given to improving the use of civilian facilities by the U.S. Forces in cases of emergency during the bilateral planning work, and appropriate measures will be taken in order to realize the return of MCAS Futenma.

(2) Force Reductions and Relocation to Guam

In conjunction with the realignment of the 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 MEF and 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 two sides 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 remaining \$4.18 billion. 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)⁸ 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 and the U.S. 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 the III MEF personnel and their dependents from Okinawa to Guam” (the Guam International Agreement) in February 2009. 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 FY2009⁹.

Subsequently, in the “2+2” Joint Statement of April 2012, the unit composition and the number of personnel to be relocated to Guam were revised. More specifically, in the Joint Statement, it was stated that it is planned that Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTF) will be positioned and deployed in Guam. 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 the U.S. Marine Corps forces in Guam is to be around 5,000 personnel, the end-state for the presence of the U.S. Marine Corps 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

⁸ With regard to Japanese Mamizu projects, for expenses relating to construction projects and design projects, approximately 34.6 billion yen, 46.8 billion yen and 14.9 billion yen in FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011 respectively, were budgeted. For design projects expenses, approximately 700 million yen and 200 million yen in FY2012 and FY2013 respectively, were budgeted.

⁹ Funds of approximately 34.6 billion yen in FY2009, approximately 46.8 billion yen in FY2010, and approximately 9.3 billion yen in FY2011 were provided to the United States.

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 a new initiative, a portion of the direct cash contribution of \$ 2.8 billion mentioned above would be used to develop training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as shared use facilities for Japan and the U.S. 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.

At the "2+2" Meeting in October 2013, the Ministers confirmed that the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa contributes to sustaining the forward presence of the U.S. Forces and promoting the development of Guam as the strategic strongpoint, while also mitigating the impact on Okinawa. On that occasion, a Protocol amending the Guam International Agreement, which forms the basis for the bilateral cooperation necessary to achieve these goals of the relocation, was signed. The amendment, which is in line with the "2+2" Joint Statement of 2012, confirmed the delinking of the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps units from Okinawa to Guam from progress on the Futenma Replacement Facility, and added provisions concerning the development of training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and the shared use of these training areas by the U.S. Forces and the SDF. The limit on Japanese cash contributions remains unchanged at \$2.8 billion (in U.S. fiscal year 2008 dollars).

Under the relocation plan described in the 2012 "2+2" Joint Statement, U.S. Marine Corps units are to begin to relocate from Okinawa to Guam in the first half of the 2020s. The plan is considered to promote the implementation of the consolidation plan on returning the land areas south of Kadena Air Base published in April 2013.

See ► Reference41 (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); Reference42 (Protocol amending 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)

(3) Return of Land Areas South of Kadena Air Base

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 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.

Since the change of administration at the end of 2012, Japan and the United States have continued consultation under the basic policy of the Abe administration to dedicate all its strength to mitigate the impact of the U.S. Forces on Okinawa communities. Japan strongly requested an early return of lands south of Kadena, including Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser), and as a result of coordination with the U.S. side, both countries announced the consolidation plan in April 2013, which stipulated the return schedule, including the specific years of return.

In the consolidation plan, both sides confirmed that they will implement the plan as early as possible. The Government of Japan needs to continue to work with all its strength so that lands south of Kadena would be returned at the earliest possible date. Furthermore, following the announcement of the consolidation plan, the consultations have been held since April 2013, involving Ginowan City, Ginowan City Military Land Owners Association, Okinawa Prefecture, Okinawa Defense Bureau, and Okinawa General Bureau¹⁰, in order to promote effective and adequate use of West Futenma Housing Area within Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster). The Ministry of Defense has also been providing necessary cooperation.

As a result of initiatives put in following the announcement of the consolidation plan in April 2013 toward the early return of mainly “areas eligible for immediate return upon completion of necessary procedures” (areas boxed in red in Fig. III-2-3-6), the road has been paved toward the return of land of all the four locations involved, including the land return of the north access road of Makiminato Service Area completed in August 2013. As confirmed in the “2+2” Joint Statement in October 2013, these returns are ahead of schedule. On April 14, 2014, Kin Town agreed to accept the relocation of Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster) in the Shirahi River Area Zukeran to Camp Hansen in the town.

The Government of Japan will take every opportunity to hold consultations with the United States for the prompt development by the United States of a master plan for the return of land in the remaining areas, and support its development. So far, the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee has

¹⁰ In addition to the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Okinawa Office) and the Cabinet Office also participate in the consultations as observers.

agreed on a master plan for the Torii Communication Station that is to accept the relocation of U.S. Army warehouses located in Makiminato Service Area and other places. All-out initiatives are being continuously made to steadily implement the consolidation plan and mitigate the impact on Okinawa as early as possible, and also to realize the respective returns of land in the shortest possible time for more visible mitigation of the impact on Okinawa.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-3-6 (Return of Land Areas South of Kadena Air Base)

See ▶ Reference 40 (Estimated Timelines for the Return of Facilities and Areas South of Kadena)

4 MV-22 Osprey Deployment in Okinawa

(1) MV-22 Osprey Deployment in Okinawa

The MV-22 is an aircraft that combines vertical takeoff/landing and hovering functions of rotary-wing aircraft on one hand and the speed and range of fixed-wing aircraft on the other. As the main force of air components of the U.S. Marine Corps, MV-22 aircraft play an important role in engaging in a broad range of activities, including transportation of personnel and goods.

The U.S. Marine Corps is in the process of replacing rotary-wing airplanes (CH-46) with MV-22s, which have superior basic performance. In June 2011, the Department of Defense announced the replacement of CH-46s deployed at MCAS Futenma with MV-22s. On June 29, 2012, the U.S. Government made a Host Nation Notification that 12 CH-46s of one squadron in Futenma would be replaced by 12 MV-22s and that CH-46s of the second squadron would be replaced by MV-22s in the summer of 2013. Following the U.S. announcement and notification, the MOD officials explained measures to ensure safety to Okinawa Prefecture and Iwakuni City. The movement of the first and the second squadron to MCAS Futenma was completed in October 2012 and in September 2013, respectively.

The MV-22 is a highly capable aircraft; compared with the CH-46, it can fly twice as fast, can carry three times the payload, and has four times the range. Its deployment to Okinawa will strengthen the deterrence of the U.S. Forces in Japan as a whole and greatly contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

(2) Safety of the MV-22 Osprey

After the crash of an MV-22 in Morocco in April 2012 and the crash of a CV-22¹¹ in Florida in June 2012, concerns about its safety have grown among Japanese people. In response, the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States agreed to refrain from any flight

¹¹ The MV-22 is designed for the U.S. Marine Corps for assault landing transportation missions, while the CV-22 is designed for the U.S. Air Force aimed at special operations, etc.

operation in Japan until the results of the accident investigation are provided and the safety of flight operation is reconfirmed. Additionally, in order to confirm its safety, a Japanese analysis and assessment team was set up to validate the contents of the accident investigations of the U.S. government, based on Japan's own viewpoints and knowledge. The team examined the investigation results and confirmed that the accident in which the MV-22 crashed in Morocco and the CV-22 crashed in Florida were caused largely by human factors and that there were no safety problems with the aircraft itself.

Furthermore, to maximize the safety of MV-22 flight operations, the two governments discussed matters concerning operations and measures to prevent accident recurrence at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee and other occasions. At the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, both sides confirmed that measures have been taken to address these human factors in light of the lessons learned from the accidents and agreed to implement specific measures to ensure the safety of MV-22 operations in Japan.

Based on the above, considering that the safety of MV-22 operations in Japan is fully confirmed, the Government of Japan released "On MV-22 Osprey Deployment to Okinawa" on September 19, 2012, and then flight operation of the MV-22 Osprey was started in Japan. Since then, the Government of Japan recognizes that the U.S. has been in full compliance with the Joint Committee agreement concerning the MV-22 and is operating the MV-22 with maximum consideration for safety. Furthermore, in order to ensure that full consideration is given to local residents and the Joint Committee agreement is properly implemented, the Government of Japan has been continuously engaging with the U.S. side through various opportunities, including the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meetings.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-3-7 (Chronology of MV-22 Osprey Deployment to Okinawa)

(3) Usability of MV-22 Osprey in Case of Disaster

In the aftermath of the devastating typhoon that hit the central Philippines in November 2013, 14 MV-22 Osprey aircraft, deployed in Okinawa, were dispatched for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities to support "Operation Damayan". The MV-22 combines the vertical takeoff/landing and hovering functions of rotary-wing aircraft on the one hand, and the speed and range of fixed-wing aircraft on the other. Provided its unique capabilities, MV-22s were deployed promptly to affected areas that are difficult to access, and it can transport several hundred isolated victims and about six tons of support goods in a day. In April 2014, the MV-22, deployed in Okinawa, was dispatched for rescue activities in the wake of an accidental sinking of a passenger ship off the coast of Jindo, Republic of Korea. As such, going forward, it is

expected that the superior capabilities of the MV-22 can be showcased in a variety of operations.

5 Measures for Mitigating the Impact on Okinawa

Today, a number of USFJ facilities and areas still remain in Okinawa because of the U.S. occupation of Okinawa and the slower progress of USFJ facilities and areas returned compared to other areas of Japan even after the occupation ended. In order to mitigate the concentrated impact on Okinawa, the Government of Japan is making initiatives toward the realization of the SACO Final Report and the Roadmap. The MOD is committed to further mitigating the impact on Okinawa through the Okinawa Policy Council, its subcommittee and other means¹², while listening to the opinions of the local residents.

At the Okinawa Policy Council Meeting on December 17, 2013, the Governor of Okinawa presented a number of requests, including cessation of the operation of MCAS Futenma within five years and its early return, the re-deployment of about 12 MV-22 Osprey aircraft to bases outside of Okinawa, and the total return of Makiminato Service Area within seven years.

While fully understanding that these requests reflect the sentiments of all Okinawan people, the Government as a whole is addressing the mitigation of the impact on Okinawa, including the establishment of the Council for Promoting the Mitigation of the Impact of MCAS Futenma on Okinawa, consisting of the Chief Cabinet Secretary, the Minister of State for Okinawa, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defense, the Governor of Okinawa and the Mayor of Ginowan.

On January 22, 2014, the MOD established the Committee for Promoting the Mitigation of the Impact of Bases on Okinawa, headed by the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense, and is addressing the issue with the strong resolve to do everything it can in order to mitigate the impact on Okinawa.

At Team for Promoting the Mitigation of the Impact of MCAS Futenma on Okinawa, training exercises involving the use of Osprey such as Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training Exercises held at Aibano training area located in Shiga Prefecture in October 2013 will continue to be deliberated so that about half of Osprey training exercises can be held outside Okinawa Prefecture. The Team is also considering the development of “training infrastructure and bases,” including hangars and refueling facilities, while securing a budget item for research expenses, along with

¹² On March 19, 2013 a subcommittee was established under the Okinawa Policy Council in order to address issues concerning mitigation of the impact relating to U.S. bases and Okinawa development measures.

the consideration of the introduction of tilt-rotor aircraft for the SDF in the FY2014 budget, for the promotion of training at multiple training areas and airfields located on the mainland.

In addition, the Team for Promoting the Return of Makiminato Service Area, created under the Committee for Promoting the Mitigation of the Impact of Bases on Okinawa, is considering the facilitation of the development of a master plan by the U.S. Forces related to the return of Makiminato Service Area, and as one of the facilitation measures, is set to provide support for the development of the master plan.

See ▶ Part IV, Chapter 2, Section 2 (The initiatives for effective use of the sites previously occupied by the U.S. Forces stationed in Japan, etc.)

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

In regions other than Okinawa, the MOD is implementing measures to secure the stable presence of the U.S. Forces by maintaining its deterrence abilities and trying to mitigate the impact on local communities. This section will explain the current situation regarding measures of this kind, such as the realignment of the 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 Kami Seya Communication Station in Yokohama City), as well as the construction of approximately 700 housing units for the U.S. Forces families in the Yokohama area of the “Ikego Housing Area and Navy Annex” were agreed in October 2004, by the Joint Committee.

Subsequently, the Joint Committee in September 2010 agreed that the number of housing units to be constructed for the U.S. Forces families would be around 400, as an interim measure to facilitate the relocation of the Negishi Housing Area, instead of approximately 700 housing units as agreed in October 2004, and that part of land in the Zushi area of the “Ikego Housing Area and Navy Annex” would be jointly used once the requirements are fulfilled, as a stopgap measure until the land is returned.

Up to now, two facilities and areas (Koshiha POL Depot and Tomioka Storage Area) were returned. After a round of bilateral consultations on the realization of the early return of the

remaining facilities and areas, the Joint Committee in April 2014 agreed on the specific timing of the return of the Fukaya Communication Site and the Kami Seya Communication Station. In addition, the Joint Committee also agreed to change the number of housing units to be constructed from approximately 400 to 171.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-3-8 (Facilities and Areas Related to the Reorganization of the USFJ Facilities and Areas in Kanagawa Prefecture)

2 Current Situation Regarding the Realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan as Stipulated 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 USARJI Corps (Forward) in December 2007 and the reorganization took place at the end of September 2008.

With the aim of strengthening coordination with the reorganized USARJ headquarters so as to enable rapid responses to various contingencies, the JGSDF Central Readiness Force Headquarters, which unilaterally controls mobile operation units and specialized units, was relocated from JGSDF Camp Asaka (in Saitama Prefecture) to Camp Zama, where the headquarters of U.S. Army Japan (USARJ) are located, at the end of FY2012. In accordance with the transformation of USARJ headquarters, a mission command training center and other support facilities were constructed within the 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 Joint Committee in June 2008, while the partial release of land (approx. 5.4ha) at Camp Zama, and the joint/shared use of a portion of land at SGD (approx. 35ha) were approved in October 2011 and June 2012, respectively, by the 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 the U.S. Forces. The headquarters of the U.S. Forces in Japan located at Yokota Air Base (in Tokyo) plays an important role in the various mechanisms under the Guidelines. Therefore, along with the relocation of ASDF Air Defense Command HQ as

mentioned below, the BJOCC¹³ was established and commenced operations at the end of FY2011.

See ▶Part III, Chapter 2, Section 1-2 (Recent Major Achievements in Defense Cooperation and Exchange)

b. Relocation of ASDF Air Defense Command HQ

The ASDF Air Defense Command HQ not only defends airspace, but also functions as a headquarters for BMD operations. In the case of air defense and BMD, the response time is very short. Therefore, it is important for the SDF and the U.S. Forces to immediately share the necessary information. Thus, at the end of FY2011, approximately 800 personnel from the ASDF Air Defense Command HQ, which was formerly located in Fuchu (Tokyo), and its relevant units were relocated to Yokota Air Base where the U.S. 5th Air Force, Headquarters is located. 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, the 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 for military purposes, has been started. Moreover, the collocation of the 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 cut by about 40% in September 2008 and the air traffic control operation was returned to Japan. In addition, the review of the conditions required for the possible return of the entire Yokota airspace was completed in May 2010.

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 joint 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 agencies and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, with discussions ongoing since then.

¹³ The 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.

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 joint 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 Facility and MCAS Iwakuni
a. Deployment of U.S. Aircraft Carrier

The nuclear aircraft carrier¹⁴ USS George Washington is currently forward deployed to Yokosuka (Kanagawa Prefecture). The presence of the U.S. Pacific Fleet plays an important role in ensuring maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region as well as regional peace and stability. The U.S. aircraft carrier provides the core capability of the Fleet.

In January 2014, the U.S. Navy announced that the aircraft carrier USS George Washington will proceed to the United States in preparation for fuel exchange, and in its place, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan will be forward deployed.

The U.S. Navy vows that it will continue to ensure that all of its nuclear-powered vessels (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.

b. Relocation of Carrier-Based Aircraft

Atsugi Air Facility (in Kanagawa Prefecture) is currently used as a base for carrier-based aircraft. Since Atsugi Air Facility is located at the center of an urban district, the noise of carrier jets taking off and landing in particular 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 aircraft carriers.

On the other hand, after the completion of the runway relocation project¹⁵ at MCAS Iwakuni (the relocation of the runway approximately 1,000 meters offshore), safe aircraft operations

¹⁴ 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 combat and operational capabilities.

¹⁵ A project to relocate the runway of MCAS Iwakuni by approximately 1,000 meters to the east (offshore), in response to the requests from Iwakuni City and other local authorities. The new runway commenced its operations in May 2010. The project was completed at the end of FY2010.

have been realized with less impact on the living environment of the surrounding communities.

Taking these factors into consideration, CVW-5 squadrons will be relocated from Atsugi Air Facility to MCAS Iwakuni. In order to mitigate impacts of the increased operations at MCAS Iwakuni due to the projected relocation, related measures will be taken, including: (1) conducting the relocation after the runway is moved offshore, (2) relocation of MSDF EP-3, etc. in MCAS Iwakuni to Atsugi Air Facility, and (3) deployment of KC-130 (to be relocated from MCAS Futenma to MCAS Iwakuni) on a regular rotational basis to MSDF Kanoya Base and Guam, and (4) 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, the area requiring residential noise-abatement work (so-called first category area) will decrease from approximately 1,600 ha to 500 ha.

Subsequently, at the “2+2” held in October 2013, it was acknowledged that the relocation of CVW-5 from Atsugi Air Facility to MCAS Iwakuni should be completed by around 2017. In addition, with regard to the relocation of MSDF EP-3, etc. to Atsugi Air Facility as stated in (2) above, upon the request of local public entities in the vicinity of MCAS Iwakuni, it was confirmed that, as a result of Japan-U.S. deliberation including defense posture review, MSDF EP-3, etc. would stay in MCAS Iwakuni.

Concerning the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps CH-53D helicopters from MCAS Iwakuni to Guam in (4) above, Japan and the United States confirmed that based on the Roadmap, etc., the unit, which has been dispatched to the Middle East from MCAS Iwakuni, will be relocated to Guam without returning to MCAS Iwakuni.

With regard to the site (Atagoyama) for constructing family housing required for the relocation of carrier-based aircraft to MCAS Iwakuni, the sales contract of the site was concluded in March 2012, and site development work for family housing and sports facilities, etc. is being undertaken now.

c. A bilateral framework to conduct a study on a permanent FCLP

The 2006 Roadmap prescribes that 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. At the “2+2” Meeting 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 the U.S. Forces as a permanent site for FCLP. In addition, the 2005 SCC document confirmed that the U.S. Forces will continue to conduct FCLP at Iwo-To in accordance with existing temporary arrangements until a permanent FCLP training facility is identified.

d. Resumption of Commercial Aviation at MCAS Iwakuni

Considering that the local public entities, including Yamaguchi Prefecture and Iwakuni City, had 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. Based on this agreement, Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport was opened on December 13, 2012, resuming regular flights of commercial aviation after 48 years.

(4) Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD)

Japan and the United States are set to continue close coordination on BMD as the two countries improve their respective BMD capabilities. More specifically, an AN/TPY-2 radar (so-called “X-Band Radar”) system was deployed to the U.S. Shariki Communication Site¹⁶. Also in October 2006, U.S. Army Patriot PAC-3 units (Patriot Advanced Capability) were deployed to Kadena Air Base and Kadena Ammunition Storage Area.

At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in February 2013, both sides agreed on the necessity of the additional deployment of TPY-2 radar in Japan, to further enhance BMD capabilities.

At the “2+2” Meeting held in October 2013, the Ministers confirmed their intention to designate the ASDF Kyogamisaki sub-base as the deployment site for a second AN/TPY-2 radar (X-band radar) system, and Japan provided the facilities and area necessary for the deployment to the United States in December 2013.

See ▶ Part III, Chapter 1, Section 1-3 (Response to Ballistic Missile Attacks)

(5) Training Relocation

¹⁶ The radar was deployed to ASDF Shariki Sub Base (in Aomori Prefecture) in June 2006, but was thereafter transferred to the neighboring U.S. Shariki Communication Site.

As for training relocation¹⁷, the aircraft of three U.S. military facilities – Kadena, Misawa (in Aomori Prefecture), and MCAS Iwakuni – are set to be relocated to the following ASDF facilities for the time being: Chitose (in Hokkaido), Misawa, Hyakuri (in Ibaraki Prefecture), Komatsu (in Ishikawa Prefecture), Tsuiki (in Fukuoka Prefecture), and Nyutabaru (in Miyazaki Prefecture) in order to conduct joint exercises with ASDF. Based on this, since March 2007, the U.S. Forces in Japan have conducted training relocation from their Air Bases to those ASDF Bases. The MOD has been conducting site surveys at the ASDF bases to improve their infrastructure, when required, – so that they can better host training relocation at the SDF facilities.

MOD's local Defense Bureaus have been making every effort to ensure that training relocation goes smoothly by collaborating with the ASDF to support the U.S. Forces and that local people feel safe during training periods by setting up an on-site local headquarters as liaison between government agencies and local residents.

Furthermore, based on the “2+2” Joint Statement in May 2010, at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee held in January 2011, both governments agreed to include Guam as a training relocation site and expand the scale of training. They continued to have discussions and agreed on details such as sites where training is conducted, at the Joint Committee in October 2011. According to the agreement, relocation training was conducted in areas including Guam for the first time and since then, U.S. aircraft have been conducting training there.

Furthermore, in addition to existing fighter combat training, the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee agreed to add air-to-ground firing/bombing training using the Misawa air-to-ground firing/bombing range as part of training relocation to be conducted at ASDF bases at Misawa or Chitose. This training contributes to enhancing interoperability between the SDF and the U.S. Forces, and also relocates some of the air-to-ground firing/bombing training previously conducted at the Torishima firing/bombing range, etc. with U.S. Forces aircraft flying to Kadena Air Base. Thus, this training relocation will help reduce noise around Kadena Air Base, thereby contributing to the mitigation of the impact on Okinawa.

5 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 “Act on Special Measures on Smooth Implementation of the Realignment of

¹⁷ USFJ aircraft conduct bilateral exercises at JASDF facilities in order to improve interoperability and reduce the impact of training activities on the areas surrounding USFJ air bases.

United States Forces in Japan (USFJ Realignment Special Measures Act)” was enacted in August 2007. Realignment grants, Special Subsidy Rates for Public Projects, etc. and other systems were established based on the law.

During a period of time before and after the implementation of realignment (10 years in principle), realignment grants¹⁸ will be awarded to help cover the expenses of projects¹⁹ which contribute to increasing the convenience of the lives of residents of local municipalities affected by the realignment²⁰, and to stimulate local industries. To this end, they will be awarded in accordance with progress made in the steps of U.S. Forces realignment, after the Defense Minister designates the specified defense facilities and neighboring municipalities affected by realignment. As of April 2014, 16 defense facilities in 41 municipalities are eligible to receive the grant.

In addition, under U.S. Forces realignment, some USFJ facilities and areas will be returned, and the 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.

¹⁸ Approximately 10 billion yen in the FY2014 budget

¹⁹ Under the Realignment Special Measures Act, 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.

²⁰ The scope of specific projects includes 14 projects identified by Article 2 of the enforcement ordinance of the Act on Special Measures on Smooth Implementation of the Realignment of United States Forces in Japan, including education, sports, and cultural projects.