The SDF routinely and continuously engages in surveillance activities in the waters and airspace surrounding Japan in peacetime to respond to various emergencies promptly and seamlessly.

The MSDF patrols the waters in peacetime, using P-3C patrol aircraft to monitor the vessels that sail through the waters. The ASDF uses radar sites, early warning aircraft, and other equipment to carry out warning and surveillance over Japan and its surrounding airspace. In major channels, GSDF coastal surveillance units, MSDF guard posts, among other units, conduct surveillance.

In 2013, there were eight incidents of activity by Chinese Navy vessels involving the passage through the southwestern region, and four incidents of such activity were also confirmed in waters south of Okinawa. Moreover, Chinese government vessels have intermittently intruded into territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands. In recent years, activities by Chinese Navy vessels and government vessels have expanded and intensified rapidly. In response to this situation, the MOD and SDF are working more closely with relevant ministries and agencies, including sharing information with the Japan Coast Guard.

If any aircraft suspected of violating Japan’s territorial airspace is detected, the ASDF scrambles fighters and other aircraft to verify the situation and take other responses.

In August 2013, a TU-95 bomber of the Russian Air Force intruded into Japanese airspace. In September of that year, an unmanned aircraft (presumed) of unknown nationality flew over the East China Sea. The ASDF scrambled fighters to respond to these incidents.

Even after China’s establishment of the “East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone” in November of the same year, the MOD and SDF have been implementing warning and surveillance activities as before and will continue to take rigorous airspace anti-intrusion measures.
Defense of Japan’s Offshore Islands

- In order to respond to attacks on offshore islands, the MOD deploys units, and detects signs at an early stage through activities conducted in peacetime including intelligence gathering and warning and surveillance activities. Through joint operations that integrate GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, units are swiftly deployed and concentrated to intercept and defeat enemy invasion. Should islands be captured without any signs detected in advance, the enemy will be brought under control by ground fire from aircraft and vessels. Tactical operations will then be implemented to recapture the islands by landing GSDF, etc.

- Initiatives are taken to strengthen the defense foundation from peacetime, including the establishment of a coast observation unit, area security units in the southwest region, and addition of a squadron to the fighter units at Naha Air Base.

- In order to intercept and defeat invasion, the SDF will newly introduce rapid deployment brigade possessing mobile combat vehicles transportable by the C-2 transport aircraft, and thereby strengthen its air operation capacity. Furthermore, in order to secure capabilities for swift and large-scale transportation and deployment of units, transport vessels will be improved and tilt-rotor aircraft will be introduced.

- In order to land, recapture and secure any remote islands that might be invaded, amphibious rapid deployment brigade (provisional name) with sufficient amphibious operational capabilities will be established.
Response to Ballistic Missile Attacks

- Japan’s ballistic missile defense (BMD) is an effective multi-tier defense system in which Aegis destroyers and Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) are both interconnected and coordinated by the Japan Aerospace Defense Ground Environment (JADGE).
- To strengthen this arrangement, improvements are being made to the BMD system, including by installing BMD capability to two “Atago”-class destroyers, increasing the capability of the Patriot system (improvement of its surface-to-air guided missile PATRIOT system so as to equip it with new advanced intercept missiles (PAC-3 MSE) [Missile Segment Enhancement] that can be used both for response to cruise missiles and for BMD), and increasing the number of Aegis BMD destroyers (increasing this number by two). By FY2015, all six air defense missile groups will be equipped with PAC-3.
- ASDF Kyogamisaki sub-base was designated as the deployment site for the 2nd TPY-2 radar in Japan, and necessary facilities and areas were furnished to the United States in December 2013.
- In both 2013 and 2014, North Korea repeatedly engaged in provocative acts, including the implication of missile launch towards Japan. The MOD and SDF continue to take all necessary measures.

Response to Cyber Attacks

- The SDF C4 (Command, Control, Communication & Computers) Systems Command is continuously monitoring SDF communications networks. Comprehensive measures are being taken, including introduction of intrusion prevention systems, development of defense systems, formulation of measures focused on developing human resources and technological infrastructure, enactment of regulations for responding to cyber attacks, and research on cutting-edge technology.
- In March 2014, a “Cyber Defense Group” was established under the SDF C4 Systems Command, in order to appropriately deal with the threat posed by cyber attacks which are growing increasingly sophisticated and complicated, and the system for countering cyber attacks was enhanced and strengthened.
- Japan established frameworks of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with relevant countries, including Japan’s ally the United States, and contributes proactively to the efforts of the entire international community.
Response to Various Disasters

When disasters such as natural disasters occur, the SDF works in collaboration with municipal governments, engaging in the search for and rescue of disaster victims or missing ships or aircraft, controlling floods, offering medical treatment, preventing epidemics, supplying water, and transporting personnel and relief supplies. Over 100,000 SDF personnel were dispatched at a peak time for relief operations for the large-scale earthquake and nuclear disaster experienced during the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011.

The SDF has put in place arrangements for an initial response to ensure that disaster relief operations are conducted promptly. This is called “FAST-Force.”

In October 2013, a total of 64,000 SDF personnel were dispatched to deal with a large-scale landslide which occurred in Izu Oshima as a result of the approaching Typhoon No. 26. In February 2014, a total of 12,000 SDF personnel were dispatched to help areas where households became isolated due to severe road damages caused by heavy snow.

For responses to large-scale earthquakes that are under consideration at the Central Disaster Management Council, the SDF established the “Plan for Countermeasures against Nankai Trough Earthquake” in December 2013.

Transport of Japanese Nationals Overseas, etc.

In the event of disasters, insurgency, and other emergencies overseas, the Minister of Defense is authorized to transport Japanese nationals and other persons from overseas upon request from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and subsequent consultations with the Foreign Minister.

A bill to revise the Self-Defense Forces Act was passed by the Diet in November 2013, containing matters such as the addition of vehicles as a means of transport, expansion of the scope of people the SDF may transport, and expansion of locations where the SDF may use weapons and the scope of people the SDF may protect. The revised Act entered into force on November 22.

Accordingly, it was decided that transport protection vehicles with superior performance against Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) would be introduced for ground transport.
Based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the Japan-U.S. security arrangements, together with Japan’s own efforts, constitute the cornerstone of Japan’s security.

The Japan-U.S. Alliance centered on bilateral security arrangements functions as public goods that contribute to the stability and prosperity not only of Japan but also of the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large.

As the security environment surrounding Japan becomes increasingly severe, and the United States, at the same time, maintains and strengthens its engagement and presence in the Asia-Pacific region, it has become more important than ever to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance for the security of Japan.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Barack Obama at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2014 in Tokyo (Cabinet Public Relations Office)

MSDF and U.S. Marine Corps commanders exchanging views during a joint exercise in the United States (Dawn Blitz 13)

GSDF personnel and U.S. Forces personnel conducting drill during Japan-U.S. bilateral exercise (Operation Rising Thunder 2013)

Aircraft of the ASDF and U.S. Air Force flying in formation during a Japan-U.S. -Australia trilateral exercise (Cope North Guam)
The realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, among other measures, are being undertaken in order to mitigate the impact on local communities, such as those in Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence capabilities of U.S. Forces. The measures pertaining to Okinawa include the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Camp Schwab, and the return of lands south of Kadena.

With regard to the Futenma Replacement Facility construction project, the Governor of Okinawa approved the application for the reclamation of public water body on December 27, 2013.

During the Okinawa Policy Council Meeting on December 17, 2013, the Governor of Okinawa presented requests, including cessation of the operation of MCAS Futenma within five years and its early return, the redeployment of about 12 MV-22 Osprey aircraft to bases outside 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.

With regard to Kanagawa Prefecture, agreement was reached at the meeting of the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee in April 2014 on the specific timing of the return of the Fukaya Communication Site and the Kami Seya Communication Station. In addition, the Joint Committee agreed to change the number of housing units to be constructed in the Ikego Housing Area to 171.

October 3, 2013, the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee held the “2+2” Meeting in Tokyo and reached an agreement as follows:

(1) Complete the review task of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation by the end of 2014;
(2) Further enhance and deepen bilateral security and defense cooperation, including in such areas as cyberspace and space, and strengthen regional cooperation, including trilateral cooperation with Australia and the ROK; and
(3) Regarding the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, renew strong commitment towards the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Camp Schwab, and take a variety of new measures while promptly and steadily implementing the previous agreements from the perspective of mitigating the impact on Okinawa.

The stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan is the core element of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and also demonstrates the deep commitment of the United States to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. 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 U.S. Forces in Japan.

One of these measures is Japan’s bearing of costs related to the stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan while reviewing Host Nation Support with careful consideration given to Japan’s difficult financial situation.

The realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, among other measures, are being undertaken in order to mitigate the impact on local communities, such as those in Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence capabilities of U.S. Forces. The measures pertaining to Okinawa include the relocation of MCAS Futenma, the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam, and the return of lands south of Kadena.

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Promoting Multilateral Security Cooperation and Dialogue in Areas Including the Asia-Pacific Region

- In order for Japan to become a “Proactive Contributor to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, the MOD and SDF pursue security cooperation and dialogues as well as conduct defense cooperation and exchanges in light of the characteristics of each country or region in a multi-layered manner, while effectively and efficiently making use of limited resources.

- Capacity building assistance is an initiative based on the concept of improving the capability of developing countries to deal with situations themselves, and thereby actively creating stability within the region and improving the global security environment. In order to reach this goal, the MOD and SDF provide continuous support such as human resource development and technical assistance in security and defense fields.

- Since FY2012, Japan has continuously implemented capacity building assistance projects in Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Promotion of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

- In order to improve the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as across the globe, and to ensure the security and prosperity of Japan, it is important for us to utilize the Japan-U.S. Alliance as an axis, while developing networks that combine bilateral and multilateral dialogue, exchanges and cooperation frameworks in a complementary and multilayered manner. Accordingly, the MOD and SDF are further promoting multilayered defense cooperation and exchanges based on the characteristics of each country and region.

Counter-piracy Operations

- Japan has conducted counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden since 2009. From December 2013, for the purpose of conducting more flexible and effective unit operations, the SDF surface force participates in the CTF 151 and carries out zone defense in addition to escort missions as before. The ASDF has also been participating in the CTF 151 since February 2014. Furthermore, in July 2014, Japan decided on a policy of dispatching CTF 151 commanders and CTF 151 HQ officers from the SDF.
Defense of Japan Digest

Chapter 3  Active Promotion of Security Cooperation

Efforts to Support International Peace Cooperation Activities

International Disaster Relief Operations in the Philippines
- Over November 8 to 9, 2013, a large-scale typhoon No. 30 hit central Philippines. Following a request from the government of the Philippines, on November 12 the Minister of Defense of Japan decided to conduct international disaster relief operations based on the consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- The MOD and SDF set up a local operation coordination center in the Philippines and organized the first ever Joint Task Force in international disaster relief operations. Disaster relief activities in the Philippines were conducted by a record 1,100 personnel.
- During the operations, a total of 2,624 people were treated; a total of 11,924 people were vaccinated; epidemic control operation was conducted in an area of approx. 95,600 m²; approx. 630 tons of supplies were transported by air; and a total of approx. 2,768 people affected by the typhoon were transported by aircraft.
(November 2013 – December 2013)

Emergency International Rescue Operations Concerning the Missing Malaysian Airplane
- During the operations, a total of six aircraft, including P-3C patrol aircraft and C-130H transport aircraft, and approximately 130 dispatched personnel conducted search activities for about 400 hours on a total of 46 times.
(March 2014 – April 2014)

Initiatives to Support U.N. Peacekeeping Operations
- United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)
  - Since the unrest in South Sudan at the end of 2013, the SDF engineering unit dispatched to South Sudan has been conducting activities that support displaced people, such as site preparation activities for the protected refugee camps.
  - At present, an engineering unit dispatched to South Sudan (the 6th engineering unit: approx. 400 personnel) and three UNMISS staff officers are conducting operations in the Republic of South Sudan.
  (November 2011 – Ongoing)

Initiatives for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- Japan plays an active role in international initiatives including conventions and management systems relating to frameworks for arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation in regard to weapons of mass destruction, in the form of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, i.e., missiles, and associated technologies and materials.