SPECIAL FEATURE

The Great East Japan Earthquake

The SDF’s Activities in the Great East Japan Earthquake

Minister of Defense Expresses His Appreciation for the Support Provided by Each Country

- First Japan–U.S. Security Consultative Committee (SCC) “2+2” Ministerial Meeting in Four Years
- Attendance at the Asia Security Summit by Defense Minister Kitazawa and Bilateral Talks Among the Respective Defense Ministers
- Activities of female SDF personnel in international peace cooperation activities in Timor-Leste
- Anti-piracy measures off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden
- Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron
- Entrance Ceremony for New Class-I and II Recruits for FY2011
- Introduction of New Equipment
In addition to setting up the Disaster Response Headquarters at the Ministry of Defense at 2:50 p.m., the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces collected information using aircraft, and the Minister of Defense ordered Large-scale Earthquake Disaster Dispatch at 6:00 p.m.; at 7:30 p.m., he ordered Nuclear Disaster Relief Dispatch. As such, once the disaster struck, approximately 8,400 personal and 190 aircraft were mobilized for activities such as the search and rescue of victims and missing persons. Even amid serious damage to SDF facilities at Camp Tagajyou and Matsushima Air Base, as well as the submerging of aircraft and vehicles, the initial response to the disaster involved, as far as possible, the speedy and large-scale deployment of personnel and equipment.

Activity posture of the Minister of Defense and Self-Defense Forces

In order to strengthen activity capability in the disaster areas in the dispatch of relief for the large-scale earthquake disaster, a joint task force comprising ground, maritime, and air units and commandeered by the Commanding General of the GSDF Northeastern Army was established, and deployed to conduct search and rescue activities for victims and missing persons. For the first time apart from training situations, ready reserve personnel and reserve personnel were called up based on the SDF Law. The full strength of the SDF was involved in the efforts, and following instructions issued by the Prime Minister, a maximum of 107,000 personnel were dispatched to carry out activities on March 26.
Rescue of victims and search for missing persons

A major tsunami occurred over a wide region as a result of this earthquake, leaving many villages isolated in the coastal areas and large numbers of persons missing. The SDF put in its utmost efforts to conduct search and rescue activities, putting the saving of lives as its highest priority.

Units dispatched for disaster relief worked together with the Japan Coast Guard, as well as the police and fire departments to rescue the large numbers of victims from collapsed houses and houses washed away by the tsunami. They also used helicopters at isolated villages and vessels on sea to conduct rescue activities, and succeeded in rescuing approximately 19,000 people — approximately 70% of about 27,000 people rescued.

As time passed since the day the earthquake struck, the SDF’s activities moved from the rescue of victims to the search for missing persons. The search for missing persons involved the careful removal of rubble from houses that have collapsed in the earthquake or which were washed away by the tsunami. Search activities were also conducted in flooded areas using boats, and SDF members searched for missing persons in areas where water levels were waist-deep. The SDF, along with the Japan Coast Guard, the police and fire departments, and the U.S. Forces, carried out intensive search activities a total of three times (over six days) at the coastal areas of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures.

Livelihood support — providing food, water, and bathing facilities

Support for the provision of water such as drinking water and water for use in daily life, as well as support for the provision of food, is vital to the sustenance of victims. In addition, bathing support is also considered to be of great importance to the mental and physical health of victims amidst circumstances that make it difficult to secure water and fuel. With these considerations in mind, the SDF has put in all its efforts to help as many victims as possible. To that end, it has set up a maximum of approximately 200 water supply locations, 100 food supply facilities, and 35 outdoor bathing facilities to meet the needs of victims living amidst severe conditions as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Water was supplied through water tank vehicles and water trailers. Water was provided regularly to shelters and disaster areas that have been cut off from their water supply sources. For shelters that are difficult to access due to narrow roads, or shelters that have difficulty moving water supplies due to the large number of senior residents, SDF members went the extra mile to provide support by fetching and distributing water directly to the people.

With regard to bathing support, in addition to setting up bath facilities using the SDF’s outdoor bathing sets, the SDF also opened up the bathing facilities at Matsushima Air Base and Hachinohe Air Base, as well as the bathrooms in destroyers and transport vessels. With the support of the U.S. Forces, shower sets were also made available. In order to ensure that as many victims as possible were able to use the facilities, bath days and hours were arranged, and attention was paid to details such as providing pick-up services for victims using SDF vehicles and landing craft air cushion (LCAC).
Medical support was centered on disaster areas that had been cut off from traffic networks and areas that had become isolated. Seven medical officers were dispatched by rescue helicopter to the elementary school grounds of Ishinomaki City, and the medical officers walked to three shelters and provided medical help to 49 people. For offshore islands such as Tashirojima and Ajishima, traveling clinics and medical supplies were transported by air to provide victims with medical care and keep them healthy.

Call-up for reserve personnel

In order to secure SDF personnel promptly and systematically during large-scale disasters and times of emergency, Japan has put in place an SDF reserve personnel system. Under the system, those who are registered as SDF reserve personnel receive training during times of normalcy, and carry out the same activities as regular SDF personnel when they are called up. Since the establishment of this system, approximately 2,200 ready reserve personnel and 500 reserve personnel have been called up to conduct search activities for missing persons, conduct medical relief activities and guard operations at military camps, clear roads and transport supplies, provide daily life support to victims, and provide translation support for the U.S. Forces in Japan that are carrying out support and cooperation activities.

Nuclear disaster relief dispatch

Furthermore, SDF vehicles and helicopters helped to evacuate patients from hospitals within 20km of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, and provided support for transporting residents and patients in Deliberate Evacuation Areas and Evacuation-Prepared Areas In Case of Emergency. They also provided decontamination assistance for residents who have been evacuated temporarily, and helped to drain water out of flooded areas.

With regard to the search for missing persons within a 30km-radius from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the SDF obtained information on radiation dosages in the search areas, managed radiation in an appropriate manner, and conducted searches for missing persons. Intensive searches were also conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Forces and the police. On the seas lying within the 30km-radius of Fukushima Daiichi, the SDF, along with MSDF vessels and helicopters, and Japan Coast Guard, conducted a total of two searches for missing persons.

In order to provide support for aerial monitoring carried out within 80km from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, implemented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, flight support was provided within a 10 to 40km radius using ASDF UH-60J helicopter.
Minister of Defense Expresses His Appreciation for the Support Provided by Each Country

Visit to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, and expressing appreciation for Operation Tomodachi

On April 4, Defense Minister Kitazawa, accompanied by Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff General Oriki, Chief of Staff of the MSDF Admiral Sugimoto, Director General of the Minister’s Secretariat Kanazawa, and other senior officials visited the nuclear-powered carrier USS Ronald Reagan and thanked Admiral Walsh, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, as well as other U.S. service members. The USS Ronald Reagan had carried out operations off the Tohoku coast from an early stage of the disaster, serving at the center of disaster relief activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake named “Operation Tomodachi.”

Defense Minister Kitazawa addressed the crew of the USS Ronald Reagan with a message of appreciation from Prime Minister Kan—“To all U.S. military members, on behalf of the people of Japan, I sincerely express my deep appreciation for the tremendous support provided by the U.S. military, the U.S. government and the American people at a time of unprecedented crisis in Japan. (...) the entire Japanese people are deeply moved and encouraged by the scenes of U.S. military members working hard to support the relief efforts. (...) Japan, with your continuous cooperation, is determined to launch full-scale efforts to overcome the challenges ahead of us.”

Representing the U.S. government, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos offered words of friendship—“(…) it is that fabric of friendship between our two countries - represented by each one of you here today - that brings our two countries together. Today, we stand together - Japan and the United States, side by side - on the deck of USS Ronald Reagan as friends who over the last three and a half weeks have worked together day and night to uplift this great country from the horrific devastation. (…) As you, our Japanese friends, continue to work to face the multitude of challenges your great nation faces now and will continue to face in the weeks, months and years ahead, please never, never forget that our country will be here for you whenever you need us, wherever you need us.”

In response, Defense Minister Kitazawa delivered the following remarks—“No time like the present have I felt so strongly that the United States, our ally, is a reliable partner, and have I felt so proud of our alliance with the United States. (...) Disaster can destroy human life and property, but it cannot destroy the human spirit. This is what Ambassador Roos said when he visited the disaster hit elementary school, Watanehoh, in Ishinomaki City. The Ambassador’s remark will be long remembered in the history of Japan–U.S. relations as a message that tied the hearts and souls of the survivors and their lost loved ones. In closing, I would like to say that the on going Japan–U.S. joint relief operation in tackling this unprecedented crisis that our country is now facing, will be long remembered in the memories of both the Japanese and American people. I am convinced that our joint efforts today will lead to further deepening of the Japan–U.S. Alliance.” Admiral Walsh then commented, “By any measure, the actions that the Japanese Self-Defense Force have taken, the work that they have done, has been heroic and earned the gratitude and the respect of colleagues from around the world.”

Thereafter, Defense Minister Kitazawa held an exchange of opinions with senior officials of the U.S. forces, together with the Commanding General of the Northeastern Army General Kimizuka, who is the joint commander of the mission, and other officials, and left the USS Ronald Reagan.

Courtesay call by Admiral Walsh, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet

Admiral Walsh came to Japan immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, at short notice as the commander of Operation Tomodachi, leading 18,000 U.S. service members in the search for missing people in the earthquake off the Sanriku coast and the transportation of food and other relief supplies to the disaster areas. On April 12, after handing over the command of the Operation to Lt. Gen. Field, Commander of the U.S. forces, Japan, Admiral Walsh visited the Ministry of Defense with Ambassador Roos before his return to duty.

Defense Minister Kitazawa conveyed Prime Minister Kan’s appreciation to Admiral Walsh, expressing the Prime Minister wishes to extend his gratitude for the outstanding leadership and heart warming support extended to Japan.

Admiral Walsh responded that the cooperation between the two countries had been wonderful, and highly commended the disaster relief activities carried out jointly by the SDF and the U.S. forces.
Meeting with Prime Minister Gillard of Australia (expressing appreciation for the Australian Army’s support toward relief efforts)

On April 22, Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard at a hotel in Tokyo. He expressed his gratitude to Australia for their support in relief efforts for the Great East Japan Earthquake, including the dispatch of C-17 transport aircraft and relief troops from the Australian Army. They also exchanged opinions on the Japan–Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers Meeting “2+2” scheduled for the later half of this year.

Chief of Staff of Joint Staff General Oriki, Director General Takamizawa of the Bureau of Defense Policy, and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Richardson were also present at the meeting. Defense Minister Kitazawa said that he was extremely encouraged by the help proffered by friendly nations, as demonstrated in Australia’s delivery of relief supplies to the disaster areas using C-17 transport aircraft and dispatch of relief troops. He also expressed his commitment toward appropriate handling of the crisis, as the unprecedented disasters of an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident (in particular, the latter) would leave an impact not only on Japan, but also on the world. Furthermore, he affirmed that Japan, the United States, and Australia share common values, and hopes that the three partner countries will keep up their strong cooperative ties going forward. As the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan and Australia was approved by the Cabinet on April 15, Defense Minister Kitazawa also stated that Japan would make further efforts in order to develop the domestic legal infrastructure required for the Agreement to take effect.

Prime Minister Gillard commended the SDF’s activities, citing the example of the floods that had hit Queensland last year. She said that she was glad that Australia was able to provide support for Japan’s disaster relief activities. She also commented that victims of a disaster feel relieved when they see uniformed personnel arriving to offer help and support, and that the victims of Japan’s disaster must have felt the same.

Prime Minister Gillard and her entourage visited Sanriku in Miyagi Prefecture where the Australian relief troops were engaged in relief activities, and gave words of encouragement to the victims.

First Japan–U.S. Security Consultative Committee (SCC) “2+2” Ministerial Meeting in Four Years

On June 21, Defense Minister Kitazawa and Foreign Minister Matsumoto, who were visiting Washington, D.C, United States, held the Japan–U.S. Security Consultative Committee (SCC) “2+2” Ministerial Meeting for the first time in four years with Secretary of Defense Gates and Secretary of State Clinton.

The two sides affirmed the fruits that the consultative process for deepening the Japan–U.S. Alliance—which has advanced as a result of the 50th anniversary of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty—has borne in the areas of security and defense. In view of the growing uncertainty of the security environment surrounding Japan and the region, the two sides reviewed and reaffirmed the common strategic objectives of the Japan–U.S. Alliance set out in 2005 and 2007, and established the following as its common strategic objectives, addressing to the military buildup of North Korea, China, Russia, and others in the region, cooperation between Japan, United States, and Korea, providing support to fragile states, counter-terrorism and disaster relief, nuclear safety, freedom of navigation, and space and cyberspace, etc.

The two sides also agreed to specify priority fields for the deepening and expanding of security and defense cooperation between Japan and the United States. These fields include cooperation on warning and surveillance, third-country transfer of SM3 Block IIA, extended deterrence, space, cyberspace trilateral and multilateral cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, environmental cooperation, enhancement of bilateral Japan–U.S. frameworks, study to address to the trend of the international joint development and production.

In addition to deciding that the two runways aligned in the Futenma Replacement Facility is to have a V-plan, and reviewing the previously targeted date of 2014 for the completion of relocation of the air station and relocation of III MEF personnel to Guam, the two sides also concurred on strengthening and steadily implementing the 2006 roadmap. In order to realize the early completion of the plan to avoid the indefinite use of the MCAS Futenma, as well as the promotion of impact reduction measures. Furthermore, in light of the joint response taken by the two countries toward the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear power plant accident, the two sides agreed to enhance the two countries’ abilities to respond to a wide variety of contingencies in the future.
Speech by Defense Minister at the IISS Asia Security Summit

On June 3 and 4, Defense Minister Kitazawa attended the IISS Asia Security Summit in Singapore and gave a speech entitled “New Military Doctrines and Capabilities in Asia.”

He commenced the speech by explaining the SDF’s response to the disaster caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and thanking each country for the support.

Next, he reaffirmed his commitment toward reconstruction, and to further fulfill his role in order to realize speedy and effective disaster relief operations, such as providing support for capacity building. At the same time, he offered three proposals -(1) Study on establishment of relief bases during large-scale disasters; (2) Study on active use of unmanned aerial vehicles and robots in nuclear accidents, as well as holding a meeting on the cooperation among defense authorities for contingencies, and (3) Dispatch of a SDF medical officer to IAEA in order to share the knowledge and experience gained through the nuclear accident with the international community.

Under the direction laid out in the new National Defense Program Guidelines formulated in December last year, and in consideration of the lessons gained through this disaster, Defense Minister Kitazawa indicated his intention to continue to study the structural reform of the SDF, and to make efforts to put it into practice.

Finally, he expressed his wish to promote multifaceted cooperation through deepening of the Japan–US Alliance and the promotion of networks for bilateral and multilateral security cooperation, and discuss various issues, including traditional security issues, creating regional multilateral dialogues free of taboo topics.

Japan–U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

In response, Secretary of Defense Gates expressed his condolences for the victims of the disaster, and stated that the U.S. continues to do all it can to support Japan. Furthermore, the two parties affirmed the importance of utilizing the lessons learnt from this experience in future joint activities, and the importance of such close bilateral cooperation to peace and stability with regard to the regional security.

Following that, Defense Minister Kitazawa stated that BMD systems including SM-3 Block II A are inherently defensive and cannot be substituted. He added that Japan’s active involvement in BMD systems conforms to its basic principle as a nation striving for peace. Minister Kitazawa also stated that he is studying opportunities to reach an understanding in the next Security Consultative Committee in a way that transfer of the SM-3 Block II A to third parties by the United States may be allowed in cases where the transfer supports the national security of Japan and/or contributes to international peace and stability; and when the third party has sufficient polices to prevent the further transfer of the SM-3 Block II A. Secretary Gates welcomed this announcement and observed that the criteria described by Minister Kitazawa should play an important role in the third party transfer process.

Minister Kitazawa explained Japan’s whole-of-government efforts to implement the May 2010 Security Consultative Committee (SCC) Joint Statement. Minister Kitazawa and Secretary Gates reaffirmed that they will continue to closely cooperate in order to announce, by the time of the next Security Consultative Committee meeting, a Futenma Replacement Facility runway configuration decision. They agreed that such an announcement is essential to making progress towards Futenma’s relocation and that the current relocation plan is the most operationally viable and politically sustainable way forward. Furthermore, Minister Kitazawa stated that what are essential are the earliest possible relocation of Futenma Air Station so as to avoid the permanent stationing of forces at the base. Minister Kitazawa and Secretary Gates confirmed that the relocation to the Futenma Replacement Facility would occur when the facility is fully operationally capable.
Japan–Indonesia Defense Ministerial Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Indonesia’s Minister of Defense Pur-nomo and exchanged opinions on topics such as Japan–Indonesia defense cooperation and the regional security situation.

During the talk, the two Ministers concurred on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in fields such as disaster relief and maritime security, and on deepening mutual defense cooperation.

Japan–Russia Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister (the former Minister of Defense) Ivanov, and exchanged opinions on topics such as Japan–Russia defense exchanges and cooperation. The two parties concurred on the great importance of enhancing mutual understanding and trust through various defense exchanges, and on realizing Defense Minister’s visit to Russia as soon as possible.

In light of the trends toward the enhancement of military capability by Russia in the northern territories, Defense Minister Kitazawa commented that Russia shoulders a great responsibility in ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan–Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Australia’s Minister for Defense Smith.

At the commencement of the meeting, Defense Minister Kitazawa expressed his appreciation for Australia’s generous support toward Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake, including the dispatch of C-17 aircraft, and gave explanations on the responses by the SDF and the situation of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Minister for Defense Smith expressed that the Japan-U.S.-Australia efforts undertaken in the aftermath of the disaster was a good example of the concrete forms of cooperation built up by the three countries thus far.

During the talk, the two Ministers agreed to work closely together toward the next Japan–Australia “2+2,” and to deepen discussions in the next “2+2” on topics such as visions for Japan–Australia security and defense cooperation in the future, Japan–Australia cooperation in disaster prevention and disaster relief, and strengthening cooperation between Japan, the United States, and Australia. The two parties concurred on accelerating negotiations in order to reach the signing of an agreement on information security at the next “2+2,” as agreed upon at the Japan–Australia Leaders Meeting held in April.

Japan–Korea Defense Ministerial Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Korean Minister of Defense Kim Kwan-Jin.

At the commencement of the talk, Defense Minister Kitazawa expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Korean Government and the people of Korea toward Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake, including the dispatch of C-130 aircraft, and provided explanations on the SDF’s activities and the roadmap for response to the nuclear disaster. In response, Minister of Defense Kim expressed that Korea has enjoyed close cooperative ties with Japan for several decades, and that it was natural for Korea to extend a helping hand to Japan.

During the talk, the two Ministers concurred on the importance of concluding the Japan–Korea ACSA and an information security agreement and beginning work as soon as possible, in view of the agreement reached in the Defense Ministerial talk in January this year. The agreements would form the basis for cooperation between the SDF and the Korean Army.

With regard to the North Korean situation, the two Ministers exchanged opinions and agreed to continue working closely together to deal with North Korean issues.

The two Ministers then concurred on realizing a visit by Minister of Defense Kim to Japan within this year, in order to further deepen defense cooperation between Japan and Korea.
Defense Minister Kitazawa met with General Liang Guanglie, China’s Minister for National Defense.

At the commencement of the meeting, Defense Minister Kitazawa expressed his appreciation for China’s support toward Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and Minister for National Defense Liang conveyed his condolences and hopes for early recovery and reconstruction.

During the meeting, the two Ministers shared the view that with calm dialogues between the defense authorities of the two countries, which are both neighbors and partners, promotion of Japan–China defense exchanges will serve as the foundation for a strategic relationship based on mutual interests, and contribute to the strengthening of trust and friendship relations, as well as to greater transparency in defense policies.

Furthermore, Defense Minister Kitazawa expressed his hopes for the realization of his visit to China soon, to which Minister Liang responded that he would always be welcome. The two Ministers also agreed to work toward the early realization of a visit to Japan by Ma Xiaotian, the deputy head of the General Staff Department, People’s Liberation Army.

Defense Minister Kitazawa also urged greater efforts of China’s to further enhance transparency in its defense policies and military capabilities, and to prevent the recurrence of close-proximity flights by People’s Liberation Army aircraft to MSDF vessels, such as which occurred recently.

The two Ministers then concurred on holding the third working-level conference at an early date toward the establishment of a marine communication mechanism between the defense authorities in order to prevent contingency situations at sea.

Japan–Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Minister for Defense Ng. During the talk, Minister for Defense Ng showed a keen interest in the lessons learned by Japan from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and both sides concurred on the importance of sharing such information among countries in the region, and to enhance disaster response capabilities of the region.

Japan–Vietnam Defense Ministerial Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa met with Minister of National Defense Thanh, and the two Ministers exchanged opinions on topics such as defense cooperation and exchange between the two countries, as well as the regional security situation including the situation pertaining to the South China Sea. Both sides concurred on the realization of a visit to Japan by Minister of National Defense Thanh within this year, and agreed to deepen bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

Activities of female SDF personnel in international peace cooperation activities in Timor-Leste

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF have currently dispatched Lieutenant Colonel Kurita and Captain Kawatani to the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) as military liaison officers. Lieutenant Colonel Kurita is the first SDF female personnel to be dispatched on an individual basis to a United Nations mission. In Timor-Leste, she visits border observation points and villages in her district of jurisdiction to gather information on the security situation and other information while making use of her unique perspectives as a woman.

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF recognized to be greatly significant to dispatch female personnel in terms of meeting the United Nations’ needs of utilizing the female perspectives in missions or promoting gender equality, and thus continue to actively dispatch female personnel to international peace cooperation activities.
Anti-piracy measures off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

Japanese facility for counter-piracy mission in Djibouti

On June 1, Japanese facility for counter-piracy was set up in the Republic of Djibouti in the east of Africa. The setting up of this facility would facilitate the stable operation of P3C patrol aircraft engaged in surveillance activities in the Gulf of Aden.

The new facility is situated north of the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, and comprises commanding headquarters, personnel quarters, hangars for the maintenance of P3C aircraft, sports gymsnasiums for personnel, and other facilities. An estimated total of 4.7 billion yen has been invested into the construction of the facility. Previously, the squadrons had shared the use of U.S. Forces air bases. However, on top of the fact that the runway for patrol aircraft had been far away, the lack of hangars for the maintenance of aircraft had meant that personnel sometimes had to work on the aircraft under daytime temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius. In contrast, the new facility is not only located close to the runway; it is also equipped with hangars for aircraft maintenance. In addition, living conditions have improved significantly for personnel—from receiving food supplies from the U.S. Forces previously, to having its own dining hall and medical office at the new base.

Overview of anti-piracy operations (March to June)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Escort operations conducted by surface units off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operational Activity from March to June 2011</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of escort operations: 34 (The 225th to the 258th escort operations) (The 184th to the 217th escort operations under Japan’s Anti-Piracy Measures Law)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of escorted vessels: 303 (Accumulated total of 1,858 since the commencement of escort operations based on the Anti-Piracy Measures Law)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P-3C patrol operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operational Activity from March to June</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of flights: 70 (Accumulated total of 488)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Flight hours: Approximately 570 (Accumulated total of approximately 3,790 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of commercial ships: 57 (Accumulated total of 424) (Out of the 57 ships, Japanese citizens were on board 2 ships)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Number of times information was provided to escort ships, foreign vessels, and civilian commercial ships: 36,370 (Accumulated total of approximately 4,450)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One example of the MSDF’s information provision activities was on April 12 when it received information that a commercial ship was under attack by an unidentified ship. A German naval P-3C had been monitoring the unidentified ship, however, due to engine trouble an MSDF P-3C that was conducting surveillance operations in the Gulf of Aden at the time took over for the German aircraft and continued to monitor the unidentified ship. DD Sazanami, an MSDF destroyer in the vicinity, dispatched one of its helicopters to confirm the situation. The helicopter detected the unidentified ship (seven passengers and large numbers of ladders and fuel tanks onboard) and visually confirmed that ladders had been disposed of in the sea. The unidentified ship turned around and distanced itself from the commercial ship, and the DD Sazanami helicopter turned over response to the Turkish Navy.

In addition, on June 15 a P-3C conducting surveillance flights discovered a suspicious looking skiff (one ladder, many polyethylene tanks, and no fishing equipment). The P-3C notified a nearby U.S. vessel. Upon reconfirmation, the P-3C discovered that the skiff had five people aboard and that the ladders were now missing. The P-3C continued to confirm the situation based on a request received from the U.S. vessel, which had now arrived at the scene, then turned over response to the U.S. vessel and resumed its warning and surveillance mission.
Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron

The FY2011 Training Squadron of the Maritime Self-Defense Force departed from Tokyo on May 24 for a five-month voyage to North, Central, and South America.

The Squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Umio Otsuka, comprised training vessels “Kashima” and “Asagiri,” as well as destroyer “Mineyuki.” A crew of about 730 personnel, including about 180 who have completed the Basic Officer’s Course, took up the challenge of the 55,000-kilometer voyage.

After it departed from Tokyo, the Squadron first visited Anchorage in the United States. It then dispersed and docked separately in Seattle and Vancouver, followed by San Francisco and San Diego. After meeting at sea again, the Squadron sailed through the Panama Canal and followed the Caribbean Sea route through Veracruz (Mexico), Tampa and Norfolk (United States), Halifax (Canada), Valparaiso (Chile), Callao (Peru), and Mansaniyo (Mexico), and docked at Pearl Harbor. The Squadron is scheduled to return to Harumi in Tokyo on 27 October.

Entrance Ceremony for New Class- I and II Recruits for FY2011

On 1 April, a combined entrance ceremony for 123 new Class- I and II recruits joining the Ministry in FY2011 was held at the Ministry of Defense. The ceremony was attended by Defense Minister Kitazawa, as well as senior officials including Parliamentary Senior Vice-Defense Minister Ogawa, Parliamentary Vice-Defense Ministers Matsumoto and Hirota, Administrative Vice-Defense Minister Nakae, and Director General of the Minister’s Secretariat Kanazawa.

The ceremony commenced with a moment of silence for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, followed by a speech from the Defense Minister providing advice and guidance to the new recruits. Thereafter, the recruits were presented with their letters of appointment and sworn-in.

In his speech to the new recruits, Defense Minister Kitazawa said, “As the Government works as one to deal with an earthquake of such unprecedented scale, the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces have gained a heightened awareness of their role as the last stronghold protecting the citizens. As such, your predecessors are working hard in the undertaking of various activities. For all of you who have become a part of the Ministry of Defense, I hope that you will carry out your duties with a sense of mission in order to meet the expectations of the citizens. This is the first year in which we take steps to realize the goals laid out in the new National Defense Program Guidelines, and you are the ones who will become the core of a group of outstanding personnel armed with great knowledge and insight. You have joined the Ministry at a time when the true value of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces is being questioned, and I hope that you will treasure what you are feeling now.”

After the recruits had received their letters of appointment, Rie Endo represented the new recruits in taking the oath. Following that, Administrative Vice-Defense Minister Nakae gave the new recruits a word of encouragement, saying, “You have all joined the Ministry just as the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces are working as one in response to this unprecedented situation. You will be able to learn much by closely observing your predecessors who battle against this national crisis.”

Circular Flying Object

The world’s first circular flying object, which garnered much attention at the Defense Technology Symposium 2010 held in Tokyo in November 2010 as well as at other events, was invented by Fumiyuki Sato at the Technical Research and Development Institute’s Advanced Defense Technology Center. He has also put much effort into conducting research and development on the flying object. The sphere, with a diameter of 42cm, is able to hover, fly horizontally, and make transitional flights. It is also able to fly at low altitudes in the city, forests, or indoors, and can move in an agile manner, including tumbling forward on the ground. The flying sphere is able to approach close to the target that it is observing and capture detailed images of the target through the small-sized camera that has been built into the sphere. As such, there are also high expectations for the active utility of the object in areas such as disaster relief and counter-terrorism activities.
Introduction of New Equipment

GSDF Training Helicopter TH-480B

On February 25, the TH-480B (manufactured by US company Enstrom Helicopter Corporation) that will serve as the training helicopter for the GSDF was delivered to the Ministry of Defense, and a delivery ceremony was held at the JAMCO Corporation’s maintenance facility in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture.

On February 27, the first unit was ferried to Camp Akeno by a three-person crew led by Major Hiromichi Irifune. The next day, on February 28, an event was held to commemorate the receipt of the helicopter by about 300 SDF personnel under Major General Yuichi Fukumori, Principal of the Aviation School and Commander of Camp Akeno.

30 units of the TH-480B, the next-generation training helicopter that holds up to four people, are scheduled to be introduced into Camp Kita-Utunomiya in the near future.

Helicopter Destroyer “Ise”

On March 16, the helicopter destroyer “Ise” projected in 2006 was delivered to MDSF and the MSDF flag ceremony was held at the IHI Marine United Yokohama Shipyard in Yokohama City.

“Ise” is the second destroyer of “Hyuga” class that is the largest class with 13,950 tons at standard. It has the flight deck with enough length to arrange 4 landing spots for helicopters of GSDF, ASDF, Japan Coast Guard, police, fire department etc. other than MSDF. Thus it is possible to respond rapidly and flexibly to disasters and emergencies.

At the ceremony, the MSDF Chief of Staff Sugimoto handed over the Self-Defense Fleet flag to the first Commanding Officer, Captain Ryoichi Hoshiyama, and the destroyer was commissioned. It was deployed to the 4th MSDF Escort Flotilla at Kure.

Next-generation transport aircraft XC-2 (second test aircraft)

Forty years have passed since the existing transport aircraft C-1 owned by the ASDF commenced operation. With a view to replacing this aircraft in order to enhance military transportation capability and participate actively in peacekeeping activities, a budget for has been set aside for the introduction of two next-generation transport aircraft XC-2 in the budget for this fiscal year. This aircraft is the largest transport aircraft ever developed by Japan, and has a transportation capacity of 30 tons—three times that of the C-1. It also has a flight range of 6,500km when fully loaded—approximately four times that of the C-1. It is scheduled to be deployed to Miho Air Base in future. For now, the Ministry of Defense’s Technical Research and Development Institute, in cooperation with the ASDF, is conducting test flights.

Visit the Japan Defense Focus website for photo and movie galleries that cannot be found in this pamphlet. Also, on the website you can download an original calender by filling out a short questionnaire.

Please visit our website at : http://www.mod.go.jp/e/jdf/