

Section 1 Basis of Defense Capability

1. Organization and People of the SDF

Organization of the SDF

The Defense Agency and the SDF consist of a number of organs in order to fulfill their mission of defending Japan. These organs include the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF), Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF), and Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF), as well as the National Defense Academy, National Defense Medical College, National Institute for Defense Studies, Technical Research and Development Institute (TRDI), Central Contract Office, and Defense Facilities Administration Agency.

The Minister of State for Defense is in charge of the SDF and is under the direction and supervision of the Prime Minister, supported by the Senior Vice Minister for Defense and two Parliamentary Secretaries for Defense. The Administrative Vice Minister of Defense supports the Minister of State for Defense in supervising administrative work and the Defense Counselors in setting up the basic policies, respectively. The Internal Bureau, the Ground Staff Office, Maritime Staff Office, Air Staff Office, and Joint Staff Council support the Minister of State for Defense. The Internal Bureau is responsible for basic policies relating to the work of the SDF. The Director-General of the Secretariat and Directors-General of Bureaus, as part of their own responsibilities, support the Director General of the Defense Agency regarding the Minister's instructions and approvals to the Chiefs of Staff and Joint Staff Council. The Ground Staff Office, Maritime Staff Office, and Air Staff Office are administrative centers for those respective services, with the Chief of Staff at each Staff Office acting as the top-ranking expert adviser to the Director General. The Joint Staff Council includes the Chairman of the Joint Staff Council and the Chiefs of Staff of the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, who support the Minister of State for Defense in matters pertaining to the the SDF, such as matters related to joint operations.

The Defense Agency and SDF are planning to have a new joint operation system by the end of FY 2005.

Defense Agency Transition to a Ministry

The 1997 final report by the Administrative Reform Council listed the Defense Agency's transition to a ministry as an issue to be discussed in the political arena. Since the report was published, active debates have taken place in the Diet. The Defense Ministry Establishment Bill was submitted by a group of lawmakers to the 151st ordinary session of the Diet in June 2001 and carried over to consecutive sessions since then. In October last year, at the 157th extraordinary session, the bill was scrapped concurrently with the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

In recent years, national defense and other functions of the SDF have had an increased importance in national administration. More specifically, the SDF has been called on more frequently to protect national

peace and security, and the international community has asked Japan to contribute more toward world peace in the uncertain international situation. Taking the increased importance of the duties and role of the SDF into account, the Defense Agency regards it important for Japan to establish a ministry as an administrative organ in charge of national defense. Most countries have a ‘ministry’ for national defense. In addition, the establishment of such a ministry would contribute to the enhancement of state functions for security and crisis management, and articulate both internationally and domestically, the Japanese government’s commitment to these functions.

SDF Personnel

The SDF personnel comprises uniformed Regular Personnel, uniformed Ready Reserve Personnel, uniformed Reserve Personnel, Candidates for Reserve Personnel, administrative officials, technical and engineering officials, instructors, and others.

(1) SDF Regular Personnel

SDF Regular Personnel enlist on their own free will on a volunteer basis and are initially appointed as a general Officer Candidate, student candidate for enlisted (upper), enlisted (upper) candidate, Private (GSDF), Seaman Apprentice for MSDF, Airman for ASDF, or SDF youth cadet.

Service with the SDF Regular Personnel differs significantly from the regular civil service as it involves an early retirement system and a short-term service system, which are intended to preserve the strength of the forces. With the early retirement system, retirement comes at a younger age compared to that for civilian public servants. Meanwhile, under the short-term service system, service may be completed in two or three years, and many in the Private, Seaman Apprentice, or Airman ranks are enlisted under this system.

It has been promoted to take measures such as carrying forward the networking of reemployment information of each SDF, and improving the abilities of job seekers through the enhancement of job training subjects as well as reemploying retiring uniformed personnel in the public sector.

(2) SDF Ready Reserve Personnel, SDF Reserve Personnel, and Candidates for SDF-Reserve Personnel

Many countries other than Japan have developed similar systems that promptly and appropriately secure human resources when preparing for national emergencies. In Japan, to effectively respond to various situations, and sufficiently react to changing situations, systems for SDF Reserve Personnel, etc. are established.

SDF Ready Reserve Personnel, SDF Reserve Personnel, and Candidates for SDF-Reserve Personnel normally go about their usual employment but are expected to attend training and education sessions in order to maintain their required level of skills. They are to take leave or vacations or adjust their job schedules every year to attend those sessions.

To make such a system work smoothly, it is essential to obtain the understanding and cooperation of companies employing SDF Ready Reserve Personnel, SDF Reserve Personnel, and Candidates for SDF-Reserve Personnel.

The Candidates for SDF-Reserve Personnel system was introduced in 2001. The system was designed to secure a stable force level of SDF reservists in the future and make good use of civilian expertise from the perspective of increasing opportunities for people's contact with the SDF and cultivating and expanding a foundation for national defense. Candidates for SDF-Reserve Personnel are divided into the two categories of general candidates (security personnel in a rear area, etc.) and technical candidates (medical personnel, language experts, computer experts, architects, vehicle maintenance personnel, etc.). They and training sessions for these candidates started in FY 2002. They are recruited from volunteer applicants who have no experience as uniformed SDF personnel, and after completing the necessary education and training of 50 days in three years for general candidates or 10 days in two years for technical candidates, they are appointed as SDF Reserve Personnel.

(3) Administrative, Technical and Engineering Officials, Instructors, and Other Civilian Personnel

The Defense Agency employs some 24,000 civilian officials, approximately 10% of the overall strength of uninformed personnel, and includes administrators, Technical and Engineering Officials, and Instructors.

Administrative officials undertake the planning and implementation of defense policies in the Internal Bureaus, and handle those management activities required for the effective operation of the SDF and the intelligence activities of the Defense Intelligence Headquarters. Administrative personnel also respond directly to public concerns related to the activities of the Defense Agency, including the provision of base countermeasures and logistic support (maintenance, repairs, etc.) throughout the country.

Technical and Engineering officials at the TRDI and other organizations carry out research, development and other projects in order to maintain and improve the qualitative level of the nation's defense capability. Instructors at the National Institute for Defense Studies conduct work on the management and operation of the SDF, and Instructors based at the National Defense Academy and the National Defense Medical College are responsible for training highly qualified personnel.

(4) Measures on Personnel Matters

The Defense Agency is implementing various personnel measures for the new era and is considering new measures.

Promotion of Measures to Support Policy for Upbringing the Next Generation

With the rapid declining of birth rate within Japan in the background, the Supporting Policy for Upbringing Next Generations Act has been established in July 2003 to promote formulation of a society where children who take on the future society can be born and be brought up in good health. In response to this, in November of 2004, the Defense Agency has also established the "Committee of the Defense Agency to Promote the Supporting of Upbringing Next Generations." In order to provide a working environment where personnel can raise children with joy by striking the balance between work and family, the "Action Plan of the Defense Agency as Specific Propeitor" has been created in March of 2005. Specifically, efforts have been made to promote acquisition of child-care leave and special leave by male personnel, and discussion on establishment of a day care center for children within the Agency is underway.

Efforts Concerning Mental Health and others

The Defense Agency has been carrying out various activities on mental health under the recognition that maintaining the mental health of SDF personnel is extremely important to have them perform the important task of defending the country with a firm sense of duty. As a pressing mental health related issue, activities concerning PTSD and CIS (Critical Incident Stress) are under study by the Defense Agency/SDF.

On the other hand, during the several past months, a series of cases breaking service disciplines including atrocious crimes have been committed by SDF personnel who have to have strict disciplines. Since these cases might result in significant loss of trust toward Defense Agency/SDF, Defense Agency has been conducting a comprehensive and intensive review on the issues related to personnel and education under the leadership of Senior vice Minister.

SDF Medical Officers (taken from column)

SDF medical officers working at SDF hospitals and bases/camps help make SDF robust through managing the health of SDF personnel as a routine mission with special techniques attained by training. In recent years, they have also been playing an important role in various SDF activities in Japan and overseas, including disaster relief efforts, international emergency assistance activities, activities conducted in keeping with the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq, and activities in the Indian Ocean based on the Anti-terrorism Special Measures Law.

While expectations of SDF activities are on the rise both at home and abroad and the importance of SDF medical officers has come to be widely recognized, the Defense Agency and the SDF are confronting the issue of “early retirement.” We have continuously seen many medical officers retire early before completing 9-year service commitment they accepted upon graduation from the National Defense Medical College. In FY2004, 78 medical officers left, of whom 32 took early retirement within their service commitment period. Even general practitioners who are not SDF medical officers are required to accumulate a broad range of case histories as medical science grows increasingly sophisticated and specialized and SDF medical officers are no exceptions. However they see only limited types and numbers of case histories because they are dealing with healthy SDF personnel in providing health management; this is supposed to be one major reason for the growing number of medical officers opting for early retirement.

To satisfy the motivation and passion of SDF medical officers to maintain and improve their skills as doctors and to gain more clinical experience, the Defense Agency and the SDF has established an internal “Committee on the Prevention of Early Retirement by SDF Medical Officers” headed by Director General of Health and Medical Affairs to study measures toward solutions.

2. Discussion on Organization of the Defense Agency

As referred to in the new National Defense Program Guidelines, the defense capability must be built-up based on the idea that a flexible and effective multi-functional defense capability is necessary toward the future. Discussion is underway to meet such circumstances, to improve the system to meet demands of a sufficient defense system, and to establish an ideal future support system for the Minister of

State of Defense who executes civilian control.

Since August of 2004, the following items have been under study:

- modality of functions/structures of the Agency's internal bureaus and other organizations;
- reorganization of acquisition system;
- modality of roles/functions/structures of facility administration;
- modality of functions/structures of regional organizations; and
- modality of roles/relationship between SDF uniformed personnel and un-uniformed officials.

An interim report was issued in December of 2004, and work is still underway to carry out necessary organizational reform in FY 2006, in principle.

3. Education of SDF Personnel

Education and training is the most important basis on which the SDF enhances its capability to perform its duties from the viewpoint of human resources. Working within a variety of constraints and giving close attention to the prevention of accidents and other safety concerns, the SDF is committed to educating its personnel, training its units to make them strong, and improving its readiness to deal with any situation.

(1) Present Status

Training highly proficient personnel is indispensable if units are to perform their duties successfully. SDF personnel receive the following education and training at SDF schools and training units.

- a. Basic Education Immediately after Joining the SDF
- b. Education throughout the Service
- c. Education to Cultivate the Qualifications, Knowledge, and Skills of Personnel
- d. Various Learning Opportunities

(2) Timely Efforts for Educational Programs

Taking into consideration the current situation, in which Japan has more opportunities to take part in international activities and have a more active relationship with other countries, the SDF has appropriately added language programs to learn English, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, and other languages to the existing curricula. To further the understanding of other countries, the SDF accepts students from other countries. Furthermore, as part of education and training program for the international peace cooperation assignments, the SDF dispatches its officers to Scandinavian countries, which have frequently joined U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO), or other relevant countries or areas.

Individual Staff Training and Unit Training

The purpose of training in the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF can be divided into that for individual SDF personnel, which improves the proficiency in their respective fields, and that for units, which builds up the systematic action of units.

Joint Training

In order to deploy defense capability in the most effective way in the event of an armed attack on Japan, the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF must conduct training in joint operations during peacetime. Therefore, the SDF has conducted and improved joint training involving the cooperation of more than two forces. Joint training is classified into function-specific training, operation-specific training, and joint exercises.

Among them, joint exercises are planned and conducted under the direction of the Joint Staff Council. Comprehensive disaster prevention exercises and Japan-U.S. combined joint exercises have been conducted. The Japan-U.S. combined joint exercises of FY 2005 (Command Post Exercise) is planned to be executed with its goal as preparation toward transition to the joint operation system at the end of FY 2005.

Safety Management

Because the SDF's main mission is to defend Japan, SDF training and activities are inevitably accompanied by risk. At the same time, accidents that cause injury or loss of property to the public or the loss of life of SDF personnel must be avoided at all costs. Continuous review and improvement are vital for safety control, and it is a crucial issue that must be dealt with by joint efforts of the Defense Agency/SDF.

4. Efforts to Strengthen Information and Communications Capability, etc.

Information and Communications in Defense Agency/SDF are the basis for control from the central; headquarters of GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF; to the low-end units. In other words, it is the nervous system of the Defense Agency/SDF.

The new National Defense Program Guidelines, drafted in December of 2004, places emphasis in regards to this point. Efforts to enhance information and communication capability, etc. connect directly to the capability of the SDF to execute duties.

(1) Response to the Information Technology Revolution

- Creation of an Advanced Network Environment
- Enhancing Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence Functions
- Assurance of Information Security

To protect the intelligence and communication infrastructure of the Defense Agency and the SDF that utilizes computers from cyber attacks, the Defense Agency carries out as follows:

- improvement in safety characteristics of the system itself (e.g. firewall);
- improvement in protection capability of the system (e.g. constant surveillance by the protection unit);
- improvement in rules to control and utilize the system;
- enhancement of the capability of the system administrator, user etc;
- sharing, etc. of security information with organs concerned; and
- investigation and research of technology to react toward the most recent cyber issues.

Along with the above, the Defense Agency actively contributes to the activities of the government including the sending off of personnel to the Cabinet Secretariat's National Information Security Center (NISC), and supporting of the Cryptography Research & Evaluation Committees (CRYPTREC) mandated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications; and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(2)Future Policy for Information and Communications (Action Plan)

Purposes

To respond to the new operational needs of the SDF, such as the promotion of joint operation and smooth execution of the international peace cooperation activities, it has become a task to prepare the wide-range and maneuverable information and capabilities system by active use of the information and communications infrastructure constructed based on the IT Outline.

For this reason, the Defense Agency has set five policy targets concerning information and communications. As a concrete project plan for the coming five years, the “Future Policy for Information and Communications (Action Plan)” has been included in the new Mid-Term Defense Program (MTDP).

Five Policy Targets

- Enhancement of Concentration/Communication of Information in the Chain of Command (Vertical Direction)
- Promotion of Sharing Information within Units (Horizontal Direction)
- Establishment of the Capability against Cyber Attacks
- Promotion of Information with External Organizations
- Enhancement of Various Telecommunication Infrastructures

5. Promotion of Comprehensive Acquisition Reforms

On enhancement and maintenance of defense capability, effective and efficient acquisition of equipment and material is vital.

(1) Promoting of Acquisition Measures

Promoting of Acquisition Policy through the Entire Life-cycle of Equipment

In equipment acquisition, the Integrated Project Team (IPT) was established. Equipment acquisition will be carried out by the so-called project management method, meaning that overall project information is concentrated to the Project Manager (PM), and management of various business are unified throughout the equipment’s life-cycle, while coordinated with the defense plan. The goal is to carry out necessary studies toward equipment acquisition under project management; carry out trial run of project management of some equipment by using IPT/PM; and establishing scope, method, authority, procedures, etc. for target equipment under project management by IPT/PM.

Additionally, to achieve unitary management of equipment acquisition work, and optimize the function performance, schedule and cost of the equipment throughout its life-cycle, examination on the equipment acquisition related organizations has been proceeded in the below listed direction.

- Establishment of a Procurement System to Achieve Maximum Performance Regarding Quality, Schedule, and Cost
- Establishment of a Supply System to Provide the Necessary Goods at the Necessary Time to the Units at a Low Cost

- Efforts toward Efficiency-Improvement of Procurement Service and Quality-Improvement of Equipment etc.
- Strengthening of Coordination in Acquisition and Supply with Various Nations through Global Dialogue

Improvement in Transparency and Fairness

Based on the acknowledgement that one effective means to assure the rightness of the acquisition is to improve the transparency of the acquisition deskwork, efforts are carried out to improve the transparency of private contracts, strengthen cost audit and system investigation, and enhance the consultation system for the procurement operation. Study is underway to strengthen the procurement audit operation.

Improvement in Personnel Qualification

To steadily develop each operation of the Comprehensive Reforms, it is necessary to improve the quality of individual personnel, limited in numbers. For this purpose, activities such as introduction of the computer training system to the Central Contract Office, bringing-up of specialists to promote project management of equipment, and securing human resources that have the know-how of company management and production control.

(2)Enhancement and Strengthening of Defense Production and Technological Bases

In order to “acquire high-quality equipment in a short term, at a low cost,” it becomes essential to maintain defense production and technological bases that are capable to design, manufacture, and maintain equipment. The maintaining of these bases are effective, even if equipment is procured from foreign nations, from the viewpoint of securing negotiating capability with the counterpart nation, and acquiring equipment at the best advantageous condition for our nation.

6. Enhancement of Technological Research and Development

The committee compiled the Guidelines for Defense Research and Development in June 2001 to propose the future direction of defense research and development as well as necessary organizational changes.

Moreover, to further evolve the content presented in the research and development guideline, the target for future research and development has been discussed in talks on the future policy for defense capability, and the Comprehensive Acquisition Reform Promotion Committee.

The talks has been in the direction of following:

- planning the technological strategy from the mid- and long-term view;
- introducing new R&D methods to flexibly respond to cutting edge technology etc;
- positive introduction of commercial technology with rapid development in science and technology; and
- assuring effectiveness of the system to revise the project.

7. Measures for Protection of Classified Information

In response to the compromise of classified information that occurred in September 2000, the Defense Agency studied recurrence prevention measures. This has led to necessary reviews concerning the system for protection of classified information and measures have been taken including:

- improvement of procedures for handling classified information with a view to preventing compromise by drawing a clear distinction and strict limitation on those who are permitted to handle classified information and improving methods to designate and classify information;
- giving strict directions to SDF personnel on procedures concerning contact with foreign parties, such as military attaches; and
- giving strict directions on discipline guidance.

In addition, an amendment to the Self-Defense Forces Law, which imposes more strict punishment to those violating the confidentiality obligation, was enforced in November 2002.

Section 2 SDF Activities that Benefit the People

1. Activities in Civic Life

SDF has been useful in helping stability of public national life through conducting activities including Disposing of Dangerous Objects, Activities in the Medical Field, Cooperation in Sporting Events, Education and Training Commissions, Transportation Support, Participation in State Ceremonies, Support for the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition

2. Activities of the Defense Agency/SDF

As the activities of the SDF grow extensive, the people's interest in national defense has been increasing and public awareness of the SDF has been changing. The activities of the SDF include humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq, cooperation and support activities in the Indian Ocean, international peace cooperation assignments at Golan Heights, international disaster relief activities commencing with the activities at the site of the South Asian Tsunami, and disaster relief missions to Nigata Chuetsu earthquake. In response to changing public awareness and needs, the Defense Agency and the SDF continue to work hard in their public relations activities so that the current state of SDF affairs is understood better.

- Mass Media Public Relations
 - Establishment of “Press Secretary” in the internal bureau from April 2005
 - The Defense Agency's Web site in particular attracts approximately 250,000 visitors every month
- Events and the Opening of SDF Facilities to the Public
 - SDF Marching Festival, Army, Fleet, Air Review
- Enlistment Experience Programs
 - Experiencing SDF activities, or hard training and “One Day SDF Tour for Women”
- Other Public Relations Activities by SDF Personnel
 - Participate in a number of events sponsored by the general public
 - Open sports fields, gymnasiums, and swimming pools in response to requests from the local

community.

- New Efforts

- Participation by SDF personnel to university lectures as panelists on security issues

- Local lecture meetings by participation from unit commanders

3. Information Disclosure to Promote Fair and Democratic Administration

In response to the enforcement of the Law for the Protection of Personal Data Held by Administrative Organs, the Defense Agency has prepared procedures to disclose, revise and cease the utilization of personal information, along with taking measures to secure the safety of personal information. Additionally, the Defense Agency opened eight personal information protection counters in total at Internal Bureau (Ichigaya) and seven prefectural liaison offices throughout the country to receive requests for disclosure, revision and cease of the utilization of personal information and implement disclosure. The Defense Facilities Administration Agency has a total of 12 information counters for disclosing possessed personal information, etc. that offer similar services at the Agency, Defense Facilities Administration Bureaus, and Defense Facilities Administration Branches.

Section 3 The Defense Agency, SDF, and Local Communities

1. Cooperation from Local governments

Cooperation for SDF Personnel Recruitment

The task of recruitment is carried out at SDF prefectural liaison offices with the help of prefectural and municipal governments, schools, private recruitment counselors, and other bodies. Cooperation by local governments and other organizations that have close ties with local communities and an in-depth knowledge of the region is deeply significant to this end.

The SDF, nevertheless, anticipates that recruitment will become much more difficult in the medium to long term, with the population of males between the ages of 18 and 26 eligible to become Private (GSDF), Seaman Apprentice (MSDF), or Airman 3rd Class (ASDF) in the Short-Term Service falling from a peak of about 9.0 million in 1994, and more students going on to higher education after high school.

The cooperation of local governments and other relevant organizations is indispensable to secure people of higher quality and maintain its strength and vitality for the SDF to fulfill various duties.

Support for Employment of the Retired SDF Personnel

Because the Defense Agency does not possess the right to independently introduce its own personnel to employment, the SDF Assistance Foundations conduct free employment introduction activities and other programs for retiring SDF personnel with the permission of the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. In addition, various local organizations help retiring SDF personnel find new jobs.

Support for and Cooperation in SDF Activities

SDF camps and bases are located in all prefectures of Japan and are close with the local community. Cooperation and support from the local community, starting with local governments and other relevant organizations, are essential for the management of camps and bases, education and training, and disaster relief operations.

2. Measures to Ensure Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Local Communities

Issues concerning Defense Facilities and Efforts toward a Solution

Defense facilities have a wide range of uses, such as maneuver areas, airfields, ports and harbors, and barracks. As of January 1, 2005, the land area covered by defense facilities accounted for approximately 1,398 km² or 0.37% of the nation's land. Of this, SDF facilities occupy about 1,081 km², about 42% of which is located in Hokkaido. According to categories by usage, maneuver areas account for roughly 75% of the total. On the other hand, facilities and areas to be exclusively used by the U.S. Forces, Japan (USFJ) take up about 312km² of land, of which approximately 37 km² is jointly used by the SDF under the Status of Forces Agreement.

Many defense facilities, such as airfields and maneuver areas, require extensive tracts of land, and some defense facilities compete with cities and industries in small plains owing to the geographical features of Japan. The Defense Agency is, therefore, working on the measures described below to achieve harmony between defense facilities and surrounding areas.

Consideration on Improvement of Living Environment around Airfields

The Defense Agency has held nine meetings in total of the Council for the Improvement of the Living Environment around Airfields, which consists of outside experts, to use as a material for consideration on what measures should be taken in the future. The council compiled a report in July 2002

Efforts toward New Measures

Along with measures to improve the living environment, including subsidies for sound-insulation projects on houses, the Defense Agency strives to improve new measures, based on a proposal from the council for measures compiled in the report above. Major measures are listed below:

- giving subsidies for the construction of a solar power generation system as a part of the sound-insulation projects (i.e. monitoring);
- promoting sound-insulation projects;
- giving support to develop communities, paying attention to the characteristics of the vicinity in which the defense facilities are located;
- renovating community facilities; and
- pro-actively utilizing/making good use of properties in the vicinity of airfields,

3. Environmental Conservation Efforts

Environmental Conservation Measures at SDF Facilities

While it maintains facilities, such as maneuver areas and barracks, all over the country and operates and maintains a lot of equipments such as aircraft, ships, and vehicles, the SDF is committed to the promotion of specific measures including those to conserve air and water quality, conduct recycling activities, and dispose of waste as well as those to improve environmental conservation facilities; conduct environmental surveys; and disseminate environmental conservation measures at SDF camps (bases) and maneuver areas; and environmental impact reduction.

Measures for Environmental Issues concerning USFJ Facilities and Areas

The Government of Japan is addressing environmental issues through the framework of the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee and other occasions so that adequate consideration can be given to public safety in Japan and the lives of its citizens.

4. Measures Concerning the USFJ Facilities and Areas

Ensuring the stable use of the USFJ facilities and areas is essential for the achievement of the objectives of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. In order to harmonize the stable use of these facilities and areas with demands of the surrounding local communities, the Government of Japan has been implementing measures for the Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project and the Acquisition of Landing Practice Site for Carrier-Based Aircraft.

As a result of the discussions, Japan and U.S. reached a common understanding regarding the basic idea on release of the six facilities in Yokohama city area (Kamiseya Communication Station, Fukaya Communication Site, Tomioka Storage Area, Negishi Dependent Housing Area, Koshiba POL Depot (Portion), and non-contiguous area of “Ikego Housing Area and Navy Annex”); and the construction of approximately 700 units of US family housing in the Yokohama city portion of Ikego Housing Area and Navy Annex. The Japan-U.S. Joint Committee agreed upon the result of this consultation in October 2004.

Section 4 USFJ Facilities and Areas in Okinawa

1. Measures to Cope with Realignment, Consolidation, and Reduction before the Establishment of SACO

The concentration of USFJ facilities and areas in Okinawa has led to strong calls for their realignment and reduction on the grounds that regional promotion and development projects are restricted, and the lives of residents are seriously affected.

In view of these circumstances, both countries have continued their efforts to realign, consolidate, and reduce USFJ facilities and areas, focusing on issues that are strongly voiced by local communities.

2. Measures to Resolve Issues Relating to USFJ Facilities and Areas since the

Establishment of SACO

Circumstances Surrounding the SACO Establishment

Public interest in issues concerning Okinawa heightened across the country 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 in accordance with the Special Land Lease Law.

The Government established the Okinawa Action Council between the central government and Okinawa Prefecture as well as SACO (Special Action Committee on Okinawa) between Japan and the United States in 1995.

Since then, intensive discussions were made for about one year, and the SACO Final Report was compiled in 1996.

Overview of the SACO Final Report

The SACO Final Report stipulates the return of land (the total return of six facilities including Futenma Air Station, and the partial return of five others, such as the Northern Training Area), the adjustment of training and operational procedures (the dispersal and implementation of Artillery Live-Fire Training over Highway 104 in maneuver areas on mainland Japan, etc.), the implementation of noise-reduction initiatives, and improvement in operational procedures under the Status of Forces Agreement.

Progress of the SACO Final Report

As a result of attempts to materialize the SACO Final Report, the release of the Aha Training Area and the northern part of Camp Kuwae (about 38 ha) has been realized. In addition, eight projects, including the return of Futenma Air Station, have been agreed upon with the understanding of related local municipalities, and the relocation work has partially started. In total, nine of eleven projects on the return of land have made steady progress. As for projects other than the return of land, almost all have been implemented.

Taking the governor's views into consideration, the Defense Agency is committed to continuing maximum efforts toward the realization of the SACO Final Report with the understanding and support of the local community.

The Return of Futenma Air Station

Making utmost efforts to prevent serious negative effects on the livelihoods of the local residents and the natural environment, the Consultative Body on Construction of Futenma Replacement Facility was established as a forum for the Government, Okinawa Prefecture, and the local municipalities in 2003 with the aim of promoting the smooth construction of the replacement facility.

The Defense Agency is steadily working on the implementation of the Basic Plan on the replacement facility. As for environment impact assessment, procedures regarding the scoping document for the environmental impact assessment started in April 2004. Moreover, technical site survey is being implemented from April 2003 to collect necessary data for studying seawall structures of the replacement facility, taking into account the ragged and steep sea-bottom terrain of the relocation site.

Efforts toward Use of Returned Land Used for USFJ Facilities and Areas

On release of the land used for USFJ Facilities and Areas, the Defense Agency has been taking measures to restore vacated land to its original state by removal of buildings and structures, and to supply benefits to the owner of land based on the Special Measures Law for USFJ Land Release.

Moreover, measures to restore the land to its original state by removal of contamination, etc. has been taken based on the “Policy toward tasks and countermeasures per each activity field related to promotion and facilitation of utilizing returned land used for Futenma Air Station site.” This policy has been decided by the Council for the Preparation for Use of Vacated Land consisting of Okinawa Prefecture and Minister of State for Okinawa in December 2001.

In addition, based on the Special Measures Law for Okinawa Development, which took effect in April 2002, the Defense Agency will supply benefits to the owner of large-scale vacated land and designated vacated land having been used for USFJ facilities and areas. In October 2003, “the vacated land north of Camp Kuwae” was designated as a designated released land.

The Defense Agency will be committed to make continued efforts to promote and facilitate utilization of the vacated land in cooperation with related government bodies, and prefectural and municipal governments.