

# TOPICS

## Japan's Defense— Events in the Past Year

### QWhat were the reasons for the effective implementation by Japan's GSDF of humanitarian and reconstruction support activities in Iraq?

The GSDF troops sent to Iraq for humanitarian and reconstruction support activities returned home after having fulfilled their duties, without experiencing a single human casualty. Behind the GSDF's support activities being conducted effectively were a good selection of an area where GSDF troops would be dispatched, collaboration with the ODA policy, formulation of response measures against hard working conditions in Iraq, promotion of human exchanges of the dispatched GSDF with local Iraqi people and establishment of friendly relations with organizations of foreign countries in charge of defense affairs.

At present, ASDF troops are still undertaking airlifting operations in Iraq and Kuwait, while MSDF troops continue their operations in the Indian Ocean.

International peace cooperation activities by the SDF, which started with the dispatch of MSDF minesweeping units to the Persian Gulf and participation in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, have become its primary mission.

We have entered an era in which Japan's peace and independence must be ensured, not only through domestic activities, but also through international peace cooperation activities undertaken in various parts of the world, such as those mentioned above.



### QTest firing of ballistic missiles by North Korea and Japan's response to the incident

In July last year, North Korea launched seven ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan. North Korea also announced in October last year that it had conducted a nuclear test.

How should Japan respond to the threat of ballistic missiles and nuclear arms? We think it necessary for Japan to make its own efforts to respond to such threats, including establishing a system aimed at protecting itself against ballistic missiles, and maintaining a "nuclear deterrent" through the further strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance, in addition to promoting "diplomatic efforts."

## Overseas Events

Partial revision of Special Measures Law on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq (two-year extension)

6

Japan-Australia "two-plus-two" security meeting of Defense and Foreign Ministers

Trilateral meeting of defense chiefs between Japan, U.S. and Australia

500 times of airlifting operations)

5

Joint exercises between Japan, U.S. and India

4

Defense policy dialogue between Japan and India

Personnel dispatch to U.N. Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)

3

Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation

2007

Meeting of Japan-ROK Defense Ministers

2

1

5th anniversary of MSDF's dispatch to Indian Ocean

12

700 times of refueling operations

11

2006

Partial revision of Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law (one-year extension)

10

North Korea's announcement of nuclear test

9

Withdrawal of GSDF from Iraq

8

Test firing of missiles by North Korea

7

## Domestic Events

6

Enactment of law for fiscal 2007 organizational changes of Defense Ministry

5

Enactment of special measures law to realign U.S. Forces in Japan

4

Deployment of PAC-3 at ASDF Iruma Base

3

Formulation of emergency response procedure

2007

2

Transition of Defense Agency to Defense Ministry

1

12

Start of partial operation of U.S. PAC-3 Missiles at Kadena Base

11

2006

10

Establishment of the Council for Examination of Drastic Reforms in the Personnel Field of the Defense Force

8

7

Fiscal 2006 organizational changes of Defense Agency

### QWhat is the significance of the transition of the Defense Agency to the Defense Ministry?

Following the transition to the Ministry, the Ministry of Defense earned the status of a governmental organization in charge of planning and formulating policies on national defense and security. Also, the transition enabled Japan to clarify its determination to tackle issues related to our national defense and the peace of the international community.

The Ministry of Defense, under the leadership of the Minister of Defense, a minister exclusively in charge of affairs on national defense, is committed to carrying out its duties of policy planning and responding to emergency situations, with responsibility, authority, and conviction.

