Section 2. Promotion of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

In the new National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG), making proactive efforts on its own initiative to help improve the international security environment is positioned as a major role of defense. Therefore, the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) proactively promote security dialogue and defense exchanges, including bilateral and multilateral training, while also taking part in international peace cooperation activities.

This section will describe the security dialogue and defense exchanges that the Ministry of Defense and the SDF currently engage in.

1. Significance of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

After the end of the Cold War, awareness has grown regarding the importance of preventing meaningless arms races, and contingencies and the escalation of such events through means such as increasing the transparency of military capabilities and defense policies, and enhancing mutual relationships of trust through dialogue and exchanges between defense officials and various joint exercises between military units.

Mutual cooperation and dependence between nations continues to grow within the international community, and it has become widely recognized that the international community must work together in responding to new threats and diverse contingencies.

In accordance with these changes in international circumstances, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF place emphasis on efforts including bilateral exchanges with related nations, multilateral security dialogue such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and multilateral joint exercises. In recent years, in particular, a change has been seen in the role of defense exchanges, and the defense exchanges tend to deepen in terms of quality and expand in terms of quantity with the aim of proactively promoting exchanges to improve the security environment.

Specifically, this includes: 1) in addition to confidence-building, the increasing significance of establishing and strengthening cooperative relations with the international community, 2) a global expansion of exchanges that extends beyond Japan’s neighboring countries, and 3) the increasing importance of promoting not only goodwill exchanges but also practical exchanges, and action-oriented exchanges in addition to dialogue.

For this reason, the Ministry of Defense formulated a “Basic Policy for Defense Exchanges” in April 2007 in order for the ministry to implement defense exchanges in a harmonized and strategic manner.

The “Basic Policy” emphasizes defense exchanges aimed at contributing directly to enhancing international cooperation in addition to promoting traditional defense exchanges. The “Basic Policy” also aims to build relations of trust and cooperation with other countries by effectively utilizing a variety of defense exchange measures not limited to bilateral dialogue and consultation. (See Fig. III-3-2-1)

2. Bilateral Defense Exchanges

Bilateral defense exchanges are those between defense officials from various countries and with the objective of promoting relations of trust and cooperation. Characteristically, these exchanges allow a tailor made response in light of particular relations with an individual nation, and it is possible that the bilateral relationships of trust and cooperation constructed via these exchanges can lay the foundation for effectively promoting other initiatives such as multilateral security dialogue.

1. Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Exchanges

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is an important country for Japan’s security from a geopolitical perspective. It is also a friend of Japan as both countries share the fundamental values of freedom and democracy. The ROK has formed an alliance with the United States and, just as Japan, does allow the U.S. to station its forces in the country from a security perspective. Therefore, it is extremely important for Japan and the ROK to proactively utilize
defense exchanges to promote mutual understanding and relations of trust, establish a basis for cooperation, and to effectively coordinate and cooperate in policy-making for the peace and stability of the entire East Asia region.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials
Almost every year since 1994 (excluding 2001, 2004 and 2006), the defense ministers of Japan and the ROK have made reciprocal visits and held discussions. In February 2007, then ROK Minister of National Defense Kim Jang-Soo visited Japan and exchanged views with then Japan’s Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma on matters such as the situation in Northeast Asia and their respective national defense policies. Also, at the 7th IISS Asia Security Summit (commonly referred to as the Shangri-La Dialogue), which was held in May 2008 by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) of the United Kingdom, ROK Minister of National Defense Lee Sang-Hee and former Japanese Minister of Defense Shigeru Ishiba held dialogue and exchanged views on Japan-ROK defense exchanges. Furthermore, views were openly exchanged on various occasions including in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>High-level exchange of defense officials</td>
<td>Improving and reinforcing mutual trust and cooperation relations through frank exchanges of views on regional situations and national defense policies that are of important concern to both countries, and subsequently spur exchanges of the countries</td>
<td>• Dialogue and mutual visits between Japan’s Defense Minister and defense ministers from other countries • Dialogue and mutual visits between Japan’s Senior Vice-Minister of Defense, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense, Vice-Minister of Defense, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF Chiefs, and their counterparts in foreign countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regular consultation between defense officials</td>
<td>Paving the basis for high-level dialogue and exchanges through continuous and direct exchanges of views between policy-makers of national defense of both countries, and contributing to improvement and enhancement of relations of mutual trust and cooperation between the countries</td>
<td>• Consultation between Director-General-level officials, Deputy Director-General-level officials, and their counterparts in foreign countries • Dialogue between Japan’s Joint Staff Office, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, and their counterparts in foreign countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exchange between units</td>
<td>Contributing to improvement and enhancement of relations of mutual trust and cooperation between the countries through joint defense exercises and events for exchanges</td>
<td>• Personnel exchanges • Mutual visits of MSDF Training Squadrons, aircraft, and joint exercises for search and rescue operations</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Exchange of students</td>
<td>Increasing understanding toward other country’s defense policy and the situation of its defense units, and building relations of mutual trust through promotion of personnel exchanges involving relatively long stays in other countries in addition to human exchanges for educational purposes, and establishing human networks between both countries</td>
<td>• Mutual acceptance of students • Dispatch of students to overseas military-related organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research exchanges</td>
<td>Deepening mutual understanding between researchers of both countries through frank opinion exchanges for the maintenance and promotion of defense exchanges</td>
<td>Research exchanges between Japan’s National Institute for Defense Studies and military-related research organizations in foreign countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-</td>
<td>Security dialogue</td>
<td>Deepening mutual understanding on recognition of situations and security perceptions among concerned countries and discussing multilateral issues efficiently and effectively</td>
<td>• ARF dialogue • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by the Defense Ministry • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by the Japanese Government • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by Japan’s private sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lateral</td>
<td>Joint exercises and seminars</td>
<td>Improving defense skills and contributing to improvement and enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation relations through joint exercises and seminars</td>
<td>• Personnel exchanges • Joint exercises, and seminars related to minesweeping and submarine rescue operations</td>
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March 2007 when Chief of Staff Saito visited the ROK to meet with then Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Kim Guan-Jin, in June 2007 when then ROK Chief of Naval Staff Song Yong-Moo visited Japan to meet with then MSDF Chief of Staff Eiji Yoshikawa, in January 2008 when then ROK Chief of Army Staff Park Honyoru visited Japan to meet with Japanese GSDF Chief of Staff Ryoichi Oriki, in April 2008 when ROK Chief of Air Force Staff Kim Ung-Ki visited Japan to meet with Japanese ASDF Chief of Staff Toshio Tamogami, and in April 2008 when ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Kim Tae-Young visited Japan to meet with Japanese Chief of Staff Saito.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials
In addition to holding military-to-military consultations (bilateral consultations at the Director-General/Councilor-level) every year since 1994, Japan and the ROK have held security dialogue since 1998 that has included diplomatic authorities from both countries.

In July 2007, Japan and the ROK held the 15th military-to-military consultation whereupon views were exchanged on Japan and the ROK’s defense policies and Japan-ROK defense exchanges. In addition, in December 2007, the first Japan-ROK military-to-military working group was held between Director-level officials.

Furthermore, in October 2007, Japan and the ROK held the seventh bilateral security dialogue where views were exchanged on matters including the security environment surrounding the two countries and their respective security policies.

Active dialogue has also been held between Japan’s Joint Staff and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff as well as between Japan’s GSDF, MSDF and the ASDF, and the ROK’s Army, Navy and Air Force respectively. In addition, Japan and the ROK have been promoting mutual exchange of students and research exchanges.

(3) Exchanges between Units
Japan’s GSDF and the ROK Army have held defense exchanges since 2001, including mutual visits by unit commanders of the GSDF’s Western Army and the ROK’s Second Army. In June 2007, the Commander of the ROK Second Army visited Japan, and in October 2007, the Commanding General of the Japanese GSDF Western Army visited the ROK.

Exchanges between Japan’s MSDF and the ROK Navy, including mutual visits by naval vessels, have been carried out since 1994. In September 2007, a MSDF training squadron visited the ROK, and in December 2007 an ROK Navy cruise training squadron visited Japan. Also, in June 2007, the two navies conducted their fifth search and rescue exercise.

Japan’s ASDF and the ROK Air Force have continued exchanges through mutual visits by aircraft since 2000. In June 2007, the commander of the Japanese ASDF Western Air Defense Force visited the ROK, and in May 2008 the ROK Southern Air Force Combat Commander visited Japan. In regards to military band exchanges, the ROK Air Force Band participated in the November 2007 JSDF Marching Festival.
2. Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges

Russia has a great influence on the security of Europe, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region and is a neighboring country of Japan. It is therefore extremely important for Japan to deepen defense exchanges with this country and promote relations of trust and cooperation.

With Japan-Russia relations continuing to develop in wider areas following the 1997 summit in Krasnoyarsk, the Ministry of Defense has been steadily promoting defense exchanges with Russia at various levels in accordance with the memorandum on Japan-Russia defense exchanges signed in 1999.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

High-level exchanges have advanced between Japan and Russia since 1996, when then Minister of State for Defense Hideo Usui visited Russia, becoming the first Japanese defense chief to visit the country since the Soviet era.

When then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushiro Nukaga visited Russia in January 2006, Japan and Russia revised the 1999 memorandum on defense exchanges between the two countries. Then Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov told that the Japan-Russia Action Plan was a strong foundation for deepening cooperation between their respective defense officials. Minister Ivanov also said defense exchanges had significantly deepened between the MSDF and Russia’s Navy but added that he also wanted to promote exchanges between the GSDF and Russia’s Ground Force and the ASDF and Russia’s Air Force. Minister Nukaga and Minister Ivanov shared the view that observers would be mutually dispatched to exercises conducted by the GSDF and Russia’s Ground Force. They also shared the view that representatives and aircraft of the ASDF and Russia’s Air Force would make mutual visits. Furthermore, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Force Aleksei Maslov visited Japan in March 2008 and exchanged views with Japanese GSDF Chief of Staff Oriki, and in April 2008, Chief of Joint Staff Saito visited Russia to exchange views with then Chief of General Staff Yuri Baluyevsky.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

The Ministry of Defense has continued to hold discussion with Russia, such as Japan-Russia Bilateral Working Group meetings and annual meetings based on the Japan-Russia Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents on and over the High Seas, to discuss how to promote overall defense exchanges in addition to holding regular discussion between Director-General-level and Councilor-level defense officials.

The GSDF and ASDF have actively held dialogue with their respective Russian counterparts, the Russian Ground and Air Forces, including Staff Talks between Japan’s Joint Staff and the General Staff Office of the Russian Armed Forces. In addition, Japan-Russia defense research exchanges and other activities are continually held between the National Institute for Defense Studies and a research institute affiliated with the Russian Defense Ministry.

(3) Exchanges between Units

The GSDF and the Russian Ground Force have promoted mutual exchanges since 2003, including a mutual visit between the Russian Commander of Far Eastern Military District and the Commanding General of the
GSDF’s Northern Army. In October 2006, the Commanding General of the GSDF’s Northern Army visited the Far Eastern Military District of Russia.

The MSDF and the Russian Navy have conducted mutual visits by vessels every year since the MSDF’s first port visit to Vladivostok in 1996. Both have also conducted bilateral joint search and rescue exercises since 1998. In August 2007, the MSDF and the Russian Navy conducted their ninth joint search and rescue exercise when an MSDF vessel was in port at Vladivostok Port.

In December 2007, the Commander of the 11th Air Force and Air Defense Army visited Japan and exchanged views with the commander of the ASDF Northern Air Defense Force conducting the first inter-unit exchange between the ASDF and the Russian Air Force.

3. Japan-China Defense Exchanges

China has great influence on the Asia-Pacific region and its outstanding economic development and the modernization of its military capabilities in recent years have drawn much attention from other countries around the world. Deepening mutual understanding on the defense front and promoting relations of trust with China is not only beneficial for the security of the two countries, but also for ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In December 2007, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda paid an official visit to China where the two sides shared the view on positioning the “promotion of exchanges and mutual trust” as one of the three pillars as a materialization of the “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests.” The two sides also shared the view on enhancing exchanges in the security sector, specifically including dispatching an MSDF vessel and reciprocal visits by company-officer-level officers of the SDF and People’s Liberation Army.

In addition, upon the May 2008 visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao, agreement was made on matters such as enhancing high-level exchanges between officials including defense ministers, visit by an MSDF vessel to China, and promptly establishing a communication mechanism between defense officials. In the Joint Statement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Comprehensive Promotion of a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests,” it was also noted that reciprocal visits by high-level officials in the security sector would be enhanced and that various dialogues and exchanges would be promoted, thereby further strengthening mutual understanding and trust.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In September 2003, former Minister of Defense Shigeru Ishiba visited China and met with then Chinese Minister of National Defense Cao Gangchuan. At their meeting, Minister Ishiba and Minister Cao shared the recognition that Japan and China would proactively promote defense exchanges, including those at the working-level defense officials.

In August 2007, then Chinese Minister of National Defense Cao Gangchuan visited Japan and held a discussion with then Minister of Defense Masahiko Koumura regarding the international and regional situation, defense policy of Japan and China, and Japan-China defense exchanges. During their meeting they shared the view on the importance of further developing Japan-China defense exchanges, including promoting high-level exchanges between officials such as defense ministers and chiefs of staff, reciprocal port
There is a saying in the Chinese classic “Zhuangzi” that states, “Friends agree best at a distance (Exchanges between wise men remain silent like water.)” In other words, the relationship between admirable people is an exchange that flows quietly like water; it never grows tired, so it continues for a long time. I think this precept is something that defense exchanges should aim for.

I am in charge of external policy at the Defense Section, Defense Division, Maritime Staff Office, and every day I think of how the Maritime Self-Defense Force can best contribute to defense exchanges for Japan. My work is highly rewarding, considering the breadth of naval exchanges with countries spanning the entire globe.

Part of the job involves coordinating staff conferences with the navy of each country, but I feel that defense exchanges have transformed from an age of simply engaging in “dialogue,” to an age where substance is demanded, accompanied by action and cooperation.

For instance, what role should the Maritime Self-Defense Force fulfill regarding Japan-China defense exchanges? The maritime defense capability of one country involves the internationality of naval vessels visiting foreign countries, which since ancient times, accorded significance as a means of foreign diplomacy. When you consider that Japan and China have used ships to cross the sea from ancient times, it is easy to see how their relationship built by the Maritime Self-Defense Force can serve to deepen Japan-China defense exchanges.

Developments in Japan-China defense exchanges since FY 2007 have been remarkable. The Maritime Self-Defense Force sent Japan’s first exchange student to the officer training course at the Chinese People’s Liberation Army National Defense University from September 2007, and from the end of November last year to the beginning of December, the Chinese destroyer Shenzhen visited Japan for the first time, a particularly noteworthy event that I feel merits attention. In particular, the visit to Japan of the Shenzhen provided a valuable opportunity to exchange views with China’s naval personnel.

Furthermore, agreement was reached on Maritime Self-Defense Force ships visiting China, and promoting high-level exchanges between Japan’s Maritime Chief of Staff and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Naval Commanders. Compared to diplomatic relations between both countries, it can be said that Japan-China defense exchanges are in an early stage, but at the same time, I am conscious that the relationship holds a future full of expectations that it will only deepen going forward. Accordingly, in order to establish a relationship with China like in the teaching mentioned at the start, I want to incorporate “Think Globally, Act Locally” as my personal motto in future defense exchanges with China.
calls by naval vessels, and expanding exchanges in various military branches and sectors. Thereupon, Japan released the Japan-China Defense Authorities Joint Press Release between Japan-China Defense Authorities the first joint document released between Japanese and Chinese defense authorities. In addition, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Saito visited China in February 2008 and held dialogue with Chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army Chen Bingde. Vice-Defense Minister Kohei Masuda visited China in March 2008 and held a discussion with Deputy Chief of General Staff Ma Xiaotian and made proposals regarding the intention of the increase of China’s military spending. He also paid a courtesy call to Minister of National Defense Liang Guanglie where they shared the view that visits by high-level officials would be continued in the future as well.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials
In July 2006, Japan and China held bilateral security dialogue between diplomatic and defense officials from both nations. The two countries have also promoted research and educational exchanges, mainly by accepting Chinese defense officials in regular courses at Japan’s National Institute for Defense Studies and sending Japanese students to the PLA National Defense University, in addition to continued mutual visits by defense officials from Japan’s National Institute for Defense Studies, the JSDF Joint Staff College, and China’s PLA National Defense University.

(3) Exchanges between Units
In a meeting between then Minister of National Defense Cao Gangchuan and then Minister of Defense Masahiko Koumura, the two ministers shared the view on conducting reciprocal port calls by naval vessels in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations, and thus from November to December 2007 the Chinese destroyer Shenzhen of South China Sea Fleet ported in Tokyo for the first time. Following this visit, and based on agreement between Japanese and Chinese leaders, an MSDF destroyer Sazanami visited Zhanjiang in China’s Guandong Province as an MSDF vessel for the first time in June 2008. Furthermore, exchanges are also being promoted, including GSDF personnel being dispatched for the first time as observers in September 2007 to Chinese military exercise “Warrior 2007” upon invitation from China and visit to Japan by the delegation of leaders of the Chinese PLA Air Force.

4. Japan-Australia Defense Exchanges
Australia is an important partner for Japan in the Asia-Pacific region that shares the fundamental values of respect for freedom and human rights, and democracy. Regarding security, both Australia and Japan are allies of the United States and thus share the strategic interest, and there are many interests in common in the area of defense. From this perspective, it is important for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region to promote defense exchanges with Australia to establish a foundation for a cooperative relationship, and to promote collaboration and cooperation more effectively. Moreover, cooperation between Japan and Australia in the trilateral framework with the United States and in the multilateral frameworks is important.

In recent years, in particular, defense exchanges between Japan and Australia have deepened and expanded and bilateral cooperation in the field of security has been advancing steadily, including cooperation in Iraq and humanitarian support for disasters.

Based on these circumstances, then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and then Australian counterpart John Howard released the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation on March 13, 2007 in order for the two countries to further strengthen bilateral security cooperation under a comprehensive framework.

Based on this joint declaration, then Japanese Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma and then Australian counterpart Brendan Nelson held talks in Tokyo in June 2007. During Nelson’s stay in Tokyo, Japan and Australia also held Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations (“two-plus-two”) for the first time. During the
Kyuma-Nelson meeting, Japan and Australia highly evaluated the advancement of defense exchanges between the two countries and their continued cooperation in international peace cooperation activities since Japan’s participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia. During their meeting, both ministers also decided to expand bilateral defense exchanges including promoting unit exchanges through mutual visits of aircraft and ships and enhancing personnel exchanges and to contribute via bilateral cooperation to trilateral cooperation among Japan, the United States and Australia, and to multilateral cooperation. They also decided to begin work on updating the Memorandum on Defense Exchanges, which was agreed between two Defense Ministers in 2003, as the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation action plan in the field of defense. During their “two-plus-two” meeting, the Defense and Foreign Ministers of Japan and Australia evaluated and welcomed the decision between Kyuma and Nelson, and released a Joint Statement to that effect. Furthermore, in September 2007, an action plan to implement the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation was drawn up that, with regard to the field of defense, included such matters as a direction for updating the Memorandum on Defense Exchanges.

In light of these developments, Japan and Australia are currently holding discussion in order to expand their defense exchanges.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

Then Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill visited Japan in September 2003 and met with then Japanese Minister of Defense Shigeru Ishiba. During their meeting, Hill and Ishiba signed the Memorandum on Defense Exchanges between Japan and Australia.

In March 2007, then Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma met with then Australian Prime Minister John Howard during his visit to Japan and they confirmed the need for the two countries to advance bilateral defense exchanges in the future. In addition, in June 2007, then Defense Minister Kyuma met with then Australian Defense Minister Brendan Nelson during his visit to Japan to conduct the Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting. Furthermore, in May 2008 at the 7th IISS Asia Security Summit, former Defense Minister Ishiba met with Australian Defense Minister Joel Fitzgibbon and the two concurred on continuing and developing cooperation in the field of security.

In April 2008, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy Russ Shalders visited Japan and exchanged views with MSDF Chief of Staff Akaboshi, and ASDF Chief of Staff Toshio Tamogami exchanged views with Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force Geoff Shepherd on his visit to Australia in May 2008.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and Australia have held military-to-military consultations at the Director-General-level and Councilor-level as well as security dialogue including diplomatic officials almost every year since 1996. The Joint Staff, the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective counterparts in the Australian Defence Force on a regular basis. Both countries also exchange students of their defense-related educational institutions and hold research exchanges.

(3) Exchanges between Units

GSDF units dispatched to international peace cooperation activities in areas such as East Timor and Iraq conducted exchanges with units of the Australian Army there. Also, the MSDF and the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force conduct mutual goodwill visits by ships and aircraft. In October 2007, the ASDF dispatched a multi-purpose assistance aircraft (U-4) to Australia for the first time. (See Column)
Voice of a Participant in Defense Exchanges with the Royal Australian Air Force, Transportation Unit

Then Colonel Yasuji Kitamura
402 Squadron Commander
2nd Tactical Airlift Group, ASDF

Last year, the ASDF conducted its first overseas flight with the objective of enhancing defense exchanges and unit visits – a flight between Japan and Australia by air carrier. In previous overseas flights, the C-130H transport aircraft was mainly used and unit exchanges were limited to an additional part of mission flight, but this time, a U-4 multi-purpose assistance aircraft was used for the first time, and a goodwill visit was made for the main purpose of defense exchanges at the airlift unit level between Japan and Australia.

Australia is pro-Japanese, and in an alliance relationship with the United States like Japan, but the environment was not conducive for concrete defense exchanges between the two air forces. However, last year, a high-level agreement between the Foreign and Defense Ministers of Japan and Australia included promotion of unit exchanges and was considered to be the first step toward concrete exchange.

Through our visit to the Royal Australian Air Force Headquarters and their Air Lift Group, we could achieve mutual understanding at the unit level. In particular, in our mutual field as units operating transport aircraft, we developed awareness of our similarities and differences with regard to operations, and it was a good opportunity to exchange opinions about future challenges.

My impression of the Royal Australian Air Force is as follows:

- They have the spirit to incorporate positive aspects of other military forces and develop them into their own unique style.
- While cheerful, delightful and friendly toward SDF personnel, there are many military personnel with pride as military personnel and love for their country.
- Their equipment is modern and they introduce state-of-the-art systems.

In this unit exchange, an extensive variety of local exchange events were prepared, and we discussed the future bilateral cooperation and learned about protocols to conduct a reception through planning the ASDF-hosted reception. I think that such defense exchanges that are not limited to unit operations became a large building block for the future international activities.

(4) Cooperation among Japan, the United States and Australia

In June 2007, upon attending the 6th IISS Asia Security Summit, then Minister of Defense Kyuma held the first Japan-U.S.-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and then Australian
Minister of Defense Brendan Nelson. In addition, in April 2008, and continuing on talks conducted in April 2007, Director-General-level meetings were conducted among Japan, the United States and Australia where discussion was held on matters including trilateral defense cooperation.

Further, in May 2007 and February 2008, defense officials from Japan, the United States and Australia participated in holding the Pacific Global Air Mobility Seminar. At the seminar views were exchanged on future trilateral air mobility cooperation. In the February 2008 seminar, the loading exercise of a GSDF CH-47J onto a U.S. Air Force’s C-17 was conducted. Moreover, in October 2007, trilateral exercise using MSDF patrol aircraft (P-3C) was conducted for the first time among the MSDF, U.S. Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force.

5. Japan-U.K. Defense Exchanges

Being a major power that influences the European region as well as the rest of the world, the U.K. has maintained close relations with Japan. On the security front, Japan has shared the same strategic interests with the U.K., as both countries are important allies of the United States. Given this relationship, it is important for both Japan and the U.K. to promote defense exchanges, build a basis of cooperation, and promote more effective cooperation and coordination.

In January 2004, former Japanese Minister of Defense Shigeru Ishiba and then U.K. Secretary of State for Defense Geoff Hoon signed a memorandum on bilateral defense cooperation in order to develop bilateral defense exchanges in various sectors, thereby confirming the two countries’ resolve to promote defense exchanges at all levels and in various fields.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In January 2006, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushiro Nukaga visited the U.K. and met with then U.K. Secretary of State for Defense John Reid. During their meeting, Minister Nukaga and Secretary Reid confirmed that high-level and working-level defense exchanges advanced between Japan and the U.K. They also discussed the progress on development of Iraqi Security Forces and the process of transferring security authorities to Iraq.

Furthermore, at the 7th IISS Asia Security Conference in May this year, U.K. Secretary of State for Defense Des Browne met with former Minister of Defense Ishiba. During their meeting, Minister Ishiba expressed gratitude to Secretary Browne for the cooperation being extended by U.K. forces to SDF troops operating in Iraq. They also shared the view on the importance of replenishment activities in the Indian Ocean.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and the U.K. frequently hold dialogue between Director-General-level and Councilor-level officials. In June 2007, Japan and the U.K. held DG-level meetings of Foreign Affairs and Defense authorities as well as between defense authorities, and exchanged views on matters such as defense policy and Iraqi issues. Moreover, the chiefs of Japan’s Joint Staff, the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective U.K. Ministry of Defence counterparts. Both countries also exchange students of their educational institutions and promote research exchanges.
(3) Exchanges between Units
After the deployment of U.K. Forces in Muthanna Province in Iraq, the GSDF troops which had been deployed since January 2006 in the same area, held active exchanges with the U.K. forces in Samawah, Iraq.

6. Japan-India Defense Exchanges
India has traditionally maintained friendly relations with Japan, and shares the same recognition on democracy, and a free and market-oriented economy.

Moreover, India has a vast territory with a population that exceeds one billion, and possesses great influence on the security in the South Asian region. This region is important for the safety of sea lanes that connect Japan to the Middle East as well as activities that Japan conducts in the Indian Ocean and other areas. Against this background, it is meaningful for Japan and India to hold consultations to exchange views over matters including defense policy and the regional situation, to deepen mutual understanding, and to promote relations of mutual trust and cooperation.

In December 2006, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Japan and signed a joint statement between Japan and India after meeting with then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the joint statement, the two countries shared the view on upgrading Japan-India relations to “Strategic and Global Partnership” and specified measures to be taken in the political and security sectors toward building such a partnership. In addition, in August 2007, then Prime Minister Abe visited India where he and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed the Joint Statement on the Roadmap for New Dimensions to the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India, and thereupon agreed to study the future course of cooperation in the security field between the two countries and also enhance defense exchanges.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials
In August 2007, then Minister of Defense Yuriko Koike and then Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Takahide Kimura visited India and held dialogue with Indian Minister of Defense A.K. Antony and Minister of State for Defense Pallam Raju. During the defense ministerial meeting, views were exchanged on matters including the fight against terrorism, regional situation, and Japan-India relations, and the view was shared to further develop defense exchanges.

In April 2007, then Indian Defense Secretary Shekhar Dutt visited Japan and held a Japan-India Defense Policy Dialogue with then Japanese Vice-Minister of Defense Takemasa Moriya which was expanded from the Vice Defense Minister-level meeting. Moriya and Dutt exchanged views on how to deepen defense exchanges between the two countries in the future and the regional situation.

Moreover, in January 2007, then Indian Air Force Chief of Staff S. P. Tyagi visited Japan and exchanged views with then ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida. In April 2007, then Indian Army Chief of Staff J. J. Singh visited Japan and exchanged views with GSDF Chief of Staff Ryoichi Oriki.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials
In February 2008, Japan and India held Director-General-level and Councilor-level talks between defense officials and exchanged views about Japan-India defense exchanges and the regional situation. In March 2008, working-level discussion was also held between the GSDF and Indian Army. Furthermore, Japan and India actively promote research exchanges, including sending and accepting defense officials as students and mutually dispatching defense researchers.

(3) Exchanges between Units
The MSDF and the Indian Navy have frequently made reciprocal visits in the past. Unit exchanges are active as, during these reciprocal visits, MSDF Training Squadron and Indian Navy units conduct activities such as goodwill
exercises. In April 2007, three vessels of the Indian Navy paid a port call in Japan, marking the 15th visit to Japan by Indian Navy vessels. During the Indian vessels’ visit, Japan, the United States, and India conducted their first trilateral joint maritime exercise. Furthermore, in September 2007, the MSDF participated in a multilateral joint marine exercise (“Malabar 07-2”) in the waters near the Bay of Bengal for the first time.

7. Defense Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries
Southeast Asian countries are situated in areas deemed as strategically important for maritime traffic, and they also have close economic relations with Japan. Therefore, promoting dialogue between Japan and these countries on various security issues and deepening relations of mutual trust and cooperation are of great importance for both sides.

In November 2007, former Minister of Defense Ishiba had a meeting with Singaporean Defense Minister Teo Chee Hean who visited Japan, and enhanced mutual understanding on the regional situation and defense policies of both countries. Both ministers held another meeting at the 7th IISS Asia Security Summit held in May 2008. Also, in March 2008, former Defense Minister Ishiba had a meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tea Banh, and exchanged opinions on the following issues: defense exchange between the two countries, the regional security situation, and defense policies of both countries.

The recent high-level exchanges between Japan and Southeast Asian countries are shown in Fig. III-3-2-2, indicating how defense relations between Japan and these countries have steadily progressed.

In addition to exchanges by high-level officials, Japanese defense officials have held consultations at the working-level on a regular basis to build relations of mutual understanding and confidence through exchange of views in the security and defense field and Japan and Southeast Asian countries have also steadily promoted staff talks among various services, exchanges of researchers and students as well as units including port calls. Through these defense relations, Japan and Southeast Asian countries lay the foundation for building a multilateral defense network, which could play an important role for realizing peace and stability in the region. (See Fig. III-3-2-2)
In addition to neighboring countries previously described, Japan has promoted defense exchanges with many other countries. The Ministry of Defense has held high-level exchanges, working-level consultations and student exchanges with many other countries around the world. Among them are Pakistan, which has played an important role in the global fight against terrorism; Canada, with which Japan had undertaken the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Golan Heights; Mongolia, an Asia-Pacific country; countries related to the SDF’s mission in Iraq such as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE); European countries, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Regarding unit-to-unit exchanges, mutual visits by vessels have been frequent along with mutual exchanges with countries where international peace cooperation activities are underway.

The recent high-level exchanges are as shown in Fig. III-3-2-3.

In August 2007, then Minister of Defense Koike visited Pakistan for the first time as Defense Minister, and exchanged views on the fight against terrorism with President Musharraf and then Defense Minister Iqbal and officials during their meetings. Defense Minister of Luxembourg Schiltz visited Japan for the first time and met with former Minister of Defense Ishiba in October 2007. Like this, the Ministry of Defense intends to establish a close and cooperative relationship with many countries. Especially in relations with NATO, policy dialogues and cooperation have progressed as partners in endeavors for the stability and prosperity of the international community. In January 2007, then Prime Minister Abe participated in the North Atlantic Council for the first time as the Japanese Prime Minister, and delivered a speech. In May 2007, then Minister of Defense Kyuma visited NATO. In December the
same year, former Minister of Defense Ishiba conducted a meeting with NATO Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer and while exchanging opinions on the fight against terrorism and regional situation, shared the view to deepen their cooperation as partners sharing common values and to enhance Japan-NATO relations both in political and practical aspects. In January 2008, General Henault, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, visited Japan and met with Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Saito, while paying a courtesy call on former Minister of Defense Ishiba. Also, a Japan-NATO High-level consultation was held in March 2008. At the 7th IISS Asia Security Summit, former Minister of Defense Ishiba had meetings with French Defense Minister Morin and Canadian Defense Minister MacKay. Furthermore, in May 2008, Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Eto visited Poland for the first time as a high-level official of the Ministry of Defense and exchanged opinions with senior officials from the Polish Defense Ministry. From the perspective of carrying out a wide range of security dialogues and of smooth implementation of international peace cooperation

![Commander of Pacific Fleet of the French Navy Maurice and MSDF Chief of Staff Akahoshi](image)
activities, it is beneficial to develop defense exchanges with various countries, including East European countries.

In this way, through defense exchanges, Japan is playing an important role for the peace and stability of Asia and the world. (See Fig. III-3-2-4)

### Fig. III-3-2-4 Japan’s Defense Exchanges (latest five years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials</th>
<th>Exchanges of Working-Level Officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International conferences and others</td>
<td>Japan U.S.A. Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance of visits</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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</table>

Notes: In addition to a meeting of defense chiefs between Japan and Australia, “2+2” security talks were held between the Defense and Foreign Ministers of Japan and Australia.

○ Working-level meetings of officials of foreign affairs authorities and defense authorities
● Working-level meetings of officials of defense authorities
▲ Vice-Minister-level meetings of defense officials from Japan and China
△ Defense policy dialogue between vice defense ministers of Japan and India

Multilateral security dialogue is extremely significant because participating countries can increase their mutual understanding and relations of mutual trust by exchanging views on security issues of mutual concern. Such security dialogue can also effectively contribute to bringing about regional peace and stability through cooperation and coordination among countries concerned on regional issues affecting several countries.

2. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
At the ASEAN foreign ministers’ meeting and ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in 1993, the foreign ministers from 17 countries and from the European Community (EC), now the European Union (EU), agreed to create the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as a political and security forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its first ministerial meeting in 1994, the ARF has held its regular ministerial meeting annually. The number of ARF members has gradually increased annually to currently 26 countries and one organization.

At present, the ARF is not a security organization typically seen in Europe, such as NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), but the ARF is of significance because it provides opportunities for both foreign and defense officials to attend various inter-governmental meetings.

The Ministry of Defense believes that it is necessary for defense officials among ARF member countries to enhance mutual confidence along with the evolution of the ARF process so that the ARF can become a forum to generate a sense of community among Asia-Pacific countries, and thereby stabilize the region’s security environment. To this end, the Ministry of Defense has been continuing its efforts to deepen mutual understanding within the ARF through continuous participation in the ARF, by encouraging ARF members to increase the transparency of their defense policies while explaining Japan’s policies and efforts, and by promoting frank discussion among defense officials.

In recent years, ARF member countries have been actively exchanging their views on common regional security issues including international disaster relief activities, maritime security, peacekeeping activities, and counter-terrorism. The Ministry of Defense has been actively participating in such discussions at the ARF.

Furthermore, in the aforementioned fields, the ARF has begun to look for more practical cooperation. For example, in the area of international disaster relief, following the drafting of a “general guideline” that should be considered for international cooperation, the drafting of the “Standard Operation Procedure,” now renewed as “Strategic Guidance,” which describes more concrete cooperation procedures is underway, while a desktop exercise took place in Indonesia in May with the participation of the Ministry of Defense.

Every year, ARF holds such meetings as the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), the Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (CBM/PD) and the ARF Security Policy Conference in addition to the Foreign Ministerial Meeting. Apart from the so-called plenary meeting, which is composed of foreign and defense ministry officials, defense officials have convened their own Defense Officials Dialogue prior to the plenary meeting since the 2002 Ministerial Meeting. The Ministry of Defense has steadily increased its involvement in the ARF, by actively participating in these meetings, and frankly exchanging views with defense officials from other ARF member countries.

3. Multilateral Security Dialogue Sponsored or Participated in by the Japan Defense Ministry and the SDF
The Ministry of Defense believes that it is important for Japan to take the initiative in multilateral security dialogue in order to promote relations of mutual confidence and cooperation among defense officials of Japan and other countries through exchanges of information and opinions. The Ministry of Defense also believes that by
doing so, Japan can contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Based on this recognition, the Ministry of Defense/the Self-Defense Forces have taken the initiative for multilateral security dialogue by sponsoring various international seminars while it has also actively participated in such forums sponsored by other countries and other organizations. (See Reference 52-53)

In particular, the Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum) has been sponsored by the Ministry of Defense every year since 1996. The Forum is designed to contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region by deepening mutual understanding among participating countries on each other’s defense policy and increasing the transparency of their defense policies. In the forum, defense officials of participating countries have exchanged views on defense policies of each country, and confidence-building measures in the field of defense.

At the 12th forum in September 2007, opinions were exchanged on “National and International Efforts for Peace-Building in Peacetime,” with the participation of 25 countries, the EU, OCHA, ASEAN Secretariat, and the ICRC. In February 2008, the 7th Sub-committee meeting was held with the participation of 25 countries, the EU, OCHA, ASEAN Secretariat, and the ICRC which debated “Regional Cooperation and its Import on Surrounding States,” while deliberating on the content of the “Best Practice Reference Paper for Peace-Building” including capacity building and elements to be noted for promoting international cooperation with respect to peace-building. The IISS Asia Security Conference (Shangri-La Dialogue), an international conference held annually in Singapore under the sponsorship of a private institute, is the only conference where a large number of defense ministers in the Asia-Pacific region participate. From Japan, former Minister of Defense Ishiba participated at the 7th conference in May 2008, and delivered a speech on important security issues of the same region, under the theme “East Asian Security and Future.” During the conference, former Minister of Defense Ishiba paid a courtesy call on Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong while having individual meetings with Defense Ministers of the U.S., Canada, the ROK, France, Singapore, the U.K., and Australia.

In addition, the Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) was organized for the first time in Japan in September 2007 and co-hosted with the U.S. Army Pacific Headquarters, with 91 participants from 28 countries and 2 organizations.

4. Multilateral Exercises

1. Significance of Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Defense Ministry and the SDF consider participating in and hosting multilateral exercises will contribute not only to improving their maneuvering skills but also to helping establish the foundation for building cooperative relationship among participating countries through the coordination process and exchange of views.

Since 2000, multilateral exercises involving various elements such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and non-combatant evacuation operations, have been conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to conventional combat exercises.

Specific exercises thus far conducted on a multilateral basis include refugee rescue training held as part of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise in 2000; the “Cobra Gold” Exercise conducted by the United States, Thailand and other countries focusing on U.N. PKO activities and disaster relief operations; the exercise for submarine
rescue drills in the West Pacific, which was hosted by Singapore in 2000, Japan in 2002, the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 2004 and Australia in 2007; and the Maritime Multilateral Exercise Malabar 07-2 hosted by the U.S. and India in 2007.

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF will continue to participate in these multilateral exercises proactively and on their own initiative.

2. Efforts on Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

(1) Hosting Multilateral Exercises

The MSDF hosted “Pacific Reach 2002” in April 2002, a multilateral exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific. This was the first time Japan hosted a multilateral exercise. In October 2002, the MSDF hosted the Multilateral Search and Rescue Exercise.

The SDF has sent its officers to the annual Cobra Gold exercise since 2005. In May 2008 at Cobra Gold 2008, they engaged in training for non-combatant evacuation operations and transportation of Japanese nationals overseas, in addition to practices for U.N. PKO command post exercise and medical divisions of humanitarian and civic assistance activities which they had previously taken part in.

Multilateral exercises in which the SDF has recently participated are as shown in Fig. III-3-2-5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exercises</th>
<th>Hosts</th>
<th>Participating Nations</th>
<th>Participation by Defense Ministry and SDF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2007</td>
<td>Khaan Quest 2007</td>
<td>U.S. and Mongolian militaries</td>
<td>About 22 countries, including U.S., Mongolia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Thailand and Tonga</td>
<td>Two GSDF participating as observers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 2007</td>
<td>Maritime Multilateral Exercises, Malabar 07-2</td>
<td>U.S. Navy, Indian Navy</td>
<td>India, Australia, Singapore, U.S., Japan</td>
<td>Two destroyers, two P-3C patrol aircraft, approximately 400 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.-Dec. 2007</td>
<td>Western Pacific Rescue Submarine Exercises (Pacific Reach 07)</td>
<td>Australian Navy</td>
<td>Australia, U.S., Singapore, the ROK, the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Japan and others</td>
<td>The Response of Ministry of Defense and SDF. One rescue submarine and a crew etc. of approximately 130 personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>Cobra Gold 2008</td>
<td>U.S. and Thai militaries</td>
<td>21 countries, including Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, U.S., and Japan</td>
<td>69 SDF officers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) Inviting Observers to Multilateral Exercises

The SDF invited observers from eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan in September 2001 to the 4th Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercise. Since then, the SDF has been making efforts to invite observers from foreign countries to multilateral exercises being sponsored by the SDF.

The GSDF has invited working-level officers from countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan to participate in the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia-Pacific (MCAP), which it has hosted annually since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperation. (See Fig. III-3-2-6)

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**Fig. III-3-2-6 Dispatch of Observers to Multilateral Joint Exercises (since 2007)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2007-</td>
<td>Sixth Multilateral Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP 2007)</td>
<td>This program was hosted by the GSDF with working-level personnel from 17 countries, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region, being invited. Under the theme, &quot;military cooperation at international peace cooperation activities&quot; participants held a training session and exchanged views in order to enhance response ability under diverse contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region, and promote mutual understanding and confidence-building among participating countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 2007</td>
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GSDF personnel participate in MCAP 2007 (at the research group)
I am a pilot of a fixed-wing patrol aircraft (P-3C). In September last year, our P-3C squadron landed in India for the first time to participate in the maritime multilateral exercise, Malabar 07-2.

It was the P-3C squadron’s first visit to India and we experienced some difficulties concerning participation in training in a land with a different climate and customs. Initially, it was necessary to spend a lot of time gathering information from the Air Self-Defense Force concerning flight experience toward the Middle East on how to best avoid the air zone where extensive cumulonimbus clouds are generated (intertropical convergence zone) with the performance of the P-3C aircraft, and what airports to use in case of emergency landings due to aircraft trouble, in order to select the safest flight paths to India. Furthermore, compared to our own bases in Japan, the air bases in India were not equipped with the same range of support necessary for flying, such as aircraft maintenance, so we had to envision all possible contingencies. Then, within the weight limitations of the aircraft, we carefully selected aircraft parts and specialized maintenance equipment to take with us.

Due to sanitation concerns, we were careful not to drink untreated water. Nonetheless, after working in the heat all day and adapting to differences in the regional cuisine, some squadron members became ill. Healthcare is still an issue while participating in exercises in foreign countries, and these challenges will need to be addressed.

The multilateral exercise was conducted in the Bay of Bengal – about a three-hour flight from Indian air bases in a P-3C. In contrast to operations within Japan, it was difficult to confirm the operation details and exchange information with participating squadrons which is normally conducted before flying. However, once the exercise started, we were able to get communication with foreign ships and aircraft, even though English with the regional accents of each country was spoken during the exercise.

Through this multilateral exercise in India, a relationship of trust was established with the participating naval squadrons from India, Singapore and Australia, as well as the U.S. and we believe we also sufficiently showed the Japanese presence in East Asia. For me personally, it was a valuable experience, and the next time international activities are ordered, I am confident that I can respond promptly and flexibly.