

Section 2. Interaction between the Ministry of Defense & the SDF, and the Local Community & Japanese Citizens

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the various activities of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF cannot be carried out by the Ministry of Defense and the SDF alone. They are only possible with the understanding and cooperation of each and every citizen, local governments and other organizations.

In addition to the details explained in Section 1 of this chapter, the SDF is executing its duties with support and cooperation from the local communities and the Japanese people in a variety of forms. Likewise, the SDF has been making various cooperation activities to support the people's lives. Such activities are further deepening the mutual trust between the local community and the people, and the SDF, not only contributing to the enhancement and strengthening of the foundation of defense bases, but also instilling a sense of pride and self-confidence in SDF personnel.

To ensure full function of defense facilities³², it is necessary to maintain a state of stable use by securing harmony with the local communities, and gaining the understanding and cooperation of local residents surrounding defense facilities. For this reason, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF strive to minimize the impact of the presence and operation of defense facilities on the daily lives of local residents through various measures.

This section explains the daily interaction between the Defense Ministry and the SDF and the local communities, and activities undertaken to gain public understanding and cooperation.

1. Cooperation from Local Public Organizations and Other Related Organizations for the SDF

1. Cooperation in Recruitment of SDF Regular Personnel and Support for Outplacement

As stated in the previous section, under the severe recruitment environment and employment situation, the cooperation of local public organizations and relevant organizations is vital to secure highly qualified personnel and to assist the outplacement of SDF Regular Personnel who retire at a relatively young age. (See Section 1-2)

2. Support for SDF Activities

SDF camps and bases are located in all prefectures, and maintain close relations with the local communities. Various forms of cooperation and support from the local communities are indispensable for the SDF to conduct diverse activities. The SDF has also received words of encouragement from the people including local residents and relevant organizations.

In addition to this kind of support and cooperation from the local communities, many letters of encouragement are sent by the people to personnel engaging in international peace cooperation activities which raise the morale of personnel and reinforce their awareness of serving the people of Japan.

2. Activities in Civic Life and Contributions to Society

The SDF is carrying out support activities for residents in a number of fields linked with the people, based on requests from local governments and relevant organizations, in addition to its role set forth in the National Defense Program Guidelines. For example, the SDF worked with relevant organizations to provide transport support for VIPs, surveillance and guarding at SDF camps at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit from 7-9



GSDS special transport helicopter EC-225LP transports Prime Minister Fukuda to the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit (July 2008)

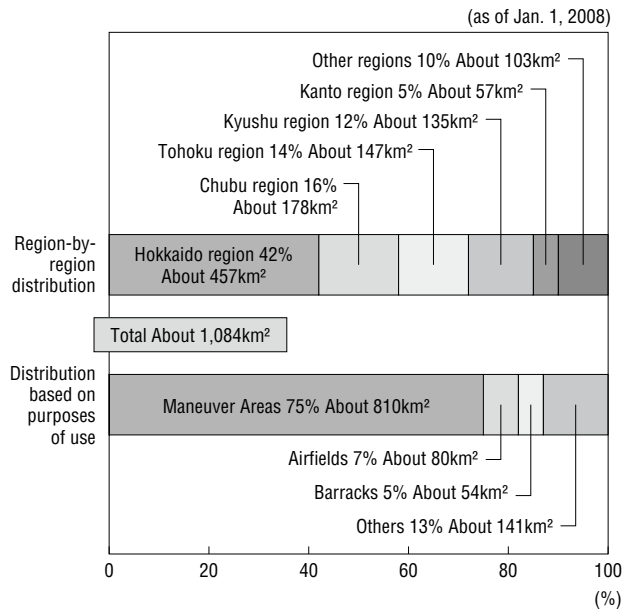
July this year. These activities have deepened the mutual trust between the SDF and the people and contributed to expanding and strengthening the foundation of national defense. They also give SDF personnel a sense of pride and confidence in their constant contribution to the lives of the people. (See Reference 74-75)

3. Harmony between Defense Facilities and the Local Community, and Environmental Conservation

1. Scale and Features of Defense Facilities

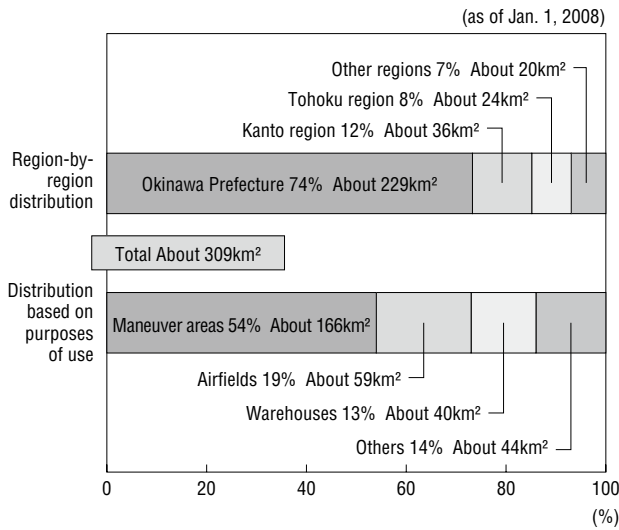
The uses of defense facilities can be extended in various ways such as maneuver areas, airfields, ports and barracks³³. Many defense facilities, including airfields and maneuver areas, require large areas of land. Due to Japan's geographical characteristics, there are some cities and industrial facilities that must compete with defense facilities on narrow plains. In particular, problems related to restricted presence and operations of defense facilities have emerged due to the urbanization of areas around many defense facilities as a result of economic development. Also, noise related to frequent takeoffs and landings by aircraft, firing, bombing, gunshots from artillery, tank operations and so on, raise concern in the affected residential communities. (See Figs. III-4-2-1, III-4-2-2)

Fig. III-4-2-1 Situation of SDF Facilities (land plots)



Note: These numbers have been rounded off, thus might not exactly equal the total.

Fig. III-4-2-2 Situation of Facilities of U.S. Forces in Japan (exclusively used facilities)



2. Defense Facility Issues and Various Measures

Defense facilities, as bases which support the defense capabilities of Japan and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, are indispensable to the country's security, and maintaining continuous and stable use of them is necessary. For that reason, the Ministry of Defense has been securing harmony between the defense facilities and surrounding areas, and working to obtain the understanding and cooperation of the local residents by taking the measures shown in Fig. III-4-2-3.

In order to publicize one of these measures, the North Kanto Defense Bureau invited elementary school children residing in the area surrounding the ASDF Hyakuri Base to create pictures titled "Friends and family playing in schools and parks improved by subsidies related to soundproof construction and public welfare facilities." Such pictures were exhibited in April this year. (See Reference 76)

The Ministry of Defense has put priority on improving the living environment around airfields, including providing subsidies for residential sound insulation. However, some residents have filed lawsuits concerning noise damage and others³⁴.

Under such situation, the Ministry of Defense established the Council for the Improvement of the Living Environment around Airfields comprised of external experts in 2001, to discuss future measures. The council subsequently compiled a report the following year³⁵.

With regard to measures for improving the living environment such as subsidies for residential sound insulation, the Ministry of Defense is making efforts to grasp the status of the noise in areas surrounding defense facilities, appropriately review target areas for sound insulation in consideration of the actual status and expand new measures based on the proposals incorporated in the report by the council. (See Figs. III-4-2- 3, 4, 5) (See Reference 77)

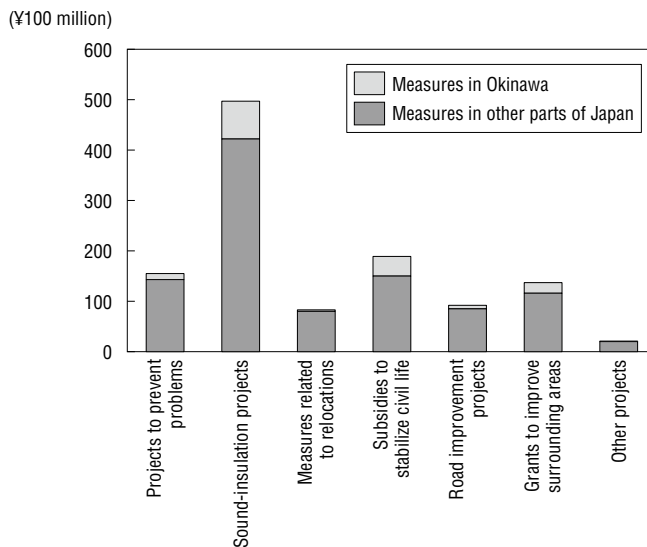


Improvements to Hamura city road route 201 were conducted as part of measures to reduce the burden of residents around the base

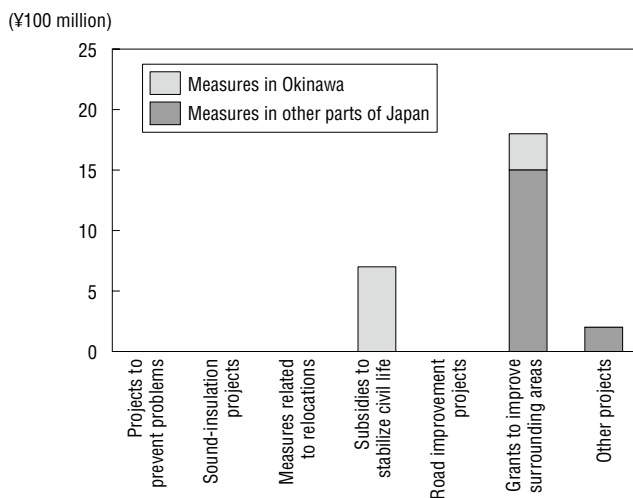
Fig. III-4-2-3 Measures to Ensure Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Communities

Purpose	Measures	Description of Measures
Prevention of Noise Problems	Subsidies to finance sound insulation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educational facilities such as elementary schools, junior high schools and kindergartens; medical facilities like hospitals and clinics; and welfare facilities such as nursery centers, day-service centers for the elderly and special nursing homes for the elderly ○ Housing
	Compensation for relocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compensation for relocating buildings ○ Land procurement ○ Improvement of public facilities such as roads, water-supply systems and sewage facilities in land where housing is to be relocated
	Improvement of green zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tree planting, upgrading of grass fields
Prevention of Problems Other Than Noise	Subsidies to finance trouble-prevention work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ River improvement projects, improvement of irrigation and drainage canals, dams, reservoirs, pumping stations, roads, sewage facilities and facilities for jointly receiving TV broadcasting services
Reduction of Troubles Related to Life and Business	Subsidies to build facilities meant to stabilize people's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educational facilities ○ Garbage and human waste treatment plants, firefighting facilities, parks, roads, green zones, community halls, libraries, welfare centers for the elderly and nursing homes for the elderly ○ Agricultural facilities ○ Fishery facilities
Reduction of Effects on Surrounding Areas	Provision of grant aimed at improving areas surrounded by designated defense facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvement of public facilities like traffic facilities, recreation centers and welfare facilities

Fig. III-4-2-4 FY 2008 Costs of Finance Countermeasures in Areas near Bases (Based on Expenditures)



**Fig. III-4-2-5 FY 2008 SACO-related Spending (Measures to Expedite Implementation of SACO Projects)
(Based on Expenditures)**



Note: Other projects are those meant to improve green zones.

Art exhibition for elementary school students: Prizewinning pictures



Oba Erika



Narushima Ai



Ohata Mako



Fujjoka Yuma



Ishikawa Ayumi



Yamamoto Tamaki

3. Environmental Conservation

As a part of the government, the Ministry of Defense has been developing implementation plans based on a variety of government plans to proactively promote various efforts for environmental conservation³⁶.

In 2001 the Ministry of Defense Environment Month and Week were established, during which camps throughout the country carried out events for the purpose of environmental conservation, such as prevention of global warming, and enhancing a sense of environmental awareness by SDF personnel.

In maintaining its facilities and equipment, the SDF is promoting diverse efforts³⁷ to ensure environmental conservation and decrease the environmental burden.

4. Base of Defense Administration in Regional Areas

The relationship between the Ministry of Defense and local communities is increasing its importance. Consequently, the local branch offices of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency (the Defense Facilities Administration Bureaus) and the regional organizations of the Equipment Procurement Office were unified at the time of the disbandment and integration of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, and the Regional Defense Bureaus were established as the local branch offices of the Ministry of Defense to create a base for comprehensive defense administration in regional areas, including coordination and consultation with local governments and municipalities related to defense policies.

While succeeding the roles that the Defense Facilities Administration Bureau and the Equipment Procurement Office local branches had played, the Regional Defense Bureaus are making explanations to the local communities of the policies of the Ministry of Defense and the reorganization of the U.S. Forces (as work to ensure local cooperation to obtain the understanding and cooperation of local governments and residents), and implementing various policies such as local coordination in line with the improvement of defense facilities in order to smoothly and effectively implement the overall administrative works of the Ministry of Defense.

4. Public Relations Activities, Information Disclosure, and Related Activities

The activities of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF to protect the peace and security of Japan can not be carried out without the understanding and support of the people of Japan toward the Ministry of Defense and the SDF. For this reason, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF, have been making efforts to provide them with information through active public relations activities, etc. from the perspective of increasing the public attention to national defense and accountability to the public.

See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/menu/kohokatudo.html>>

1. Various Public Relations Activities

As the scope of SDF activities has expanded both domestically and internationally, including international peace cooperation activities such as the replenishment support activities in the Indian Ocean and disaster relief dispatches, the public attention³⁹ to the SDF and defense issues has been increasing.

With the recognition that it is necessary to proactively promote publicity on defense policies and SDF activities on a regular basis, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF employ a variety of PR activities to ensure better understanding about the current status of the SDF in consideration of the changing public awareness and needs as well as for increasing overseas attention to the Ministry of Defense and the SDF.

(1) Website (<http://www.mod.go.jp>), Pamphlets and Others

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF conduct PR activities using a wide variety of media, including providing information and gathering public opinions and supplying PR videos via the internet, and displaying commercial films for each SDF service on large outdoor screens.

The Ministry of Defense has been making efforts to provide accurate information on the SDF and the national defense more extensively to the public, in the form of creation and distribution of various pamphlets which explain the policies of the Ministry of Defense and the activities of the SDF, cooperation for media coverage, and assistance in editing the PR magazine “MAMOR.” Furthermore, as the SDF activities overseas have increased, overseas attention to the Ministry of Defense and the SDF has been enhanced. In order to address such situation, the Ministry of Defense is making efforts including publishing the English language quarterly newsletter “Japan Defense Focus”, promoting participation of foreign media in regular press conferences, expanding the English section of the Ministry of Defense website, creation of defense white papers, various policy pamphlets and PR videos in English.

In addition to these efforts, regarding measures such as the replenishment support activities and so on of the Maritime Self-Defense Force in the Indian Ocean, etc. which has particularly attracted public attention, intensive publicity has been carried out through channels such as the Ministry of Defense website, special features in the PR magazine, videos, pamphlets, and the seminars on defense issues organized by Regional Defense Bureaus.

(2) Events, PR Facilities, etc.⁴⁰

The Ministry of Defense and the SDF conduct activities to extensively inform the people of the current status of the SDF. These activities include the annual GSDF Comprehensive Fire Power Exercise conducted at the base of Mt. Fuji; cruises for experience by vessels of the MSDF in each region; and demonstration flights and boarding experience on aircraft at open base festivals held at ASDF bases. In addition, at camps and bases throughout the country, events including equipment exhibitions, unit tours and SDF band concerts are held on the anniversary of a unit's foundation, etc. Furthermore, in commemoration of the anniversary of the foundation of the SDF, events such as a SDF Marching Festival, a troop review, a fleet review, and an air review are held.



Former Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Terada presents a bouquet to the 200,000th Ichigayadai Tour participant

Last year's SDF Marching Festival was held at the Nippon Budokan attracting a total audience of approximately 40,000. Concerning annual reviews by the SDF, the troop review, fleet review and air review are hosted in rotation by the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF at which the SDF equipment and exercises are exhibited to the public. Last year, the GSDF held a troop review, which was attended by approximately 42,000 people, including rehearsals. This year, an air review by the ASDF is planned.

In addition to such events, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF actively promote tours at PR facilities. For example, some facilities in the Defense Ministry at Ichigaya are open to visitors on two guided tours each weekday; one each in the morning and afternoon. Since the tours were launched in June 2000, more than 200,000 people have visited the facilities so far. Each SDF service also has established PR facilities which people can visit free of charge, and camps and bases across Japan have PR stations and history museums open to the public. (See Reference at the end of the book)

(3) Enlistment Experience Programs⁴¹

The SDF offers enlistment experience programs for employees at the request of private companies to provide opportunities to experience the daily life and training of the SDF member by staying at an SDF camp or base for two to three days. In the last fiscal year, the SDF held approximately 1,100 programs which were participated by approximately 21,100 people. Tours of enlistment experiences for the youth, college students and women are also conducted⁴².



Training in an enlistment experience program for female college students



Observation of the special honor guard training during a tour at Ichigaya

2. Appropriate Operation of the Information Disclosure System⁴³ and Personal Data Protection System⁴⁴

An information disclosure system was established in the Ministry of Defense, in line with the enactment of the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs in 2001. Based on this legislation, the Ministry of Defense discloses administrative documents under its jurisdiction upon request. A personal information protection system (in MOD) was also established in line with the Law for the Protection of Personal Information Held by Administrative Organs of 2005. Along with measures to ensure the security of the personal information under its jurisdiction, the Defense Ministry also discloses such information based on this law in response to requests for disclosure, revision and termination of use.

For this reason, the receipt and implementation of disclosure applications will be instigated at the Ministry of Defense offices (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo) and each Regional Defense Bureau and branch.

See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/joho/johokokai06.pdf>> (See Reference 79)

3. Appropriate Operation of the Whistle-Blower Protection System⁴⁵

In recent years, workers within corporations have contributed to revealing various corporate scandals, which have threatened the peace of mind and security of the peoples' daily life. In order to develop a safeguard system to protect workers who disclose information, the Whistle-Blower Protection Act entered into effect in April 2006.

In accordance with this act, the Defense Ministry set up a system to handle public interest-related information disclosures by MOD employees and outside workers on issues where the Defense Ministry has the legal authority to punish or issue recommendations. Moreover, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF have established an internal contact desk for information disclosure in the public interest by MOD employees, and an external contact desk for related disclosure by outside workers. Through the contact desks, the Defense Ministry deals with information disclosure that is in the public interest and whistle-blower protection.

4. Engagement in Policy Evaluation⁴⁶

In 2001, a system to evaluate government policies was introduced with the aim of improving the efficiency and quality of administration in the public's best interest, while the Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA) entered into effect in 2002.

Based on these plans, the Ministry of Defense is evaluating various policies designated to achieve the objectives of the Defense Ministry and the SDF: to ensure the peace and independence of Japan and the security of the state. These evaluations involve analysis from diverse perspectives, such as domestic and overseas circumstances and technological innovation trends using a comprehensive evaluation system.

In FY 2007, 49 policy evaluations were performed beginning with the "ideal format of the Ministry of Defense's audiovisual publicity."

Notes:

- 1) The importance of human resources is also pointed out in the National Defense Program Guidelines and the Mid-Term Defense Program. Also see Chapter 2 of Part I for details on the National Defense Program Guidelines and the Mid-Term Defense Program
- 2) The “Ministry of Defense” and the “Self-Defense Forces (SDF)” are the same governmental organization for defense. The “Ministry of Defense” is used to refer to the governmental organization responsible for the administration and operations of the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF, whereas the “SDF” is used to refer to the armed organization operating in units that is responsible for the defense of Japan.
- 3) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/gsd/j/eikanbosyu/>> for details on the recruitment of SDF Regular Personnel.
- 4) Notification of the recruitment period, checking of qualifications for application, processing of application forms, issuance of examination admission tickets, notification of examination dates and locations, provision of locations and facilities necessary for examinations, public relations and related works.
- 5) For details on employment information, see <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/saiyou/>>
- 6) Until FY 2006, there were two systems applied to employment of SDF Regular Personnel who are 18 years old or over and under 27 years of age (under 24 years of age for Student Candidates for Enlisted (Upper) System) as candidates for “enlisted (upper)”: the “Student Candidate for Enlisted (Upper) System” and the “Enlisted (Upper) Candidate System.” In recruitment from FY 2007, the two systems were reorganized and unified into a new appointment system. It adopts some elements of the “Enlisted (Upper) System,” which aims to raise awareness of candidates for the Enlisted (Upper), and the “Candidates for the Enlisted (Upper) System,” which emphasizes individual capabilities in personnel management. Those qualified for SDF Regular Personnel are recruited as “General Candidates for Enlisted (Upper)” from FY 2007.
- 7) For SDF Youth Cadets employed as Recruits in the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF, FY 2007 was the final year for employment of MSDF and ASDF Youth Cadets and no further recruitment and employment will be performed. Nevertheless, from FY 2009 GSDF Youth Cadets is scheduled to be revised so that their status is not SDF Regular Personnel but the new, non-combatant students of GSDF.
- 8) SDF personnel must perform duties such as defense operations as specified in the Self-Defense Forces Law. They are, therefore, designated as special national government employees under Article 2 of the National Civil Service Law, and personnel management of SDF personnel is conducted independently of that of general civilian government employees.
- 9) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/defense/yobiji/index.html>>
- 10) Many countries other than Japan also have reserve personnel systems.
- 11) Details on education and training can be found on the website of each SDF group: GSDF at <<http://www.mod.go.jp/gsd/>>; MSDF at <<http://www.mod.go.jp/msdf/>>; and ASDF at <<http://www.mod.go.jp/asdf/>>
- 12) Such external educational institutions in FY 2008 include the Tokyo Institute of Technology and Waseda University in Japan, and the National Defense University (U.S.) and Harvard University (U.S.) overseas.
- 13) Institutes of each SDF where high-ranking SDF officers of each SDF and others receive training on security, defense strategy and other subjects.
- 14) The Joint Staff College is part of the Joint Staff and educates high-ranking SDF officers on joint operations.
- 15) Training includes SDF Joint Exercises, Japan-U.S. Combined Joint Exercises, and Ballistic Missile Response Exercises to deter threats to Japan, training such as International Peace Cooperation Exercises and Joint International Humanitarian Operation Training in preparation for international peace cooperation, and related activities.
- 16) For example, the GSDF has a Command Post Exercise Center for carrying out command and staff activities at the division/regiment level, and the Fuji Training Center and urban warfare training facilities for

- company-level training.
- 17) For example, some firing and launch training involving tanks, anti-tank helicopters, missiles, long-range artillery, surface-to-air guided missiles (improved Hawk and Patriot System), surface-to-surface missiles, torpedoes, and other weapons cannot be carried out at some firing ranges in Japan, or are prohibited in Japan as ranges exceed domestic limits. There are also various restrictions on exercises by large-scale units that require larger areas, minesweeping training, and submarine rescue drills that are carried out in relatively shallow sea areas, and early-morning and night-time flight training.
 - 18) Activities to detect, exploit, and reduce or annul the effects of enemies' electromagnetic waves, while securing the use of electromagnetic waves by friendly forces.
 - 19) See <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/news/atago/pdf/siryoun_080321.pdf>
 - 20) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/news/2006/07/12.html>> for details on gender equality; and <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/koudou/index.html>> for details on the Laws for Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation.
 - 21) See the following for the Report on Measures for the Comprehensive Reform in Personnel Field of the Defense Force:
<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/archives/manpower/report1_5.pdf>
<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/archives/manpower/report2_5.pdf>
<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/archives/manpower/report3_5.pdf>
<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/archives/manpower/report4_5.pdf>
<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/archives/manpower/report5_5.pdf>
 - 22) In the panel, in addition to an Executive Secretary Committee headed by the Vice-Minister of Defense, the following five panel groups were created: 1) Panel Administration; 2) Personnel Planning Related Policy, etc.; 3) Appointment System and Rank-based-pay, etc.; 4) Recruitment and Aid, etc.; 5) Post-Retirement Policy, etc.
 - 23) The Memorial Stone of SDF Members who Died on Duty was established in 1962, and reinforced in 1980, due to aging through weathering. Afterwards, when the headquarters of the then Defense Agency was moved to Ichigaya in 1998, the Memorial Zone in its current form was located on the east side of the memorial area with the Memorial Stone of SDF Members who Died on Duty and Other Monuments. A Memorial Ceremony for SDF Members who Died on Duty is held annually at the Memorial Zone. This ceremony is attended by surviving family members of the honored dead, and also attended by high-ranking staff of the Ministry of Defense and SDF under the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, former Directors-General of the Defense Agency, and others. At the Memorial Stone of SDF Members who Died on Duty in the Memorial Zone there is an iron plate containing the names and other information of personnel killed in the line of duty. When foreign dignitaries such as Defense Ministers visit the Ministry of Defense, they make offerings of flowers, expressing their respect and condolences to personnel killed in the line of duty. Memorial ceremonies are also held at individual SDF posts and bases.
 - 24) Specific measures include: provision of education and training to acquire useful knowledge and skills for outplacement; promotion of employment of retiring SDF Regular Personnel in the public sector; networking of employment information at each SDF; and improvement of job-seekers' skills by enhancing the job training curricula.
 - 25) "Seclusion from private companies" is stipulated in Article 62 of the Self-Defense Forces Law.
 - 26) Superiority in prompt and accurate recognition, gathering, processing and dissemination of information.
 - 27) For details on the Defense Information Infrastructure (DII: Standardized network for the MOD/SDF), the Common Operating Environment (COE: Basic group of software commonly used by computer systems maintained by each service of the SDF), and the Central Command System (CCS: central command system

- that conducts data aggregation processing and other data processing by online-connecting the command system of each SDF service), see: <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/archives/it/youkou/>>
- 28) The five policy targets are “Enhancement in Gathering/Communicating Information in the Chain of Command (Vertical Direction)”;
 - “Promotion of Intelligence Sharing Among Units (Horizontal Direction)”;
 - “Establishment of System to Cope with Cyber Attacks”;
 - “Promotion of Intelligence Sharing with External Organizations”;
 - and “Enhancement of Various Telecommunication Infrastructures.”
- 29) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/trdi/>>
 - 30) 1) “Operational Demonstration Research” is introduced. In this type of research, the SDF service (the future operator) will evaluate the prototypes of the equipment. The evaluation will be reflected onto the later R&D, procurement, and related operations. 2) “Evolutionary Development” is introduced. At the start of the development phase, the performance requirements to be achieved are left undecided. Even after the start of the development phase, the precision of required performance can be upgraded, and up-to-date military science technology can be newly introduced.
 - 31) This council was established in September 2003 by the former Defense Agency; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. It was established to promote development of civil aircraft and engines based on initiative taken by our nation as a whole. This is important in the sophistication of our country’s industrial infrastructure, as well as the development and dissemination of industrial technology.
 - 32) The generic term for the facilities used by the Self-Defense Force and the U.S. forces in Japan based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. It refers to training areas, airfields, ports, communication stations, barracks, warehouses, ammunition depots, oil bunkers and so on.
 - 33) The land area of defense facilities, as of 1 January this year is approximately 1,397km² (the sum of the land area of SDF facilities (approximately 1,084km²), the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the U.S. forces in Japan (approximately 309km²) and the land area of facilities other than SDF facilities which the U.S. forces in Japan are jointly using under the Status of Forces Agreement (approximately 4km²)), which accounts for approximately 0.37% of the country’s land. Of this, approximately 42% of the land area of SDF facilities is situated in Hokkaido. Divided by use, approximately 75% of this is maneuver areas. Meanwhile, 38km² of the land area of the facilities and areas of the U.S. forces in Japan (for exclusive use) which is jointly used by the SDF under the Status of Forces Agreement.
 - 34) 1) The filing of lawsuits which include requests from the local residents of five airports including Komatsu Airport (Ishikawa prefecture) for the ban of night-time takeoff and landing, the compensation for noise damage, and the acknowledgement of “the compensation for past damage” in the definitive judgments, 2) due to the sense of inequality on the part of residents affected by the noise who have not filed claims, there is a trend in demanding financial compensation corresponding to the past damage compensation (the claim for which was recognized in the noise judgment) and the institutionalization of this kind of compensation (trends demanding so-called fairness compensation), 3) demands for the expansion of all kinds of policies by local government and residents of the areas around defense facilities.
 - 35) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/delibe/kondankai/hokoku.pdf>>
 - 36) The Ministry of Defense’s implementation plan established in October 2007 after receipt of the “Plan for the government to establish measures that should be enacted for the purpose of suppression of greenhouse gases etc., related to their business and projects” (approved by the Cabinet in the same year), the “Defense Agency environmental consideration policy” established in 2003 based on the government’s “Basic Environment Plan” and a review of the corresponding plans carried out in January 2005. See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/hairyoi/index.html>> for the environmental consideration plans of the Ministry of Defense.
 - 37) Specifically, improvement of policies for air and water quality conservation, recycling and waste disposal,

- improvement to environmental protection facilities, and environmental assessments, etc.
- 38) From the viewpoint of security, etc., there is some information which is not suitable for release to the public (such as 1) information that may hinder the operation of units, 2) information that may impair the relationship of mutual trust with the nation concerned and 3) information related to individuals). However, the Ministry of Defense will continue to retain its policy to make efforts to release information as much as possible in order to enhance the public's understanding.
 - 39) In the "Opinion Poll on the Self-Defense Forces and Defense Issues" conducted in February 2006, approximately 67% of respondents indicated their interest in the SDF and defense issues. Regarding their impression of the SDF, roughly 85% responded "good."* See Reference 78 for further details. In the "Special Opinion Poll on the Self-Defense Force's Iraq Humanitarian Reconstruction Assistance Activities" conducted in September of the same year, approximately 72% of respondents who gained information regarding the activities via the media (approximately 91%) regarded them as "valuable."
 - 40) For details on events, etc., see the Ministry of Defense website <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/events/index.html>>
 - 41) Tours to experience the lifestyle of the Ground, Maritime or Air Self-Defense Force (For tour information, refer to the abovementioned address for event information).
 - 42) On March 2005, in addition to the various tours until then, the "One Day Visit to Self-Defense Forces for Women" was launched so that women of a broad range of ages could easily participate.
 - 43) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/joho/index.html>>
 - 44) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/hogo/index.html>>
 - 45) See <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/library/koueki_tuho/index.htm>
 - 46) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/hyouka/index.html>>