

Section 5. Other Measures

1. Efforts in Response to the Fire on the Destroyer *Shirane*

In December 2007, a crew member of the destroyer *Shirane*, which was berthed in the Yokosuka area, spotted smoke coming out of the ship's Combat Information Center (CIC) and a fire was detected. The damage included complete loss of the equipment in the CIC, while some of the equipment in the rooms adjacent to the CIC was also rendered unusable. A portion of the ship body itself was also damaged due to the heat of the fire.

Regarding the cause of the fire, the possibility that it was started by an unextinguished cigarette or by arson were determined to be extremely low. The fact that the fastest-burning area was around a cooling box that was placed on top of a refrigerator raised questions, but the refrigerator and the cooling box were severely damaged, and it was not possible from the remains to identify which portion had initially caught fire. Therefore, it could not be determined whether the refrigerator and the cooling box were the cause of the fire.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces have compiled recurrence preventive measures including: 1) tightened restrictions on the use of home electronic appliances in combat areas; 2) investigation for improving firefighting equipment, etc.; 3) establishment of a rapid and reliable internal and external reporting system; and 4) strict check of the locking status of secure areas through on-vessel inspection in order to ensure reliable locking of secured areas such as the CIC. These were announced in March 2008 along with the results of the investigation into the fire¹⁶.

2. Efforts to Uphold the Self-Defense Forces Personnel Ethics Code and Act

In August 1999, the Self-Defense Forces Personnel Ethics Act was established along with the National Public Service Ethics Act, and came into effect the following April. The purpose of this Act is to take necessary measures that contribute to the maintenance of ethics pertaining to the duties of Self-Defense Forces personnel in order to ensure the trust of the public that duties are being carried out in an open manner. In addition, the establishment of a Self-Defense Forces Personnel Ethics Code (Ethics Code) was decreed by Cabinet Order on the basis of this Act.

In 2007, it became clear that a former Vice-Minister of Defense had violated this Ethics Code, and at the order of the Minister of Defense, starting in October 2007 the Inspector General's Office of Legal Compliance conducted a special defense inspection¹⁷ regarding the compliance of senior personnel¹⁸ with the Ethics Code.

To date, a total of three senior personnel have been found in violation of the Ethics Code following the implementation of the Code by inspection, involving such incidents as golf outings, wining and dining with those who have interests in the duties of Self-Defense Forces personnel¹⁹, and receiving gifts from those who have interests in the duties of Self-Defense Forces personnel. In addition, on February 1, 2008 the Ministry of Defense announced²⁰ the status of the inspection, indicating the need to pay sufficient attention to the following two points:

- 1) Because some SDF personnel have numerous opportunities to interact with outside parties, including those who have interests in the duties of Self-Defense Forces personnel, in addition to complying with the Ethics Code at all times, it is important to consider the intent and purpose of institutions such as the Code to prevent suspicion and mistrust from the public.
- 2) In particular, high-level officials should keep in mind the influence of their positions being that they superintend their subordinates' behavior in their dealings with outside parties.

3. Measures against Drug Abuse

The Ministry of Defense and SDF deeply regret the series of drug abuse incidents which occurred in 2005, and established the Committee on Measures for Drug Issues in October 2005. This Committee issued a final report in February 2006 describing the problems, measures for their future prevention, and other related issues²¹.

Despite these efforts, there have been additional incidents of SDF members being arrested on allegations of violating drug-related laws. The Ministry of Defense and the SDF will continue to take strict measures to prevent a recurrence.

Notes:

- 1) See <<http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/bouei/index.html>>
- 2) See Part IV Section 2 to 4.
- 3) See Part IV Section 2.
- 4) See Part IV Section 3.
- 5) See Part IV Section 3.
- 6) See Part III Chapter 4 Section 4 and Part IV Section 2.
- 7) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/sankou/report/2007/1029a.html>>
- 8) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/sankou/report/2007/1029b.html>>
- 9) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/sankou/report/2008/pdf/080321a.pdf>>
- 10) In September 2007, the Equipment Procurement Office was reorganized as the Equipment and Facilities Headquarters.
- 11) Regarding the extremely important matter of evaluation of technical factors, this differs from an automatic bidding procedure which determines the vendor solely on the basis of price, instead of on a comprehensive evaluation of additional factors as well as price.
- 12) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/info/sougousyutoku/index.html>>
- 13) IPT: Integrated Project Team. A cross-organizational team formed to coordinate information and opinion-sharing among related divisions and stakeholders in order to efficiently resolve a specific issue. IPTs are used in defense equipment acquisition processes in Europe and the United States, as well as in plant construction by private companies and information system development.
- 14) A system which seeks to reduce procurement costs by incentivizing private companies to reduce costs. When a cost reduction on a project is achieved due to the efforts of the private company that has been commissioned for the work, a portion of the cost savings is awarded to the company.
- 15) Use of private-sector funds, management capability, or technological capability for public facilities or equipment.
- 16) See <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/sankou/report/2008/pdf/shirane_080321.pdf>
- 17) Refers to administrative officials at or above the level of section chief or the equivalent, and SDF personnel of the rank of major general or above.
- 18) The Inspector General's Office of Legal Compliance would conduct an inspection particularly of the items mandated by the Minister of Defense.
- 19) Business persons among those who fall under the administration of SDF personnel who are concluding contracts with the Ministry of Defense, and others.
- 20) See <<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/sankou/report/2008/pdf/0201.pdf>>
- 21) The "final report" recommended immediate, comprehensive implementation of the following and other measures to prevent recurrence: a) thorough disciplinary guidance and education; b) introduction of drug testing (urine analysis) (SDF members are tested for drugs upon enlistment).