

Japan Self-Defense Forces Engagement in response to COVID-19



10th April 2020
Ministry of Defense, Japan

I . Activity Overview

(1) Deployment of Nurses (29 and 30 January, 2020)

As inter-governmental cooperation, deployment of two JSDF nurses on the chartered flight to/from Wuhan
⇒ Building on this experience, moved onto Disaster Relief Operation

(2) Disaster Relief for prevention of spread of the infection (31 January to 16 March · about 4900 personnel deployed in total)

1. Assistance at the accommodation* on the ground (From 31 January onwards)

- a) Basic Assistance (distribution of supplies of necessities and food, and collection of clinical questionnaires / assistance to those Japanese nationals and others who returned on the chartered flights and who disembarked from the cruise ship)
- b) Healthcare administration (doing rounds and examination)

*National Tax College, National Institute of Public Health and Customs Training Institute

2. Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess (From 6 February onwards)

- a) Medical Assistance (examination, prescription and classification of medicine)
- b) Basic Assistance (carrying in and categorisation of necessities)
- c) Sanitisation of the commonly used areas on the ship such as halls, handrails of stairs, floor buttons within the lifts, door-knobs and other metal parts that may be touched
- d) Transportation of the disembarking passengers

⇒ Involvement of High Risk and Exposure

⇒ Unprecedented operation on a huge complex site of cruise ship

I . Activity Overview

(3) Disaster Relief (Order issued on 28 March and ongoing as at 7 April)

1. Disaster Relief for reinforcement of measures taken at the airports

- a) Quarantine Assistance at airports (Narita and Haneda)
(collection of body fluid for the PCR test)
- b) Transportation of returning Japanese nationals and visiting foreigners from the airports*
to accommodation to stay until the PCR test result confirmed
* Narita, Haneda, Kansai and Chubu
- c) Basic Assistance to those staying at above accommodation
(distribution of meals etc.)

2. Transportation of patients by aircraft (Nagasaki) (3 April)

3. Disaster Relief to prevent infection in the city (Miyagi (3 April to 6 April) and Tokyo (From 6 April onwards))

(4) Admittance of those who tested positive at the SDF Central Hospital (ongoing)

Admitted total of 221 persons who tested positive (as at 7 April)

- 158 of them were discharged, 60 are still admitted, and 3 were transferred to a different hospital
- ⇒ Admitting a large number of patients over a short period of time
- ⇒ Admitting nationals from 17 countries/regions
- ⇒ Publicising with celerity the analysis of cases of admitted patients



II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess

(1) Summary

- Assistance provided to about 2,800 passengers out of total passengers of about 3,700
- About 2,700 deployed personnel in total (including NBC Counter Medical Unit) and **ZERO infected**
- Transportation assistance to foreign passengers etc.
(US/Australia and NZ/Israel/Canada/Italy (including other EU nationals) /UK/Philippines/India/Indonesia)

	Duration	Number of personnel on duty
Medical Assistance	7 to 27 Feb	About 700
Basic Assistance	9 Feb to 1 Mar	About 1,300
Transportation of the disembarking passengers	14 Feb to 1 Mar	About 300
Joint Liaison Base	6 Feb to 1 Mar	About 400



Transportation of the disembarking passengers

II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess

(2) Contributing factors to not having any JSDF members infected

1. Thoroughly ensure the basics

a) Sanitise hands and fingers frequently after each task (every 1 to 2 hours)



II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess

(2) Contributing factors to not having any JSDF members infected

1. Thoroughly ensure the basics

b) Pay extra care to maximise effectiveness of facemask

- When wearing, pressing facemask to ensure there is no gap
- When removing, touching only elastic strings to avoid contact with the surface of the facemask
- Changing the face mask at completion of each task (every one to two hours)



Pressing facemask with hand

c) Ensure preventative laundry methods

- Those with higher risk and exposure are to launder their clothing individually in the bathtub or using portable washing machine
- Those with less risk and exposure are to share common washing machine on Hakuou

II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess

(2) Contributing factors to not having any JSDF members infected

2. Thoroughly ensure protection

- a) Introduced tougher protective measures as JSDF's own upgraded standards, and additionally imposed use of double gloves and duct tape to fill any potential gaps in the protective clothing (see next slide)
- b) Worked in a team of two
 - Putting the protective clothing on and off
 - Double-checking if hair caps cover the hair fully and if there are no gaps between the protective clothing



Putting on/off
protective clothing



Lecture on
how to wear/undress protective clothing

II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess

Upgraded Protective Standards for the JSDF

Task	Image	Contact with the subject	Protective Measures taken for the JSDF operation (filled in orange)						
			Tyvek Suit	Hair cap	Face mask or N95 mask	Gown	Face shield or Goggles	Plastic gloves	
Sanitisation of and within the ship		Yes	✓ *Tyvek suit consists of N95 mask, goggles, inner gloves, outer gloves, protective suit itself and shoe covers		○				○
Examination, Prescription and Distribution of medicine		Yes			○	○	○	○	○
Classification of medicine		No		✓	○	✓			✓
Transportation of PCT positive patients		Yes	✓ *Tyvek suit consists of N95 mask, goggles, inner gloves, outer gloves, protective suit itself and shoe covers		○	○			○

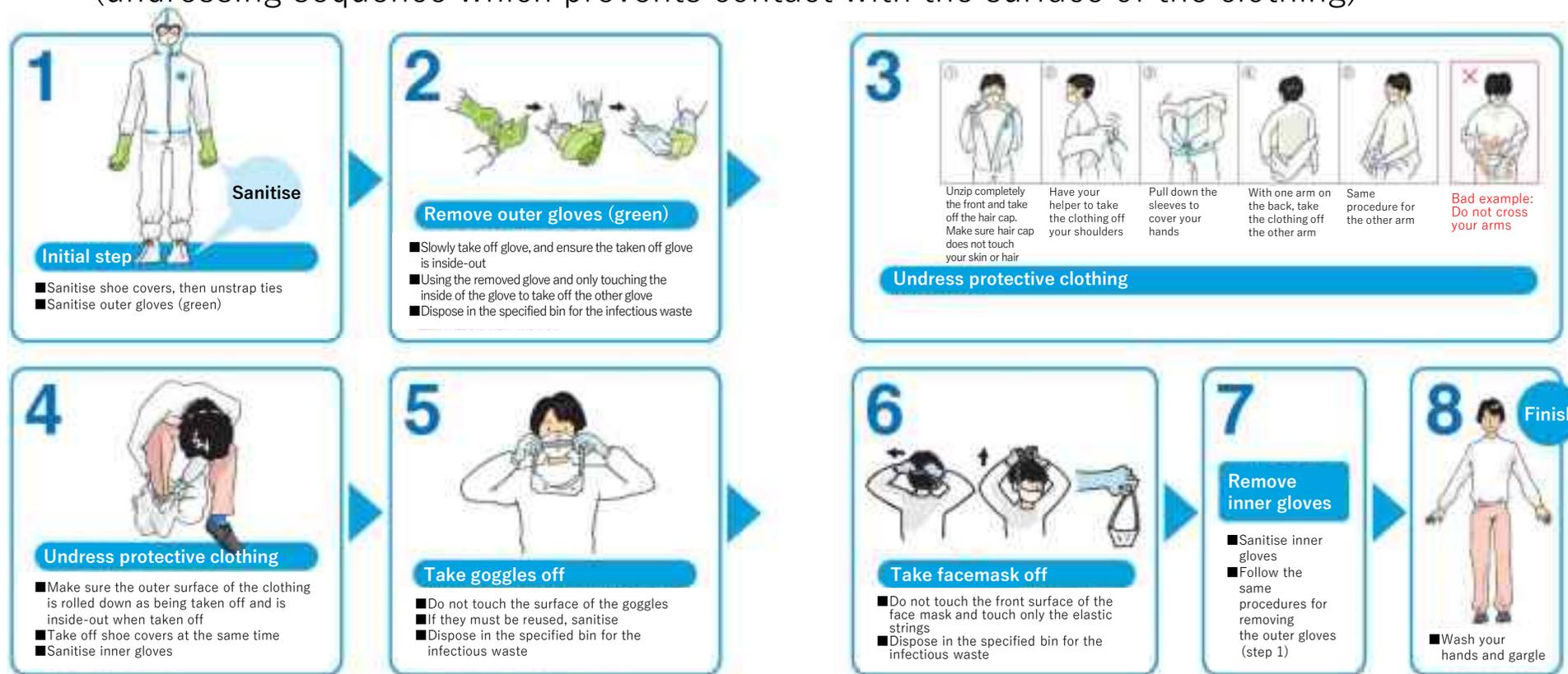
II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess



(2) Contributing factors to not having any JSDF members infected

2. Thoroughly ensure protection

c) Instructed on how and where to take off and dispose protective clothing
(undressing sequence which prevents contact with the surface of the clothing)



Introduction on taking off protective clothing

Source: Azearth guidance on how to take protective clothing off
Tentative translation by MOD

II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess

(2) Contributing factors to not having any JSDF members infected

3. Take three nutritious meals a day and plentiful rest to build up immune system

- Maintain both physical and mental health by ensuring to take three nutritious meals and sufficient sleep and rest

4. Use private ferries (Hakuou and Silver Queen) as a base of operation

- Planned meticulous and large-scale logistic support
- Designated different entry routes, floors and bathrooms to be used depending on the risk of infection (see next slide)
- Used the same ferries to accommodate the deployed members for the watch and wait period of 14 days after the operation

Hakuou



Example of meal box Menu

- Rice
- Main dish (stir fried fish and vegetables)
- Side dish (fried meat with peas)
- Vegetables
- Soup
- Vegetable juice



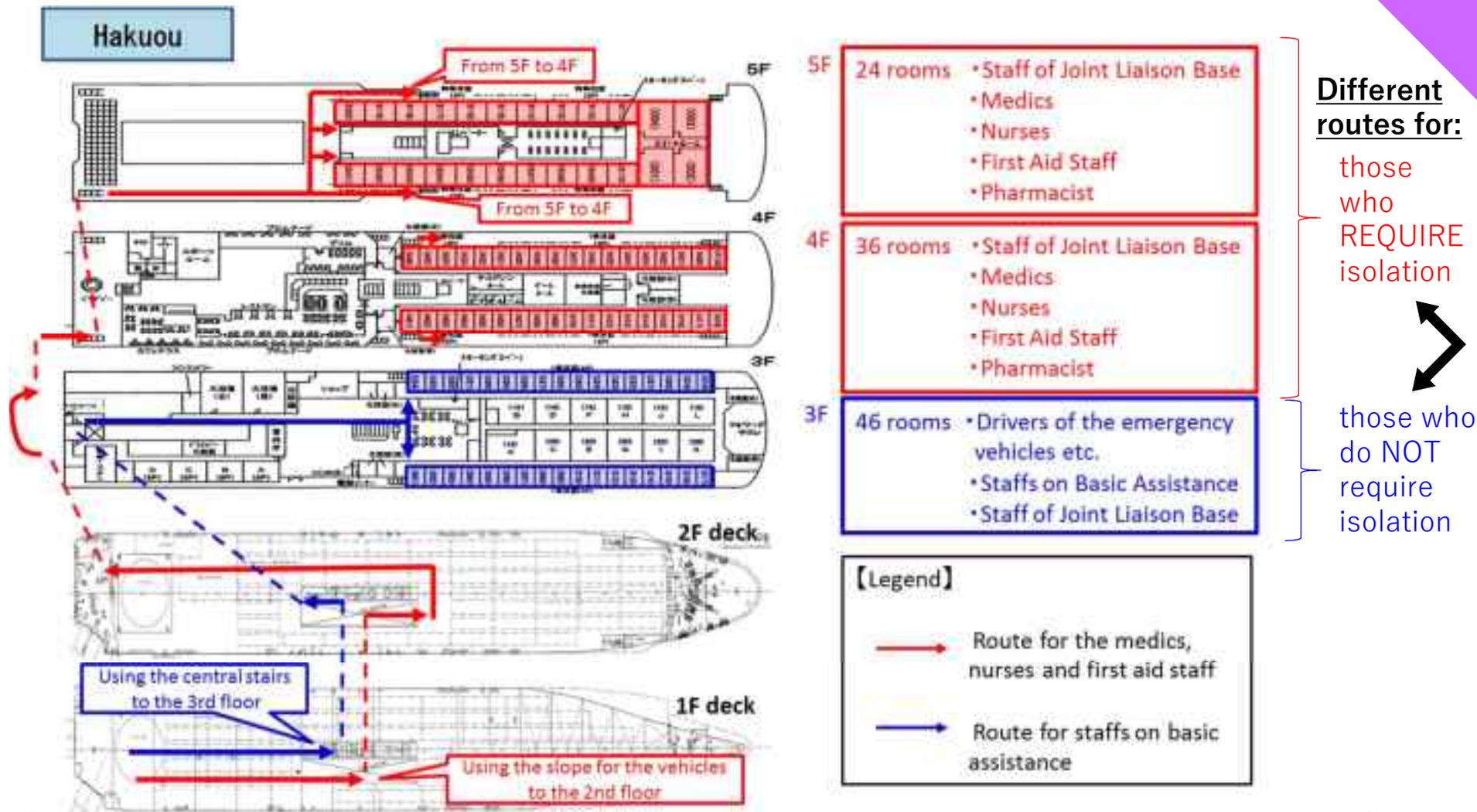
Nutritious meals



Example of meal box Menu

- Rice
- Main dish (fried meat with salad)
- Side dish (stewed vegetables)
- Vegetables
- Miso Soup
- Yoghurt

II . Assistance on the cruise ship Diamond Princess



In order to minimize infection:

- Used the 4th and 5th floors of the ship Hakuou and designated the outside stairs from the deck of the ship for those who require isolation ;and
- Allocated 3rd floor and the other ferry Silver Queen, and made available all other stairs for all other staff

III. Analysis of cases examined at the SDF Central Hospital

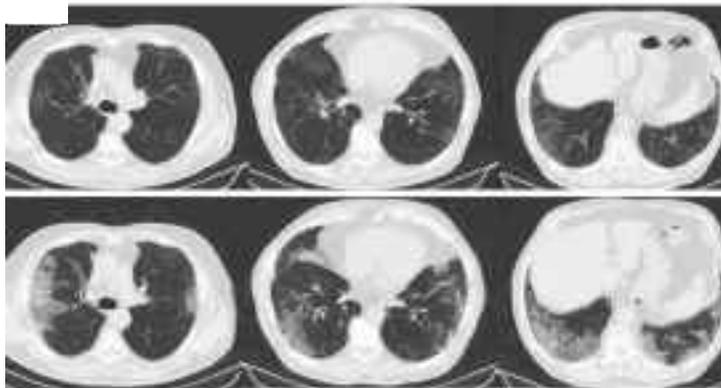
Admittance of one of the largest group of infectious patients in Japan

Publication of analysis of 104 admitted patients, based on their consent, with celerity (issued on 19 March)

No secondary infection suffered by hospital staff

(1) Effectiveness of CT scan

- a) CT scan showed high frequency of subclinical pneumonia even in cases of asymptomatic COVID-19 positive patient
- b) For some of those who initially tested negative in the PCR testing, repeated PCR testing later showed positive if CT scan indicated abnormalities



Example of pneumonia becoming worse
(from top to bottom)

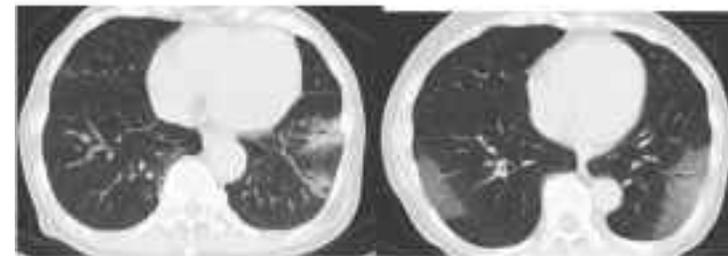


Image of CT scan
(PCR Positive, Asymptomatic)

III. Analysis of cases examined at the SDF Central Hospital

(2) Thorough preventative measures

- a) Zoning, and Prevention of infection through contact and airborne
- b) Knowhow built from the training of admitting infectious patients as a designated medical institution for admitting Class I infectious disease
- c) Knowhow built from the training of admitting a large number of injured patients under scenarios of natural disasters such as earthquakes

(3) Considerations for foreign patients

- a) Interpretation services for communication with patients and foreign embassies
- b) Provision of wifi connection to allow for communication with their home countries and access to information
- c) Foreigner friendly hospital meals



Zoning



Protective clothing



Hospital room

IV. Achievements



- **ACCOMPLISHED the mission with ZERO infected member of the JSDF deployed personnel** as directed by the Minister himself to place due focus on not having any deployed member infected.
- The importance of **EVERY SINGLE MEMBER'S RIGID ADHERENCE** to the instruction cannot be overstated.
- Disaster Relief operation is ongoing under the same principles.