Prime Minster’s Approval on Anti-Piracy Operations

Cabinet Decision
July 8, 2011

Based on the provisions of Article 7, paragraph (1) of the Act on Punishment of and Measures against Acts of Piracy (Act No. 55 of 2009), the Prime Minister hereby grants the approval on anti-piracy operations that has been sought by the Minister of Defense by submitting an outline of operations (see Annex) as prescribed in paragraph (2) of said Article.
Anti-piracy Operations Based on the Act on Punishment of and Measures against Acts of Piracy

Prime Minister’s Approval on Anti-Piracy Operations

On July 8, 2011, based on the provisions of Article 7, paragraph (1) of the Act on Punishment of and Measures against Acts of Piracy (Act No. 55 of 2009), the Prime Minister granted the approval on anti-piracy operations that had been sought by the Minister of Defense by submitting an outline of operations as prescribed in paragraph (2) of said Article.

Outline of the anti-piracy operations

1. Necessity of anti-piracy operations

The area off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden are important sea lanes for Japan and for the international community, connecting Europe and the Middle East with East Asia. In light of the high frequency and rapid increase of incidents caused by pirates equipped with heavy firearms in those areas, necessary operations to deal with acts of piracy have been implemented in the areas since July 24, 2009, by dispatching troops of the Japan Self-Defense Forces as anti-piracy operations under the provisions of Article 7, paragraph (1) of the Act on Punishment of and Measures against Acts of Piracy (Act No. 55 of 2009; hereinafter referred to as the "Anti-piracy Act").

However, given the status of occurrence of acts of piracy, still no change is observed in the need for measures against acts of piracy in those areas.

In addition, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has determined, as shown in Annex, that it is difficult for the Japan Coast Guard to deal with acts of piracy in those areas.

Since, under such circumstances, there continues to be a special need for dealing with such acts, necessary operations to deal with acts of piracy will continue to be implemented in the area off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden by dispatching troops of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) as anti-piracy operations under the provisions of Article 7, paragraph (1) of the Anti-piracy Act.

2. Sea areas for implementing anti-piracy operations

The sea areas in which the JSDF will take measures against acts of piracy will be the area off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden.

3. Size and composition of the JSDF troops to be ordered to implement anti-piracy operations, their equipment, and the operation period

(1) Size and composition

A. Troops for taking measures against acts of piracy by using escort ships (about 400
personnel; however, when switching troops, about 800 personnel)

B. Troops based in Djibouti for taking measures against acts of piracy by using aircraft (about 180 personnel; however, when switching troops, about 360 personnel) and troops for air-transporting personnel and maintenance equipment between Japan and said base as needed (about 90 personnel)

(2) Equipment
A. Ships
   Two escort ships (however, when switching troops, four escort ships)

B. Aircraft
   (A) Two fixed-wing P-3C patrol aircraft (however, when switching troops, four fixed-wing P-3C patrol aircraft)
   (B) Up to three C-130H transport aircraft or any other aircraft suitable for transport as needed

C. Other
   Necessary equipment for ensuring the health and safety of JSDF personnel, for guarding the JSDF's equipment, and for taking measures against acts of piracy (excluding those listed in A. and B.)

(3) Operation period
   From July 24, 2011, until July 23, 2012

4. Other important matters concerning anti-piracy operations
(1) The JSDF will closely communicate with relevant administrative organs with regard to such information as the overall status of other countries' activities in the areas prescribed in 2. above and the status of pirates in those areas, as well as other necessary information for implementing anti-piracy operations.

(2) When the JSDF implements these anti-piracy operations, coast guard officers will also be on board the escort ships and carry out necessary judicial police activities.

(3) The JSDF will, in order to adequately and effectively carry out anti-piracy operations, make necessary cooperation, including information cooperation, with troops of other countries taking measures against acts of piracy as well as with other relevant organizations.