SPECIAL FEATURE
Fuji Firepower Review 2013

TOPICS
Comprehensive disaster-preparedness drill on National Disaster Prevention Day 2013
Naming of the FAST Force

- The Second ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)
- Members from the United States House of Representatives and Senate visit the Ministry of Defense
- MSDF Chief of Staff visits Russia and France

- FY 2013 Capacity Building Project in Mongolia (Civil Engineering field)
- Concept of FY2014 Budget Request
- Ministry of Defense Reform Report
- JSDF collaboration with ODA
MEETING WITH FOREIGN LEADERS

The Second ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera traveled to Brunei between August 27 and 29 to attend the second ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and to hold bilateral talks with defense ministers participating in the conference.

1. The Second ADMM-Plus

On August 29, defense ministers from 10 ASEAN member countries and another eight countries outside the region met in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei to attend the second ADMM-Plus meeting, which was chaired by Brunei.

During the meeting, a report was made on development of the ASEAN region and on the progress of the ADMM-Plus framework. This was followed by a discussion involving defense ministers from each participating country on both regional and international security and defense issues. Minister Onodera introduced the recently released interim report on review of Japan’s National Defense Program Guidelines and Japan’s initiatives for bringing stability to the Asia-Pacific region. He also suggested the need for greater transparency of military power in each country as an important future task for the ADMM-Plus framework.

During the discussion, the parties pointed out the activities and future direction of the ADMM-Plus framework, the prevention of maritime conflicts and avoidance of collisions, the importance of denuclearized Korean Peninsula, and concerns over the use of chemical weapons in Syria. With regard to the Experts’ Working Group (EWG) within the ADMM-Plus framework, an agreement was reached to establish a new EWG for removing landmines, and new joint chairs for the six EWGs were approved, including the joint chair involving Japan and Laos for the EWG on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

At the end of the meeting, a wrap up session was held on the achievements of the ADMM-Plus framework to date, which was followed by the signing of the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration on the future direction of cooperation. The key points of this joint declaration are as follows.

i. In order to develop the peace and security targets for the Asia-Pacific region, defense cooperation will be strengthened and further understanding and trust will be fostered through close exchange of information between defense agencies.

ii. Confirmed the achievements of each EWG to date, including the first ADMM-Plus exercise held in June 2013.

iii. Approval was given for the use of the ADMM-Plus meeting to be changed from every three years to once every two years (with the third ADMM-Plus meeting scheduled to take place in Malaysia in 2015).

iv. Approval was given for the establishment of the new EWG on landmine removal and the changing of the joint chairs for each EWG for the next cycle.

v. A recommendation was made to establish a specific protocol to avoid maritime misunderstandings and undesirable incidents.

2. Bilateral talks

Minister Onodera took the opportunity during the ADMM-Plus meeting to hold individual bilateral defense talks with his counterparts from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States (see summary below), and Vietnam.

Japan–U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting (with U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel)

Both ministers reaffirmed continued significance of the Japan–U.S. Alliance in ensuring security of Japan as well as peace and stability in the region and also exchanged views on security environment of the Asia-Pacific region. As security environment is increasingly severe as demonstrated by provocations over territorial water, Minister Onodera stated that Japan is committed to protecting its land, water, air, and Japan does not accept change of status quo by force, and is determined to protect open and rule-based order of the sea. The ministers affirmed U.S. position over the Senkaku Islands and committed to work closely to respond to situation surrounding Japan including that of North Korea.

The Ministers agreed on the significance of further promoting bilateral defense cooperation in the area of cyber security. In this context, the Ministers directed their staffs to explore a new framework of cooperation on cyber security between defense authorities.

With regard to review of Guidelines for U.S.–Japan Defense Cooperation, the Ministers reiterated the significance of studying bilateral defense cooperation as well as future Roles, Missions, and Capabilities of the Alliance as soon as possible in order to respond to evolving security environment and strengthening regional security. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the progress of discussion on strategic environment perspective which serves as base for the review work of the Guidelines, and agreed to continue their vigorous discussion.

Members from the United States House of Representatives and Senate visit the Ministry of Defense

Representatives from the United States House of Representatives and Senate paid courtesy calls Minister of Defense between the end of August and the beginning of September as follows.

Courtesy call by Senator John McCain on Aug. 21

Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera and Senator John McCain exchanged views on security environment in the Asia-Pacific region during their meeting. Minister Onodera welcomed the fact that the United States’ commitment to the Senkaku Islands was clearly shown in the resolution on maritime security, unanimously passed by the U.S. Senate. With regards to the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, Senator McCain noted that the realignment plan is important for Japan as well as for Japan–U.S. relations and that the U.S. congress makes every possible efforts to proceed with the plan as early as possible.

Courtesy call of delegation led by Representative Dana Rohrabacher on Sept. 2

Minister Onodera met with a delegation of seven U.S. House members led by Representative Dana Rohrabacher. During the meeting, they exchanged views on security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and the situation in Syria. Minister Onodera explained that he was grateful for the fact that the National Defense Authorization Act, passed by the House in June 2013, expressed over China’s rapid increase in military spending. Members of the delegation emphasized that the robust and steady Japan–U.S. relationship is very important for future peace and security, and also explained that they think Japan plays a critical role in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

MSDF Chief of Staff visits Russia and France

The Chief of Staff of the Maritime-Self Defense Force, Katsuishi Kawano, visited Russia and France between August 25 and 31 in response to formal invitations extended from Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy as well as the Chief of Staff of the French Navy. In addition to meet-}

ings with senior navy officers, MSDF Chief of Staff Kawano also visited Russian and French navy units to promote mutual understanding and foster a relationship of trust between Japan and the two countries.
The inclement weather and fog caused the partial cancellation of ASDF F-2 fighter and MSDF P-3E patrol plane flights as well as bombing runs and some of the live surface-to-ground ordinances. Following the actual firing exhibition of primary equipment, footage from the U.S.-Japan joint exercise Dawn Blitz held in California in June was introduced to help strengthen the water and land operations of the GSDF. The footage was shown to the crowd on a big screen. Additionally, in line with last year, a live-fire exercise accomplishing its mission. The units mutually shared information and simultaneously launched rounds at multiple targets, expanding the theater of engagement and eventually attaining the purpose of the exercise.

This year marked the 55th time that the Fuji Firepower Review has been held in front of the general public. Approximately 2,300 personnel from various units, 90 tanks and armored vehicles, 50 types of artillery, 20 aircraft, and 600 units of other vehicles took part in the exercise. Each year the number of people from the general public that wish to attend increases, as the chances of being selected to attend has reached one in twenty registrants.

On August 25, the Fuji Firepower Review was conducted in the Hataoka District of the East Fuji Maneuver Area located in Gotemba City, Shizuoka Prefecture. Fuji School Head Seiichi Takeuchi served as the officer responsible for the exercise, while Fuji School Brigade Head Yasumi Ichino acted as the commanding officer. The exercise was attended by Minister of Defense Onodera as well as Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff Iwasaki, GSDF Chief of Staff Kimizuka, ASDF Chief of Staff Saito, and officials from the U.S. military. Despite the bad weather, approximately 28,000 people from the general public also watched the live-firing combat exercise involving tanks and artillery.
Comprehensive disaster-preparedness drill on National Disaster Prevention Day 2013 / Naming of the FAST Force

The Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Self-defense Force (SDF) conducted a comprehensive disaster prevention drill during disaster preparedness week (August 30th to September 5th) in order to facilitate prompt and effective dispatch of the SDF during a large-scale earthquake or other disaster in accordance with the following:

1. Governmental comprehensive disaster-preparedness drills
   - Disaster Preparedness Day Government Headquarters Operations Training
   - Wide area medical evacuation drill
2. Drills implemented in collaboration with local public agencies
   - Affiliated training program of the Capital Region (Kuyotokeshi) Joint Emergency Drill
   - Affiliated training program of the comprehensive disaster prevention training drills held in cooperation with Shizuoka Prefecture

Naming of the FAST Force

In response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, the MOD/SDF worked in unison in striving to rescue victims of this unprecedented large-scale disaster.

Going forward, in anticipation of large-scale earthquakes that are projected to occur and cause a national crisis, such as serious earthquakes along the Nankai Trough or earthquake that are projected to occur and cause a national crisis, such as the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The MOD/SDF have given the team its name FAST-Force* in order for each and every citizen to understand the function of and feel secure with the establishment of this team of people who are always on stand-by.

- First Initial response in a time of disaster
  - Action: Providing prompt assessment of damages and rescue of lives, as well as Support

Going forward, the MOD/SDF will continue to strive to protect the lives and properties of all citizens at the initial outbreak of natural disasters through information gathering and rescue efforts.

Ministry of Defense Reform Report

Reforms are being undertaken at the MOD, not only from the perspective of preventing scandals before they occur, but more importantly from the perspective of more actively and efficiently utilizing the SDF and personnel, while maintaining civil control, in the challenging security environment that surrounds Japan. These reforms were started during the LDP-NKP coalition government and following the change in administrations that took place in December 2012, a review was conducted by the MOD Reform Exploratory Committee chaired by the Vice Minister of Defense. The results of this review were reported and made public at the Defense Conference on August 30, 2013 with a focus on the direction of Defense Ministry reforms.

As a result, fundamental reforms will be pursued based on the following directions given the issues pointed out in reviews performed to date as well as changes in political environment, including the seriousness of the security environment surrounding Japan, the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, comprehensive non-conforming measures such as the three principles on arms control, and; promoting use of outer space.

FY 2013 Capacity Building Project in Mongolia (Civil Engineering field)

The MOD plans to implement the Capacity Building Project for the Mongolian Armed Forces in terms of civil engineering filed, and is currently undergoing preparation for the program launch in FY 2013.

From July 31 to August 6, the MOD visited the Mongolian Ministry of Defense, National Defense University Mongolia, and the Tavan Tolgoi PKO Center as part of the second onsite investigation for the Capacity Building Project in Mongolia. The visit involved meetings and discussions with the Mongolian Armed Forces and visits to the filed units, through which the delegation shared the expertise of GSDF in terms of civil engineering capability, and assessed the needs for the implementation of the Capacity Building Project.

*FAST (First Aid, Search and Rescue Team)
JSDF collaboration with ODA

Japanese organizations such as JICA and NGOs are also operating in South Sudan. The JSDF has been working closely with these organizations and collaborating with Japanese ODA in some projects to implement international peace cooperation activities efficiently and effectively. An ongoing work at Na Bari Community Road is a typical example. The JSDF is repairing the community road and developing a ditch by using materials procured through the Government of Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security. Prior to this activity, it is also cleaning the working site in cooperation with local residents. We call this kind of project as “All Japan Project” and it is highly appreciated by local residents and UN.

**UNMISS Staff Interview**

Lieutenant Colonel Masaki Mochida, who is currently working at the command center of the GSDF Central Readiness Force, was dispatched as a Commander of the 3rd Engineer Unit from late November 2012 to late June 2013. The unit led by Lt. Col. Mochida took part in infrastructure development and CIMIC activities in and around Juba, the capital of South Sudan, under the instruction of UNMISS.

Lt. Col. Mochida said that local residents appreciated the infrastructure such as roads repaired and developed by the SDF, thanks to its durability. In addition, the SDF camp is neatly maintained and the official vehicles are orderly arranged as well. They result from the SDF’s high discipline, morale, unity and technological capabilities instilled in each staff gained through daily education and training, which often attracted visiting officers from various countries.

There has been no casualities among the SDF personnel dispatched to PKO activities over the past 20 years. His unit was also able to accomplish its mission, conducting various infrastructure development activities including through collaborating with other Japanese organizations by utilizing ODA for the nation-building of South Sudan. At the same time, he ensured safety of his unit, returning home safely after the mission. He said it was his objective, as a Commander following the footsteps of SDF’s PKO activities with history of more than 20 years, to complete the mission and bring everyone home safely.

Major Yuichiro Koma was dispatched to the UNMISS Military Command Center as a Logistics Staff Officer, fulfilling his long-awaited dream.

Major Koma’s responsibilities there encompassed assessing materials and equipment required for dispatched troops and military liaison officer, and requesting for replenishment of supplies to prevent any shortages and inconvenience to the activities on the ground. As it was a rainy season during the period of his dispatch, the roads were flooded sometimes, and also he was quite busy trying to arrange unscheduled helicopters for access. As this example shows, the work on the ground often required flexibility to respond to the situation.

Since he was dispatched as an individual rather than as a member of the SDF, he had an opportunity to view objectively the SDF dispatched contingent. The SDF contingent was highly evaluated in the command center for its punctuality as well as detailed work. The quality of the road completed by the SDF contingent has been appreciated by local residents, making him feel a sense of pride as the same Japanese. While working there, Major Koma was always fully aware of the name “JAPAN” embroidered on the right chest of his uniform.

In closing his interview, Major Koma commented, “If I have another opportunity for an overseas deployment, I would definitely like to participate to contribute to the development countries around the world.”