
Chapter IV Efforts to Improve International Security Environment Proactively and on Its Own Initiative

Section 1 Efforts to Support International Peace Cooperation Activities

1. Overview

The international situation in recent years has provided the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) with increased opportunities to undertake diverse overseas missions on top of the international peace cooperation alignment and international emergency assistance activities, both of which have been conducted by the SDF in the past. This is the reflection of international community's increased trust in the SDF activities as a result of successful executions of assigned missions for a decade since the dispatch of minesweepers units to the Persian Gulf in 1992, which marked the first overseas operations of an SDF unit.

In addition, during their activities abroad, SDF members have stepped up interchanges with the people there and military personnel from many countries, and jointly conducted activities with them. Through these activities, the SDF has been able to demonstrate its organized capability, teamwork and diligence, which has been acquired by years of training and domestic activities since its establishment, and has accomplished overseas missions in a steady manner, while building good relations with countries concerned.

These SDF activities overseas have been highly recognized by international organizations, including the United Nations and many countries, and raising expectations for the SDF to play a further role in the international community.

The Defense Agency and the SDF is currently dispatching SDF units for overseas missions in line with the International Peace Cooperation Law, the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law and the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq.

These activities by SDF contributing to building a more stable security environment were placed as *one of the roles of defense capability* in the 1995 NDPO. The new 2004 NDPG, adopted in December last year, calls for the country to strive to *improve the international security environment* to prevent any threats from reaching Japan as *one of the objectives of its security policy*. This means that Japan will proactively and on its own initiative participate in activities that international community cooperatively undertake to improve international security environment (hereafter "international peace cooperation activities"). This pledge goes beyond the "ko-u-ken", (which comes from the translation of "contribution", but has slightly different connotation) of Japan in the past, which has left the impression that Japan was engaged in such activities only for the sake of others, not in the interest of Japan's own security.

As of May 2005, the Defense Agency and the SDF has been conducting international peace cooperation alignment including Support to Reconstruction Efforts in Iraq, Activities to Support Fight against Terrorism, PKO, International Emergency Assistance and PSI (Proliferation Security Initiative) related activities.

2. Cooperation in Global Efforts to Reconstruct Iraq

Outline of the Basic Plan and Others

SDF reconstruction activities need to be conducted in accordance with the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq enacted in August 2003, and it calls for the Cabinet to formulate the Basic Plan to define missions to be conducted and conditions including timeframe. First Basic Plan was formulated in December 2003.

This Basic Plan stipulates that SDF troops be dispatched to Iraq for up to one year. The Cabinet, however, endorsed a revision on December 9, 2004 to the Basic Plan as Japan's own decision, after examining various factors including; the progress of reconstruction in Iraq; the development of its political process; the local security situation; and activities by multinational forces. The revision has enabled the SDF to continue to undertake its humanitarian and reconstruction operations in Iraq. Following the revision to the Basic Plan, the Minister of State for Defense changed Implementation Guideline and the Prime Minister approved the change both on December 9, 2004.

Prior to the Government's revision of the Basic Plan, Minister of State for Defense Yoshinori Ohno visited Iraq and Kuwait in December and observed activities being conducted there by units of the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) and the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF). At the GSDF's Samawah camp in southern Iraq, Ohno held talks with Al-Hasani, the Governor of the Muthanna Province, and the then commander of a Dutch military unit being dispatched in Iraq, and took a first-hand look at security and other situations in the Samawah area. Minister of State for Defense Ohno confirmed in Samawah that local people welcomed the activities of GSDF troops and the SDF's continued operations for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq are important in light of many demands being filed from local people for Japanese troops to engage in repair work at public facilities such as roads and schools as well as medical support.

SDF Activities

The SDF, based on the special measures law, has provided humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the country, such as restoration and improvement of schools and other public facilities, provision of medical service, and transportation of aid materials, while building good relations with countries concerned and local communities, in order to contribute to Iraq's independent efforts to rebuild the country. Japan's aid mission to Iraq consists of humanitarian contribution led by the SDF and the Government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) which is under responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both of which support each other like “**two wheels of the same shaft.**” Japan's such efforts to support Iraq have been highly appreciated by the international community.

(1) GSDF's Humanitarian/Reconstruction Assistance and Support Activities for Ensuring Security

To support Iraqi Reconstruction, GSDF is sending two types of groups to the region; Reconstruction Support Group and Task Planning and Coordination Unit to help Reconstruction Activities. In January last year, the first contingent of GSDF groups and units for supporting Iraqi reconstruction was dispatched. Since then, each group has undertaken aid operations in Iraq for about three months before being replaced

by another group, while each unit has operated for about six months before being replaced by another. As of the end of May this year, the sixth contingent of groups and the third contingent of units were operating in Iraq. GSDF personnel belonging to these groups and units are conducting humanitarian and reconstruction assistance operations and support activities for ensuring the area's security as shown below, while taking into consideration demands from local people and respecting local customs.

Medical Services

Starting on February 19, 2004, medical officers of the GSDF have been participating in sessions on case studies at four hospitals, including a general hospital in Samawah. The officers have been providing advice and instructions to local doctors on diagnosing diseases and determining the treatment necessary for treating patients. The officers have been also teaching doctors how to use medical equipment provided by Japan under the framework of Official Development Assistance (ODA), which is under responsibility of the Foreign Ministry. Moreover, they have been offering technical advice to paramedics in the Province of Muthanna. They have been also providing medical support to local doctors, including giving technical advice on how to manage pharmaceuticals in warehouses. The GSDF has been helping improve the level of medical service in the Province of Muthanna through these activities.

Water Supply

Since March 26 last year, the dispatched SDF has been purifying water, at SDF Camp Samawah, taken from a nearby canal, and supplied it local people through water-supply vehicles of the waterworks bureau of the Province of Muthanna, which have been provided under Japanese ODA framework. SDF water supply support has been succeeded by a water-purifying facility Japan had built near the SDF Camp Samawah under its ODA after its operation started in February 2005. The cumulative water supply by Japan to the province totaled about 53,500 tons. Japan's water-supply activities have been highly appreciated by the people of Muthanna for their significance as one form of support that is directly connected to the lives of local people. The dispatched GSDF also provided about 1,170 tons of water to Dutch troops as part of Japan's support activities to ensure security.

Activities to Reconstruct and Improve Schools and Other Public Facilities

Since March 25 last year, the dispatched GSDF have engaged in repair and reconstruction work for damaged walls, floors and electric wiring systems at schools in the Muthanna Province. As of the end of May this year, such work has been completed at 15 schools and 11 other schools are under way.

Since March 30 last year, the members have been leveling and paving roads mainly used by local people in the province. As of the end of May this year, such road-improvement works have been completed at 17 places while two other places are now under construction. GSDF units in Iraq are closely cooperating with the Foreign Ministry on road improvement projects, as the roads leveled off by GSDF units are being paved with asphalt using the ODA budget allocated by the Foreign Ministry.

The GSDF has been also undertaking repair and reconstruction works for public facilities in the Muthanna Province other than schools and roads, including rebuilding Primary Health Centers (PHC) across the province, the renovation of nursery schools in Samawah, repair work for houses used for

low-income earners and the renovation of a water-purifying facility in Warka. As of the end of May this year, such work has been completed at 17 facilities and 17 other public facilities are now under repair work.

The reconstruction of these public facilities, directly connected to the livelihood of local people, and has contributed to improving their living conditions. Some GSDF operations are outsourced to local contractors, helping to create jobs in local communities. At the peak, more than 1,000 local people have been hired per day in connection with the GSDF reconstruction mission. The dispatched GSDF units have made great efforts to coordinate closely with local people over public facility improvement projects so that the units' activities can meet the needs and demands of local people.

Transportation Activities

GSDF units dispatched to Iraq transported goods and materials for humanitarian and reconstruction use donated by Japan, including medical equipment, from Talill Airport to Samawah in close cooperation with the ASDF. In addition, GSDF units, using their vehicles, transported wounded soldiers of the South Korean military from Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait to Kuwait International Airport.

Other Activities: Friendly Relations with Local People

In implementing their assigned missions in Iraq, GSDF recognize the needs to build friendly relations with local people. For that purpose, SDF personnel have been making efforts to promote friendly relations with the people by teaching them origami paper-folding and holding music concerts. In return, local children performed dramas for GSDF members and presented pictures which they had drawn to the members. Through these activities, GSDF members have been able to establish good relations with local people. Reflecting such favorable relations between GSDF and the local community, some local residents staged a rally in support of GSDF operations in Samawah, while others, smiling, wave their hands to GSDF members engaging in operations or in transit for particular operations. These interchanges have become a part of the people's daily life.

Cooperation with British and Australian Troops Deployed in the Muthanna Area

In February this year, Dutch military troops started withdrawing from the Province of Muthanna after winding up their mission of ensuring the security of the province. The GSDF has received support from the Dutch military on various fronts, including cooperation extended to; the GSDF's advance team which was sent to Samawah for the research mission before the dispatch of core GSDF units, the GSDF units in their actual deployment, and the GSDF units after they started undertaking humanitarian and reconstruction operations in Samawah.

On March 7 this year, British troops replaced the Dutch troops to help ensure security in the province. In May, Australian troops began deployment to Samawah. At present, British and Australian troops are operating for ensuring security in the province. It is important for the dispatched GSDF units to keep in close cooperation with troops of the British and Australian forces when conducting their assigned missions. In order to promote such cooperation, the GSDF units and those of the British and Australian forces have sent liaison officers to each other's camps, and sponsored regular meetings to exchange views, or put on various cultural events.

(2) ASDF Activities for Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance and Ensuring Security

Since March 3 last year, the C-130H planes have airlifted goods and materials donated by Japan for humanitarian and reconstruction use, including medical equipment, similar goods donated by other countries and relevant international organizations, and personnel dispatched by such countries and organizations as well as replenish supplies being used by the dispatched GSDF units.

As of the end of May this year, airlifting conducted by the ASDF for the Iraqi mission totaled 152 times with the total goods and materials transported weighing 217.2 tons.

Appreciation of Japan's Efforts in Iraq by Other Countries

Japan's activities in the rebuilding of Iraq have gained appreciation and gratitude from Iraq and many other countries, as mentioned below. A public opinion poll conducted on local people showed that 80% of those answered support the Japanese operations.

In Iraq

Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi told Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during their summit in September last year that Iraq thanks Japan for its participation in reconstruction activities in his country as a member of the multinational force. In the meeting with Prime Minister Koizumi, Prime Minister Allawi quoted the head of an influential tribe in Samawah as telling him recently that his tribe felt gratitude for the SDF operations in Iraq and that Japan and the Japanese people were greatly respected in Iraq. In a letter sent to Prime Minister Koizumi in October last year, Prime Minister Allawi wrote that the SDF being dispatched to Iraq had successfully executed their duty, which were deemed indispensable for satisfying the needs of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi reconstruction. The SDF's contribution is indispensable to maintain momentum which would likely become necessary at an important time when Iraq's political system will be shifted, Prime Minister Allawi also told Prime Minister Koizumi in the letter.

Following a decision by the Japanese Government on December 9 last year to extend the duration of the Basic Plan for Japan's humanitarian and reconstruction assistance activities in Iraq, the Iraqi Embassy in Tokyo issued a press statement that Iraq welcomes the Japanese courageous decision. The press statement termed the decision as representing renewed determination by the Japanese people and the Japanese Government to help the Iraqi people to overcome their current problems and representing friendly relations between Iraq and Japan. The Iraqi people will continue to express their gratitude for a friend who does not spare efforts to help rebuild Iraq and establish a democratic society, according to the statement. In addition, Al-Hasani, the Governor of the Muthanna Province, said that his province welcomes the GSDF's extended deployment in Samawah.

A survey conducted by Kyodo News on citizens in Samawah in January this year found that 78.3% of those who were asked whether they support the Japanese Government's decision to extend the GSDF operations expressed support for it. Asked about if they are satisfied with the activities of the GSDF, 61.8% of those answered in the affirmative.

In Other Countries

U.S. President George W. Bush told Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during their summit meeting in September last year that the United States thanks Japan for extending support to Iraq and Afghanistan for their efforts to rebuild themselves. Dutch Defense Minister Henk Kamp told Japanese Minister of State for Defense Yoshinori Ohno during the defense ministerial meeting at the Japan Defense Agency in November last year that the Netherlands highly appreciates the JSDF's humanitarian and reconstruction assistance activities in Iraq for various reasons including the fact that the SDF has won local people's trust in its operations, which is very important to conduct operation in the region.

With regard to Japan's decision to extend the Basic Plan for the SDF deployment in Iraq for an additional 12 months, a U.S. State Department spokesman said in a news conference that the United States warmly welcomes the decision. The spokesman added that the United States believes the JSDF's continued activities in Iraq will contribute greatly to global efforts to extend humanitarian and reconstruction support to the country. The spokesman also said that the United States highly appreciates Japan's leadership in international efforts to rebuild Iraq. In addition, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw said in a press statement following the Japanese decision that Britain welcomes Japan's decision to extend the SDF operations in Iraq.

3. Activities Responding to International Terrorism (Activities in the Indian Ocean and Other Areas)

More than three years have passed since MSDF and ASDF began Cooperation and Support Activities in accordance with Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law enacted in October 2001, just after the terrorist attacks taking place in the United States on September 11, 2001.

In light of the situation surrounding international terrorist activities, countermeasures carried out by various countries have been continuing in the Indian Ocean for more than three years. The Government assessed anti-terrorist operations being undertaken by these countries and, based on Japan's own judgment, extended the duration of overseas operations by the SDF and partially revised the Basic Plan to change the content of its operations in October 2004. In April this year, the Government also changed the Basic Plan to extend the duration, marking the seventh revision of the plan.

Cooperation and Support Activities by the MSDF

On December 2, 2001, MSDF began fueling U.S. naval vessels in the Indian Ocean as part of the MSDF's cooperation and support activities. The destroyer Sawagiri and the supply vessel Towada, which had engaged in relief activities for people affected by combat, joined the three vessels (Kurama, Kirisame and Hamana) in the Indian Ocean. These MSDF vessels also began fueling British naval ships on January 29, 2002. Japan had initially limited the ships to be refueled as a part of its cooperation and support activities to those belonging to the U.S. and British forces. However, the Government of Japan, judging it necessary to increase the operational efficiency of the global fight against terrorism, expanded the scope of countries receiving refueling gradually.

As a result, ships from a total of 11 countries have become subject to refueling by Japan's MSDF. Since October 2004, after the revision of the Basic Plan, Japan has supplied fuel not only to ships but also to ship-based helicopters. Japan also started supplying water to foreign naval ships following the revision.

The number of refueling fuel for ships as part of Japan's cooperation and support activities totaled 520 as of the end of May, 2005, with about 402,000 kiloliters of fuel supplied. The number of refueling for ship-based helicopters totaled 18 times with about 300 kiloliters of fuel. The number of water refueling for the ships came to 20 with about 1,200 tons of water supplied.

Cooperation and Support Activities by the ASDF

The ASDF started transport operations between U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) bases on November 29, 2001, using C-130H aircraft from the First Transport Wing (Komaki Base in Central Japan), and overseas transport between USFJ bases and U.S. bases in Guam and other areas on December 3, 2001.

The ASDF has engaged in transport operations as a part of Japan's cooperation and support activities for the U.S.-led anti-terrorism operations, mainly using its C-130H transportation aircraft. From July 2002, the ASDF also began using C-1 transportation aircrafts in addition to C-130H transportation aircrafts for transport operations between the U.S. military bases in Japan. Since July last year, it has been using only C-1 aircraft for the domestic transportation.

Under these transport operations, the ASDF has airlifted goods and materials of the U.S. military, such as aircraft engines, components, maintenance equipment and clothing. The number of ASDF transport operations since commencing cooperation and support activities totaled 15 for overseas transport and 262 for domestic transport as of the end of May 2005.

World's Appreciation of Japan's Contribution

In reference to Japan's efforts to fight against international terrorism, Afghan President Hamid Kharzai said in a speech delivered to a U.N. General Assembly session in September last year that he wishes to express gratitude to all countries, particularly the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain and Canada, which have dispatched their troops and allocated resources, on behalf of the Afghan people.

In September of the same year, U.S. President George W. Bush told Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi that the United States thanks Japan for providing support to Afghanistan and Iraq. U.S. Secretary of States Condoleezza Rice also expressed gratitude during courtesy call to Prime Minister Koizumi in March this year, saying she wants to deeply thank Japan for its support to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, including the SDF's operations in the Indian Ocean.

Behind gratitude toward Japan for its operations is the significant contribution being made by its maritime refueling to global efforts to intercept terrorist activities at sea. Vessels engaged in OEF-MIO can maintain operations only for several days if they are not accompanied by supply ships; once the initially loaded fuel is consumed, vessels would have to leave the operation area and call at ports for refueling. This means that the vessels would have to leave the operation area frequently, lowering the overall operational efficiency significantly. In other words, refueling activities by supply vessels play a vital role in enabling continuous and long-term operations. Japan has dispatched supply ships without interruption, a factor that has drawn acclaim from ranking officials among those participating in the operations. Among the officials is a senior military official, who said that some countries were able to send vessels to the operational area in their fight against terrorism because they were supported by MSDF refueling.

4. Efforts for International Peace Cooperation Alignment

Japan, in a bid to fulfill a role commensurate to its international status, has been cooperating, both on human and financial fronts, with global efforts being led by the United Nations to build a peaceful and stable international society. In order to help improve the international security environment, the Defense Agency and the SDF have positively engaged in international peace cooperation alignment.

Based on the International Peace Cooperation Law, enacted in 1992, the SDF has dispatched its units and others to Cambodia, Mozambique and East Timor as part of Japan's cooperation in peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, and to Zaire (currently the Democratic Republic of Congo), Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan as part of its cooperation in international humanitarian and relief activities. In addition, as part of its efforts to support U.N. peacekeeping operations, the SDF has been sending units and others to the Golan Heights since 1996.

International Peace Cooperation Alignment in the Golan Heights

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been undertaking U.N. peacekeeping operations in a zone called the Area of Separation (AOS), set up to separate the opposing troops of Syria and Israel that have agreed to a ceasefire.

Japan's participation in the UNDOF operations is significant because it marks Japan's personnel contribution to world efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. The participation is also significant for Japan because it would help train people who can fulfill international missions.

Japan decided in December 1995 to dispatch SDF units and others to the UNDOF. In January 1996, the first transport unit of 43 personnel was sent to the Golan Heights, and replaced a Canadian transport unit. Since then, an SDF unit has been sent there every six months on a rotating basis. As of the end of May 2005, the 19th dispatch of the transport unit was operating in the Golan Heights.

The dispatched SDF transport unit is in charge of transporting daily goods and materials needed for UNDOF operations from the harbors, airports and commodities markets of Israel, Syria and Lebanon to the UNDOF campsites. The unit also provides logistical support, including repairs of roads which have become slippery due to rain and snowfall, and removal of snow from streets in plateau areas with an altitude of more than 2,800 meters.

The ASDF flies a C-130H transport plane and a U-4 multipurpose assistance plane to the Golan Heights every six months to transport goods and materials for the transport unit. Two SDF personnel sent to the UNDOF headquarters oversee planning and coordination of transport and other UNDOF rear-support operations, and are also responsible for publicity and budget-related work. SDF personnel are assigned to the UNDOF headquarters for about one year, and are replaced by other SDF personnel after completing their assignment. SDF personnel working at the UNDOF headquarters as of the end of May 2005 were the 10th class to be sent there. Japan had originally intended to complete its participation in UNDOF operations within two years. However, participation has continued until now after comprehensively examining various factors, such as strong requests from the United Nations, commendation being given to past Japanese operations by the United Nations and relevant countries, and the importance of Japan's personnel cooperation to peace in the Middle East.

Japan's unit dispatch to UNDOF is set to mark its 10th anniversary in January next year.

International Peace Cooperation Alignment in East Timor

The United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) took over peacekeeping operations from the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), an entity tasked with managing overall administrative affairs in pre-independence East Timor, following its formal independence on May 20, 2002. The Government of Japan decided to dispatch SDF units and others to UNTAET in response to a request from the United Nations to participate in a U.N.-sponsored PKO. Japan has dispatched about 2,300 personnel belonging to the GSDF's engineering units and officers to work at the headquarters of UNTAET to East Timor since February 2002. With the United Nations' international peace cooperation alignment in East Timor curtailed significantly in May last year, the Japanese SDF decided to end its operations there. The SDF's units completely withdrew from the area in June 2004.

Japan's operations in East Timor contributed to stabilizing the area and promoting peace and security in the entire Asian region.

A major mission of GSDF contingents dispatched to East Timor was to provide logistical support to UNMISET units undertaking peacekeeping operations in East Timor. The personnel, including a division chief sent to the engineering division of the UNMISET military component headquarters, crafted a framework for Japan's civilian support to East Timor, which called for the use of the engineering ability of the dispatched GSDF contingents. Based on the framework, the GSDF contingents repaired roads and bridges that were indispensable for local people. These roads and bridges are now used as important traffic infrastructure and have supported efforts by East Timor to rebuild itself.

The GSDF contingents donated part of equipment and machines they had used during their engineering work to East Timor after completing their mission in the country. They also taught people in East Timor how to operate and maintain these machines and helped them devise engineering plans while offering manager training. This kind of education and donation have paved the way for the people of East Timor to acquire skills and knowledge that would become necessary when they embark on projects to improve the nation's social infrastructure, such as building roads, and to promote restoration work after natural disasters hit the country. This kind of Japan's support of East Timor received acclaim from the United Nations as being "uniquely Japanese."

Dispatch of Self-Defense Officials to the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

In November 2001, the Law on Working Conditions of Defense Agency Officials Dispatched to International Organizations was revised to enable the Defense Agency to send its officials to the PKO Department. The revision was based on the judgment that the agency's dispatch of officials to the U.N. department would contribute to supporting the United Nations in its efforts towards achieving world peace.

Under the revised law, one defense official was dispatched between December 2002 and June this year to the Military Planning Section of the Military Division in the PKO Department of the United Nations, which is located in the United States. This marked the Defense Agency's first dispatch of an official to the PKO Department. The dispatched GSDF official engaged in planning policies and measures for U.N. PKO. Most recently, an SDF officer dispatched to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), set up in June last year, participated in its policy-planning work.

5. International Disaster Relief Operations

In 1992, the International Disaster Relief Law, enacted in 1987 was amended to enable the SDF to participate in international disaster relief operations and to transport its personnel and equipment. Since then, the SDF has maintained its readiness for international disaster relief operations with self-sufficient capabilities, including relief operations and medical treatment, and with the use of its own equipment, organizations and benefits of regular training, even when local support is not available for transport, accommodation, food and water supplies, communications, sanitation, and so forth.

International Disaster Relief Operations by the SDF and the SDF's Posture

International disaster relief operations conducted by the SDF may take different forms according to factors such as the scale of the disaster, the degree of damage, and the requests of the governments of affected countries or international organizations. The SDF's past record on domestic disaster relief operations indicates possible fields of cooperation to be extended by the SDF overseas for disaster relief. These fields are as follows:

- medical services, such as first-aid medical treatment and epidemic prevention;
- transport of goods, patients, and disaster relief personnel by helicopter;
- ensuring water supplies using water-purifying devices.
- use of transport planes/ships to carry disaster-relief personnel, and equipment to the affected area.

Regional units of the GSDF are assigned duties on a six-month rotational basis, to ensure that they can provide medical, transport and water supply services in a self-sufficient manner anytime the need for disaster-relief operations arises. The MSDF and the ASDF are always prepared to have its fleet and air-support team, respectively, transport supplies to its units or units participating in international disaster-relief operations. The ASDF's air support command is also prepared to provide similar services anytime the need for disaster relief arises.

International Disaster Relief Activities by Japan after the Large-Scale Earthquake off Sumatra Island and the Indian Ocean Tsunami

A large-scale earthquake occurred off Indonesia's Sumatra Island on December 26, 2004, and the subsequent tsunami tidal wave in the Indian Ocean caused devastating damage in areas near the seismic center.

On December 27, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand filed a formal request for Japan's assistance. On December 28, the Japanese Foreign Minister consulted with the Minister of State for Defense concerning the assistance that the SDF could provide. Later on the same day, Minister Ohno ordered MSDF vessels in the Indian Ocean to change their course and head for Thailand and conduct search and rescue operations. These vessels were on the way home after being replaced by other MSDF units following the completion of their anti-terrorist mission based on the Anti-Terrorist Special Measures Law. The three vessels, including helicopters carried by them, recovered 57 bodies of disaster victims who were drifting in the waters and delivered them to Thai authorities. The helicopters also airlifted Japanese troops who had been sent earlier for medical support as well as their equipment.

On January 3 this year, the Government of Japan received a request from the Government of Indonesia to provide support to the country to help its people affected by the earthquake and the tsunami. Following its meeting with the Foreign Ministry on January 4, the Defense Agency and the SDF decided to send disaster relief units to Indonesia including an airlifting squadron of the ASDF for disaster relief operations, a disaster relief unit of the MSDF, medical and aircraft-support units of the GSDF, and liaison and coordination officers of the Joint Staff Council.

On the transportation front, One C-130H of the ASDF was used to airlift aid goods and materials between Thailand's Utapao, which served as the liaison and coordination center for international disaster relief operations, and Banda Aceh in Indonesia. In addition, three CH-47JA transport helicopters and two UH-60JA multipurpose helicopters of the GSDF, one SH-60J ship-carried helicopter of the MSDF and two air-cushioned landing craft (LCAC) of the MSDF were used to airlift aid goods between areas in the Province of Aceh, and transport heavy machines to be used for reconstruction work in Indonesia.

On the medical front, GSDF units provided medical service to victims of the quake and the tsunami in Banda Aceh and took measures to prevent epidemics in the area. Moreover, they had people vaccinated (against measles) on the west coast of the Aceh Province.

Three points can be cited as major characteristics of the SDF's international disaster relief operations following the earthquake and the tsunami as shown below.

- Helicopters were dispatched for the first time for international disaster relief operations.* GSDF helicopters to be used for the relief operations were carried by the MSDF's transport vessel Kunisaki from Japan.
- During the relief operations, the MSDF's vessel which anchored off Banda Aceh acted as a center for providing logistical support to dispatched GSDF units. This became the *touchstone for the SDF's planned shift to joint operation at the end of FY 2005.*
- Three service plus Joint Staff Council members, totaling about 1,000, were *dispatched abroad together for the same disaster relief mission for the first time* in the largest-ever scale.

6. Proactive Efforts to International Peace Cooperation Activities in the Future Based on the New NDPG

Japan has participated in a variety of international peace cooperation activities since the enactment of the International Peace Cooperation Law in 1992. Recently, new ways of participation in international peace cooperation are being explored in Japan in order to meet new kinds of demands which present international situations call for.

Japan's Efforts toward International Peace Cooperation Activities as Shown in New NDPG

The new NDPG calls for the SDF to make efforts proactively and on its own initiative to address international peace cooperation activities in order to respond to a new international security environment. Japan should make its own efforts toward that goal based on the recognition that ensuring peace and stability in the global community is an issue of ensuring Japan's own peace and security.

Review of SDF's International Peace Cooperation Activities in terms of Mission Status

When the International Peace Cooperation Law was enforced in 1992, it was intended that techniques, experiences and organizational functions that the SDF has accumulated in order to defend Japan can be utilized in peacetime for Japan's efforts to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations. Therefore, it was generally viewed that Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations and other international peace cooperation activities should be allowed as long as such participation does not hamper the SDF's execution of its originally intended missions.

Activities like international peace cooperation operations are stipulated under Chapter 8 of the Self-Defense Forces Law, which governs miscellaneous rules about the SDF, along with activities to support athletic competition events and the like. A variety of international peace cooperation activities which were later added into the scope of the SDF's operations are stipulated under Chapter 8 of the Self-Defense Forces Law or its supplementary provisions.

Since the dispatch of MSDF minesweeping unit to the Persian Gulf, the SDF has stepped up its participation in various kinds of international peace cooperation operations. This has steadily helped the Japanese people to deepen their understanding and expectations for the SDF's international peace cooperation activities while Japan's participation in such activities has been appreciated by the international community.

In view of the SDF's past achievements regarding international peace cooperation operations and the need for the SDF to positively participate in such operations in order to ensure Japan's peace and security amid a new security environment, the new NDPG says the SDF will improve its operational system, including how its international peace cooperation activities should be treated from a viewpoint of executing its duty, in order to adequately deal with Japan's participation in such activities.

It is significant to make the mission status of the SDF's participation in international peace cooperation activities more adequate and clearer and that would send a clear message to the international community on Japan's keen efforts to help build a stable security environment. It is also meaningful because SDF members can devote themselves to fulfilling their assigned missions for international peace cooperation operations with greater self-awareness and pride.

Given these advantages, the Defense Agency is resolved to positively work on the review of SDF's International Peace Cooperation Activities in terms of Mission Status.

Study on the modality of Japan's Participation in International Peace Cooperation Activities

Led by the Cabinet's Secretariat, the Japanese Government is broadly studying general issues about Japan's participation in international peace cooperation activities as well as specific issues like how the SDF's operational system should be improved for Japan to adequately respond to global needs for participation in such operations and how the SDF's international peace cooperation activities should be understood from a viewpoint of accomplishing its missions.

In recent years, various proposals were put forward regarding what Japan should do on the international peace cooperation front in response to changes in the international situation. Among them were a report released in May 2002 by the International Peace Cooperation Council, chaired by Yasushi Akashi, former Undersecretary-General of the United Nations, and a report compiled in October last year by the Council on National Security and Defense Capability, chaired by Hiroshi Araki, adviser to Tokyo

Electric Power Co. Referring to these proposals, Japan has broadly studied how and on what concept, ideas and principle the country should participate in international peace cooperation operations. The Defense Agency and the SDF have positively taken part in meetings and other opportunities where Japan's international peace cooperation operations were discussed, while taking into account the SDF's past activities and the lesson it has learned from such activities, so that the SDF can contribute to promoting peace and stability of the global society.

Section 2 Establishing the Basis for Cooperative Relations in the International Community

The new NDPG says making active and positive efforts to help improve the international security environment should be regarded as a major role to be played by defense forces. Based on that idea, the NDPG calls for the SDF to promote activities deemed as contributing to world peace and stability, including promotion of security dialogue and defense exchanges such as bilateral and multilateral joint defense exercises, and supporting arms control and disarmament efforts by the United Nations and other international organizations.

In view of the concept as shown in the NDPG, the Defense Agency and the SDF have been promoting security dialogue and defense exchanges at different levels, and have also sponsored multilateral joint exercises. Further, they have participated in multilateral joint exercises sponsored by other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, they are stepping up cooperation concerning arms control and disarmament. Through these activities, the Defense Agency and the SDF have been trying to establish the basis for cooperative relations in the international community.

1. Security Dialogue and Defense Relations

Significance of Security Dialogue and Defense Relations

To ensure Japan's peace and security, it has become increasingly important to build a more stable security environment in the international community, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to maintain an adequate level of defense capability and alliance based on the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements.

The Defense Agency and the SDF place importance on bilateral relations, multilateral security dialogues such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and joint multilateral defense exercises in the Asia-Pacific region in order to improve and strengthen cooperation and cooperative relations among countries in the region. The Defense Agency and the SDF will redouble their efforts to improve the security environment by deepening ties and building wider relations in the region.

Bilateral Defense Relations

Bilateral defense relations, involving officials of the two countries in charge of defense affairs, are intended to establish the basis for building cooperation between the countries. The significance of bilateral

defense relations lies in the fact that they can be tailored to meet specific needs in bilateral relations and that bilateral confidence established through such exchanges can become a basis on which to effectively promote multilateral security dialogues and others.

The Defense Agency has been making active efforts to strengthen bilateral defense relations with countries concerned through exchanges of high level defense officials visits, regular consultations between defense officials, exchanges of units etc.

Multilateral Security Dialogue

Multilateral security dialogue is extremely significant because participating countries can deepen their mutual understanding and increase mutual trust by exchanging views on security issues of mutual concern. Such security dialogue can also effectively contribute to bringing about regional peace and stability, with concerned countries having the opportunity to tackle particular issues affecting them under such multilateral framework. In the Asia-Pacific region, in particular, there still exist unpredictable and uncertain factors. Recently, new issues, including proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, have been strongly recognized in the region. Since these issues may become factors in destabilizing the security of the region, promoting a multilateral framework for security dialogue becomes even more important.

The Defense Agency believes that it is necessary for defense officials among ARF member countries to enhance mutual confidence during the process of the ARF so that the ARF would become a forum to generate a sense of being part of one community among its members, and thereby stabilize the region's security environment. From this perspective, the Defense Agency has been continuing its efforts to deepen mutual understanding within the ARF by continuing to participate in the ARF process, by encouraging ARF members to increase the transparency of their defense policies and by promoting frank discussion among members' defense officials.

The Defense Agency believes that it is important for Japan to take the initiative in multilateral security dialogue in order to promote mutual understanding and confidence among defense officials of Japan and other countries through information exchanges and discussions. The Defense Agency also believes that by doing so, Japan can contribute to making the Asia-Pacific region more stable. Based on this perception, the Defense Agency has sponsored seminars and other events to promote multilateral security dialogue at various levels-the Internal Bureau, the GSDF, the MSDF, the ASDF, the National Defense Academy and the National Institute for Defense Studies-and has actively participated in such forums sponsored by foreign countries and other organizations.

The Forum for Defense Authorities of Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum) has been sponsored by the Japan Defense Agency every year since 1996. The forum is designed to contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region by deepening mutual understanding among participating countries on each other's defense policy and increasing the transparency of their defense policies. Under the forum, defense officials of participating countries have exchanged views on defense policies, and measures and actions being taken by each country to foster mutual trust in the field of defense.

In June this year, the 10th Tokyo Defense Forum was held and exchanged views on "Roles of Armed Forces in Disaster Relief and Future Challenges the Potential for Enhanced Regional Cooperation concerning Disaster Relief Operations by Armed Forces" and Chairperson of the Forum made a Chair's

Summary on the contents of discussion to be reported to ARF Ministerial meeting.

Multilateral Exercises

The Defense Agency and the SDF will continue to participate on their own initiative and positively in multilateral exercises as they consider that participating in or hosting such exercises will contribute not only to improving their skills but also to helping establish the *foundation for building cooperative relationship among participating countries* through coordination and exchange of views.

In recent years, SDF participated in Cobra Gold 2005 co-hosted by US Forces and Thai Armed Forces, and WPNS multilateral naval training. In addition, ASDF sent observers to Beach Black hosted by Australian Air Force, and GSDF has invited officers from 15 countries centering in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan to have them observe the Multinational Cooperation program in the Asia-Pacific (MCAP 2004).

2. Efforts for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

In recent years, the international community firmly recognizes the new threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), missiles as their means of delivery, and related equipment and materials to terrorists and countries of concern. Addressing non-proliferation issues, such as restricting or managing export of these weapons and their means of delivery, is a pressing issue for the peace and stability of the international community today.

Against this background, Japan has pledged to play a positive role in a practical and gradual approach toward nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation aimed at a nuclear-free world, disarmament and non-proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction and missiles as their means of delivery, and a global effort regarding restricting certain conventional weapons. Based on this understanding, the Defense Agency and the SDF is doing a variety of cooperation toward efforts done by the United Nations and other international organizations in the area of arms control and disarmament. The Defense Agency also endeavors to ensure the transparency in armament by disclosing annually relevant information such as the types and the amount of equipment possessed by the SDF in the Defense White Paper.

(1) Treaties related to Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Nuclear Weapons

Japan has been continuing its efforts to promote the early entry into force of the CTBT. However, there appears to be no prospect for its entering into force in the near future as 11 countries among the designated countries whose ratification is required for the treaty to take effect have not yet been persuaded.

Chemical Weapons

Since 1980, the Defense Agency and the SDF have dispatched GSDF experts on protection from chemical weapons to the negotiations to draft the convention. Since 1997, when the convention came into effect, GSDF experts on protection from chemical weapons have been dispatched to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which was established in The Hague, the Netherlands, to

monitor the inspection steps stipulated in the convention.

With regard to chemical weapons that were abandoned in China, the Defense Agency and the SDF have cooperated in the project by sending three officials, including GSDF officers, to the Cabinet Office, which is in charge of the project. In order to implement the project smoothly, the Defense Agency has also dispatched GSDF officers specialized in chemical weapons and ammunition disposal to China to help the excavation and collection of the abandoned weapons. SDF officers have been so far dispatched to China for four times for the disposal of discarded chemical weapons in the country. Most recently, six SDF officers were sent to Ningan City in Heilongjiang Province in September last year.

Biological Weapons

The Defense Agency and the SDF have dispatched GSDF experts on pharmacology and medicine to these negotiations. With regard to Australia Group (AG), The Defense Agency has sent its officials to the AG's annual meeting since 1994.

Delivery Means (Missiles)

Japan has been making efforts to make rules and measures more effective to restrict proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means through sending experts to HCOC meeting and MTCR's annual meeting to offer professional advice, and to exchange views and promote cooperation for it.

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC)

The Defense Agency and the SDF dispatched an MSDF officer who is an expert on missiles to the UNMOVIC Headquarters in February 2001. An officer from the ASDF was later assigned to the post at the Headquarters until March this year to support the UNMOVIC operations.

(2) Arms Control Related Treaties on Certain Conventional Weapons

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

The Defense Agency dispatched its officials to the negotiations to draft the original CCW and to add and amend the protocol and also sends its officials to Meeting of the States Parties and the Groups of Governmental Experts of CCW.

Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines (the Ottawa Convention)

The Defense Agency and the SDF began disposal of the anti-personnel mines stockpiled by the SDF in January 2000 in accordance with the Ottawa Convention. Japan steadily implemented the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years which is stipulated in the Convention, and destroyed all anti-personnel mines in February 2003, with the exception of a minimum number of anti-personnel mines necessary for the development of and training in mine detection or mine clearance, techniques, as permitted by the convention.

Furthermore the Defense Agency has actively supported the international efforts at anti-personnel mines issue through annually reporting to the United Nations the data regarding exceptional possession, in

accordance with the provision of the Convention, or sending its officials to relevant international meetings.

Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

The Defense Agency is giving professional advice in reviewing the current WA system aimed at increasing the transparency of weapons transfer and strengthening export control for MANPADS.

Restriction of Illicit Transactions of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Ways to restrict illicit transactions of and to reduce excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons are currently being studied mainly by the United Nations, and Japan is one of the leading members in such effort.

System of the U.N. Register of Conventional Arms

The Defense Agency makes additional efforts to improve the transparency of its equipment by providing information on its possession and domestic procurement of conventional arms on a voluntary basis. Moreover, officials of the Defense Agency participate from time to time in expert meetings and others aimed at improving and strengthening the U.N. Register of Conventional Arms.

(3) New International Efforts to Prevent the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Through their active participations in PSI-related meetings, the Defense Agency and the SDF believe they can play an important role in the PSI by providing relevant organizations and countries with information gathered in patrol and surveillance operations by the SDF's vessels and aircraft during PSI interdiction operations. The Defense Agency and the SDF also believe they can play other roles in maritime interdiction operations, including stopping suspicious ships and conducting on-the-spot inspections.

In October last year, the Defense Agency and the SDF, along with the Foreign Ministry and the Maritime Safety Agency, sponsored an exercise for maritime interdiction operations. The exercise was mainly designed to improve interdiction skills by participating countries and participating organizations, to strengthen their mutual cooperation and to deepen understanding of the PSI by non-PSI member countries. Participants in the exercise demonstrated their training on boarding a suspicious ship and conducting an on-the-spot inspection there.

As part of "outreach" lobbying activities aimed at strengthening the comprehensive non-proliferation regime, including the PSI, the Defense Agency and the SDF have positively provided the national defense authorities of other Asian countries with information and knowledge that they have obtained through their past interdiction exercises in a bid to garner support from these Asian countries concerning the PSI.

The new NDPG calls for Japan to make proactive and positive commitments to international peace cooperation activities in order to further strengthen peace and security for Japan. PSI is one of international peace cooperation activities as called for under the new NDPG. Even during peace time, Japan must engage in PSI activities positively on its own initiative. PSI should be recognized as a security issue that broadly covers defense, diplomacy, law enforcement and export controls. Based on that understanding, Japan

should use its total capability and maximize its efforts to help prevent the proliferation of WMD.

(4) U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540 Concerning Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

In April 2004, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, affirming that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security and therefore the United Nations is prepared to take adequate and effective action against such threats. The resolution urges all U.N. Member States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors attempting to develop WMD and their means of delivery, to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor for manufacturing WMD and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, and to establish effective border-controls and export-controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery.

Recognizing that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction could disturb international peace and stability and that preventing such weapons from proliferating to terrorists and other non-State actors is an urgent task, Japan supports the U.N. resolution and holds expectations that all U.N. Member States will observe the resolution.