The MOD/SDF is proactively undertaking international peace cooperation activities working in tandem with diplomatic initiatives, including the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for resolving the fundamental causes of conflicts, terrorism and other problems.

See>> Fig. III-2-3-1 (Record of Activities in the International Community by the Ministry of Defense / Self-Defense Forces)

### Framework of International Peace Cooperation Activities

The international peace cooperation activities undertaken by the MOD/SDF to date are as follows: (1) international peace cooperation duties such as United Nations peacekeeping operations (the so-called UN PKO); (2) international disaster relief operations to respond to large-scale disasters overseas; (3) activities based on the former Special Measures Act on Humanitarian Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq; and (4) activities based on the former Anti-terrorism Special Measures Act, and the former Replenishment Support Special Measures Act. In 2007, international peace cooperation activities, which used to be regarded as supplementary activities¹ were upgraded, and are now to be one of the primary missions of the SDF, alongside the defense of Japan and the maintenance of public order.²

See>> Fig. III-2-3-2 (International Peace Cooperation Activities Conducted by the SDF)

See>> Reference 24 (Main Operations of the Self-Defense Forces); Reference 25 (Statutory Provisions about Use of Force and Use of Weapons by SDF Personnel); Reference 65 (Summary Comparison of Laws Concerning International Peace Cooperation Activities); Reference 66 (The SDF Record in International Peace Cooperation Activities)

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1. Activities prescribed in Article 8 of the SDF Act (a miscellaneous provision) or supplementary provisions
2. Missions defined in Article 3 of the SDF Act. The primary mission is to defend Japan. The secondary missions are the preservation of public order, activities in response to situations in areas surrounding Japan and international peace cooperation activities.

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**Fig. III-2-3-1** Record of Activities in the International Community by the Ministry of Defense / Self-Defense Forces
Chapter 2
Active Promotion of Security Cooperation

Part III Initiatives to Protect the Lives and Property of the People as well as Securing the Territorial Land, Water and Airspace

◆ Continuous Initiatives to Promptly and Accurately Carry Out International Peace Cooperation Activities

To be a proactive contributor to world peace, it is important for the SDF to be fully prepared for any future operations. For this purpose, the Central Readiness Regiment was established under the GSDF Central Readiness Force in March 2008. When a decision to send troops is made, an advance party will be pulled out from the regiment deployed swiftly to the planned area of deployment, and lay the groundwork before the main unit arrives. Also, the GSDF has a rotational stand-by unit, in which members are chosen from each area force of the five area forces in Japan for the SDF to be fully prepared for any future operations.

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) launched the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) with the purpose for the UN Headquarters to be able to grasp the registered items of each country more specifically in order to ensure the flexibility and readiness of international peacekeeping activities. In light of this change, Japan registered engineering units and command center staff officers in March 2016.

The SDF is enhancing information-gathering abilities and protection abilities, which are required for the SDF units to carry out their missions whilst ensuring the safety of personnel and unit in international peace keeping activities, etc. In addition, in order to respond to various environments and prolonged missions, the SDF is improving its capabilities for transport, deployment, and information communication, as well as developing a structure of logistic and medical support for conducting smooth and continuous operations. For example, the GSDF promotes initiatives to enhance the conditions of the engineering units, which are in high demand in dispatch destinations, as well as procuring protection carrier vehicles that are used to protect people from mines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

It also promotes the development of wheeled armored personnel carriers (modified). The MSDF is promoting the portability and deployability of the Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS) to facilitate the effective operation of fixed-wing patrol aircraft overseas. The ASDF promotes the upgrading of its equipment and devices including aviation satellite phones, as well as countermeasure dispensers for transport aircraft, and airborne collision avoidance systems, in order to maintain command communication function between aircraft and ground controllers under a range of environments.

With regard to the education necessary for engaging in international peace cooperation activities, the GSDF International Peace Cooperation Activities Training Unit at Camp Komakado (Shizuoka Prefecture) provides training for GSDF personnel to be deployed to international peace cooperation activities, as well as supports their training. In addition, the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (JPC) at the Joint Staff College offers not only basic education course on international peace cooperation activities, but also specialized education to train contingent commanders of UN PKO missions and staff officers of mission headquarters. These specialized courses are conducted by using UN standard training materials and foreign instructors. Furthermore, since FY2014, the JPC has provided education not just to SDF personnel but also to personnel from foreign militaries and other Japanese ministries and agencies. This initiative represents the approach taken by the MOD/SDF, which emphasizes the necessity of collaboration and cooperation with other related ministries and foreign countries, based on the current situation of more multi-dimensional and complicated international peace cooperation activities have become more complicated and multi-dimensional. It also aims to contribute to more effective international peace cooperation activities by enhancing collaboration with those ministries and countries in the field of education.

◆ Welfare and Mental Health Care of Dispatched SDF Units

SDF personnel are expected to fulfill their assigned duty under severe working conditions while being far away from their home country and their families. Therefore, it is extremely important to make necessary arrangements so that dispatched SDF personnel can effectively carry out their assigned duty while maintaining both their physical
and mental health. For this reason, the MOD/SDF has implemented various measures to support families to reduce anxiety for the dispatched SDF personnel and their families.

The SDF provides mental health checkups several times from the time before a dispatch to the time after a dispatch, for all the personnel to be sent. At the same time, the SDF also provides dispatched personnel with sufficient mental care such as offering a mental health course in which the dispatched personnel acquire necessary knowledge on stress reduction and assigning SDF personnel who have completed specialized counseling education and training to SDF units in overseas mission sites. In addition to assigning medical officers to SDF units engaged in overseas missions, the MOD regularly sends mental healthcare support teams and provides education on methods of dealing with stress on the spot, as well as important points to consider in terms of communication with families or fellow SDF personnel after returning to Japan.

### 2 Initiatives to Support U.N. Peacekeeping Operations, etc.

As a means to promote peace and stability in the conflict regions around the world, the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) has expanded its missions in recent years to include such duties as the Protection of Civilians (POC), the promotion of political processes, providing assistance in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) into society of former soldiers, Security Sector Reform (SSR), the rule of law, elections, human rights, and other fields, in addition to such traditional missions as ceasefire monitoring. To date, 16 U.N. peacekeeping operations and 11 political and peace building missions have been established (as of the end of March 2016).

International organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), respective governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) conduct relief and restoration activities for the victims of conflicts and large-scale disasters from a humanitarian perspective and from the viewpoint of stabilizing affected countries.

Japan has been promoting international peace cooperation activities in various regions including Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Timor-Leste, Nepal, and South Sudan for more than 20 years, and the results of these activities have been highly praised by both inside and outside Japan. From the perspective of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, and in light of the appreciation and expectation from the international community, Japan will continue to actively engage in international peace cooperation operations in a multilayered way. In this regard, to maximize the effect of Japan’s contribution to the international community, it is necessary to deliberate more deeply about how the SDF should contribute to the international community. Therefore, regarding international peace cooperation operations and other relevant missions, the SDF will continue proactively taking part in peacekeeping activities utilizing their accumulated experiences and advanced skills in fields such as engineering, as well as by expanding the dispatch of SDF personnel to further responsible positions, such as mission headquarters and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the United Nations. As such, the SDF places more emphasis on taking more of a leading role, and the MOD will be proactively involved in Japan’s initiatives for international contribution.

#### United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

(1) Background to the Decision to Dispatch Personnel to UNMISS

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was established following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army in January 2005.

![Fig. III-2-3-3 South Sudan and Its Surrounding Area](image)
Beginning in October 2008, Japan dispatched two GSDF officers to UNMIS headquarters as staff officers (logistics and information staff officers), but UNMIS ended its mission in July 2011 following South Sudan’s independence. Meanwhile, with the objective of consolidating peace and security as well as helping establish necessary conditions for the development of South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established. The Japanese Government was requested by the United Nations to cooperate with UNMISS, particularly through the dispatch of GSDF engineering units. The Cabinet approved the dispatch of two staff officers (logistics and information staff officers) to UNMISS in November 2011, and in December it decided to dispatch an SDF engineering unit, then the on-site Coordination Center, and an additional staff officer (engineering staff officer). In addition, the Cabinet also approved the dispatch of one staff officer (air operations staff officer) in October, 2014.

The peace and stability of South Sudan is essential for the stability of Africa as a whole, and it is a crucial issue that should be dealt with by the international community. The MOD/SDF has accumulated experience through past peacekeeping operations, and we believe that it is possible for Japan to contribute to the peace and stability of South Sudan by providing personnel-based cooperation in infrastructure development, on which the United Nations places great expectations.

(2) Activities by the SDF

In January 2012, a then Coordination Center of the SDF was established for the first time in the SDF’s participation in U.N. peacekeeping operation, both in the South Sudan capital city Juba and in Uganda, in order for coordination for the activities conducted by the dispatched engineering unit to begin. Since the commencement of engineering activities within the United Nations facilities in March 2012, the SDF has gradually expanded its activities and has so far implemented engineering activities outside of the United Nations facilities; projects in cooperation with international organizations; and the “All Japan Project,” which consists of efforts in collaboration with development assistance projects. In May 2013, an SDF mobilization order regarding the expansion of areas for operation was issued, which enabled the SDF to continue its activities in and around Juba as well as conducting missions also in the areas in Eastern and Western Equatoria. Since December 2013, due to the worsened security situation in South Sudan, the dispatched engineering unit conducted site preparation and maintenance activities for the internally displaced peoples (IDPs) camp within the United Nations’ facility in Juba. In addition, they also provided assistance in water supply activities and medical services, making use of the SDF management capabilities. On December, 2013, at the request of the United Nations and other organizations, Japan provided 10,000 bullets to the United Nations Secretary-General. However, following the armed conflicts in South Sudan that started in December 2013, the dispatched units carried out their activities mainly in Juba and its surrounding areas.
In 2014, the bullets Japan provided were handed back. Nations in light of the urgent necessity and humanitarian nature of the situation.4

In May 2014, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2155, which created the mandate of shifting the UNMISS role from support for nation building to the protection of civilians. Accordingly, the tasks of the deployed engineering unit also shifted from infrastructure development to mainly the provision of civilian protection support for the U.N. troops. The deployed engineering unit resumed road development and maintenance outside the U.N. facilities in June 2014 as the situation in Juba had become relatively stable, while facility-upgrading work was commenced from February 2015 as collaboration with Japan’s development cooperation projects.

In August 2015, the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflicts between the government and the anti-government forces was signed. Following this, the United Nations also reviewed the mandate and activity period of the UNMISS, and adopted a new United Nations Security Council Resolution. Responding to the needs of the UNMISS, the deployed SDF unit commenced road development in the suburbs of Juba in September 2015 and carried out another development work jointly with the Bangladesh engineering unit in May 2016. Meanwhile, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2252 in December 2015 to extend the dispatch period of the UNMISS for further about 8 months, the dispatch period was extended until October 31, 2016.

(3) Cooperation between Japan and Australia in UNMISS
To date, the MOD/SDF has cooperated closely with the Australian Defense Forces in the field, such as in activities to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq and United Nations peacekeeping operations. As both Japan and Australia are also participating in UNMISS 2012, two Australian military personnel, who were dispatched to carry out UNMISS duties, began to undertake external coordination work and other duties in August 2012.

◆ Co-Hosting of the United Nations Training of Trainers (TOT)
In October 2015, the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (JPC) at the Joint Staff College played a central part in co-hosting the United Nations Training of Trainers (TOT), which has the theme of civil-military coordination in the U.N. peacekeeping operations, together with the United Nations.

◆ Dispatch of Ministry of Defense Personnel to the U.N. Secretariat
Currently two SDF personnel (one Division-Director level and one action officer-level) have been dispatched to the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations (U.N. DPKO) for a two-year period to serve as the primary

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4 In 2014, the bullets Japan provided were handed back.
The United Nations (UN) places emphasis on enhancing the capability of deployed units from various countries engaging in UN peacekeeping operations. For this purpose, as it is necessary to train trainers who will provide training for units to be deployed in respective countries, the United Nations PKO Training of Trainers is conducted several times annually in various countries to achieve qualitative progress for personnel from various countries to be dispatched to peacekeeping operations.

In response to the United Nations’ request that the Government of Japan be the co-host, the training was decided to be held in Japan in 2015. It was the first time that this training took place in Japan, and the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (JPC) of the Joint Staff College played the leading role in conducting the training. The theme of the training was civil-military coordination and 27 people from 14 countries including Japan participated in the training for nearly 2 weeks in October 2015. The training had great significance in that the Government of Japan contributed to the improvement of capability of PKO personnel in other countries as well as the Japanese personnel to be participating in PKOs.

The MOD will continue to cooperate in various forms from the perspective of human resources development for the UN and international community, and will strive to develop human resources for our personnel who could participate in peacekeeping operations and other activities.

### Dispatch of Instructors to PKO Centers

To support peacekeeping operation undertaken by African and other countries, the MOD/SDF has dispatched SDF personnel as instructors to the PKO centers to contribute to the peace and stability by enhancing the capacity of the centers. Starting with the deployment to the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) in November 2008, a total of 24 SDF personnel (17 deployments and eight
countries in total), including two female SDF officers, were dispatched over the period until May 2016. The SDF personnel provided education based on their experiences and lessons gained through SDF activities overseas, to include lectures concerning the importance of building relationships with local population in international peace cooperation activities, and the international disaster relief activities in which the SDF has engaged. From March to May 2014, a SDF personnel was dispatched to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Peace Support Training Center (FDRE-PSTC) as an international consultant for the first time besides instructors, to provide advice on education and to design curriculums for cultivating U.N. peacekeepers, which were highly appreciated by concerned local parties and students. Furthermore, in March 2015, two SDF officers were dispatched to Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in India, one as an evaluation officer for evaluating the educational content of the United Nations Peacekeeping Special Military Female Military Officers Course, and one as an observer for this training. Best of all, though, the trainees’ enthusiasm was a source of encouragement for the instructors.

The success of the project not only deepened the tie between the trainees and the instructors, but it also hugely contributed to the trusting relationship between Japan and Kenyan organizations, strengthened cooperation with the United Nations, and the friendship and goodwill relationships with the Eastern African countries. We look forward to someday learning about these trainees’ activities in future peacekeeping operations, and engaging in the same missions jointly with Japan.

In order to play more of a leading role in international peace cooperation activities, the MOD/SDF supports the formulation of the United Nations Military Unit Manual (UNMUM) for Engineers, which is initiated by the United Nations Headquarters, and Japan served as a chair country of the Engineering Unit Manual Working Group. In March 2014, the first Engineer Unit Manual Working Group was held in Tokyo and its second meeting was held in Indonesia in June. In October 2015, the final draft of the manual was distributed to the member countries. The MOD/SDF will continue to provide support towards the widespread use of the Manual.

Support to the Project for Africa Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC)

In recent U.N. PKO missions, serious shortage of personnel and equipment (heavy equipment), which plays a major role in the construction of the infrastructure for its activities, and insufficient personnel to operate such equipment, was revealed, causing a hindrance when launching a mission and expanding it. For this reason, Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan’s active support to the issue at the PKO Summit in September 2014, and it was embodied by through the ARDEC.

In the ARDEC, the Department of Field Support (DFS) of the United Nations procures heavy equipment and carries out training for the facility personnel on the basis of the fund provided by Japan. From September
to October 2015, pilot training was conducted at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi. Japan dispatched GSDF general personnel as instructor who provided training on the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment for 10 personnel participants from four countries in East Africa. The MOD will also actively support full-fledged training to be implemented going forward.

**International Disaster Relief Operations**

In recent years, the role of advanced capabilities in military affairs has become more diverse, and opportunities for its use in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief are growing. To contribute to the advancement of international cooperation, the SDF has also engaged in international disaster relief operations proactively from the viewpoint of humanitarian contributions and improvement of the global security environment.

To this end, the SDF maintains their readiness to take any necessary action based on prepared disaster relief operation plans. Based on the consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the SDF has been proactively conducting international disaster relief operations, which fully utilize their functions and capabilities, while taking into consideration specific relief requests by the governments of affected countries and disaster situations in these countries.

**Outline of the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law**

Since the enactment of the Law Concerning the Dispatchment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team (Japan Disaster Relief Team Law) in 1987, Japan has engaged in international disaster relief activities in response to requests from the governments of affected countries and international organizations. In 1992, the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law was partially amended, enabling the SDF to participate in international disaster relief activities and to transport its personnel and equipment for this purpose.

**United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference**

In March 2015, the United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference was held as a follow-up to the summit meeting on the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Over 100 countries participated in this conference. From Japan, the Chief of Staff of the GSDF attended the conference and delivered a speech expressing the SDF’s determination about fulfilling its responsibility for international peacekeeping by actively participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations and providing support for capacity building and Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities in Africa.
improved their readiness to be able to swiftly respond to a request for search activities using P-3C patrol aircraft.

**International Disaster Relief Operations for the Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa**

Following the outbreak reported by Guinea in March 2014, Ebola continued to primarily spread in the three countries of Guinea and its neighboring countries Liberia and Sierra Leone. The MOD dispatched a liaison officer to the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) located in Germany since October 2014 (the first was a member of the ASDF, followed by a member of the GSDF), in order to strengthen the cooperation between Japan and the United States regarding the response to EVD and to gather information on the operational status of other countries. Furthermore, in response to the request of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) for swift and reliable transport of personal protective equipment that is vital for safe medical practice, and based on consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the MOD decided to conduct international disaster relief operations in November, 2014.

The MOD/SDF organized the International Disaster Relief Airlift Unit for West Africa and initially four personnel were dispatched in December of the same year to Accra, the capital city of Ghana, to conduct coordination and preparation tasks with relevant organizations such as UNMEER. At the same time, the International Disaster Relief Airlift Unit for West Africa (one KC-767 aerial refueling/transport aircraft) was also dispatched to Accra, and approximately 20,000 sets of personal protective equipment were delivered to UNMEER.

Furthermore, at the request of the World Health Organization (WHO), Japan has dispatched one instructor from the National Defense Medical College (NDMC) to Sierra Leone in order to support epidemiological survey in the affected countries from April to the end of May 2015.

**International Disaster Relief Operations for the Missing AirAsia Airplane**

In December 2014, AirAsia Flight 8501 flying from Surabaya to Singapore lost its contact. Following the request for search and rescue assistance from the Indonesian government, and based on the consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the MOD decided to initiate SDF international disaster relief operations.

The MOD/SDF organized the SDF Maritime surface Unit for the missing Air Asia airplane, and dispatched three personnel to conduct preparatory work as a Coordination Center. Two destroyers “Takanami” and “Onami,” as well as three helicopters, which were on their way to return to their bases following the completion of counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, were dispatched to the waters where the international disaster relief was being conducted, engaged in search and rescue activities for approximately one week, and worked to recover the remains of the deceased passengers.

**International Disaster Relief Activities in Nepal (Earthquake)**

A massive M7.8 earthquake struck Nepal in April, 2015. The MOD allowed an investigation team consisting of three personnel to accompany the Japan Disaster Relief Team dispatched by the Government of Japan. In addition to this, responding to a request from the Government of Nepal, and based on the consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the MOD decided to initiate international disaster relief operations.

The MOD/SDF deployed personnel to Nepal that were comprised of the Joint Operations Coordination Center (four personnel), International Disaster Relief Medical Assistance Unit (approximately 110 personnel), International Disaster Relief Air Transport Unit (approximately 30 personnel and six C-130 transport aircraft, etc.) and other units. At the same time, considering the urgent needs for medical assistance in the affected areas, part of the Medical Assistance Unit (approximately 20 personnel) was swiftly dispatched as the First Response Unit, followed by the Airlift Unit and main Medical Assistance Unit. During the operation period of approximately three weeks, the Medical Assistance Unit provided medical treatment to approximately 2,900 people within the capital Kathmandu and its suburbs, while the Joint Operations Coordination Center conducted coordination tasks with the Government of Nepal and other relevant organizations. At the same time, the Airlift Unit transported a total of nearly 9.5 tons of equipment and goods necessary for medical activities.