Various activities of the MOD/SDF are hard to implement without the understanding and cooperation of each and every person and local governments. Therefore it is necessary to further deepen the trust between local communities and people, and the SDF.

Section 1 Collaboration with Local Communities

1 Activities in Civic Life and Contributions to Society

The MOD/SDF conducts activities to support the lives of citizens in a range of fields, in response to requests from local governments and relevant organizations. Such activities contribute to further deepening the trust in the SDF, and provide SDF personnel with pride and confidence.

The GSDF handles the disposal of unexploded ordnance found throughout Japan. In FY2016, there were approx. 1,379 such cases (approx. 42.1 tons). In particular, cases handled in Okinawa Prefecture accounted for approx. 61% of the total cases. The MSDF clears and disposes of underwater mines and other dangerous explosives, and approx. 23,598 explosives (approx. 4.2 tons) were handled in FY2016.

The SDF camps and bases allow the local residents access to their facilities to the extent that it does not interfere with unit activities, thus striving to foster friendly interaction with local communities. The SDF also provides transportation and other assistance at a variety of athletic events. In addition, it supports regional medical treatment efforts by providing general medical care at some SDF hospitals as well as conducting urgent transport for emergency patients from isolated islands. Furthermore, based on national policy, the MOD/SDF ensures opportunities for local small and medium sized enterprises to receive orders, while taking efficiency into account, by such measures as the promotion of separated/ divided ordering and the securing of competition amongst companies within the same qualification and grade divisions.

Reference 76 (Activities in Civic Life); Reference 77 (Activities Contributing to Society)

2 For example, this is a method through which grouping of products, etc. takes place when putting up the order for general competitive bidding, and then a successful bidder for the groups is decided.
3 This means that out of the bidding participation eligibility categorized into grade A-D, there is competition between grade C or D only, which comprise mostly of small and medium enterprises.
Cooperation from Local Governments and Other Relevant Organizations for the SDF

Amid the harsh recruitment and employment situation, the cooperation from local governments and relevant organizations is vital to secure highly qualified personnel and to support the reemployment of uniformed SDF personnel who retire at a relatively young age under the SDF’s early retirement system.

The SDF camps and bases maintain close relations with local communities, and therefore, various forms of support and cooperation from the local community are indispensable for the SDF to conduct its diverse activities, including education and training, and disaster dispatch. Moreover, units dispatched overseas for international peace cooperation operations and other duties receive support and cooperation from the relevant organizations for the procedures involved.

Activities for Securing Understanding and Cooperation of Municipal Governments and Local Residents

Regional Defense Bureaus established in eight locations nationwide make efforts to build cooperative relationships with their respective local communities, through collaboration with SDF units and Provincial Cooperation Offices. Specifically, Regional Defense Bureaus hold seminars on defense issues for local residents and provide explanations about the annual white paper, Defense of Japan, to local governments in order to gain wide understanding on defense policies. They also host Japan-U.S. friendship programs for citizens who live near U.S. Forces facilities and areas in Japan, U.S. Forces personnel, and the families to interact with each other through sports and music. Furthermore, Regional Defense Bureaus provide necessary explanations and conduct coordination for relevant local governments when implementing the realignment of the U.S. Forces, the reorganization of SDF units, deployment of equipment, and training. They also conduct the necessary liaison and coordination in the event of disaster, accident, or any other emergency situation, such as major earthquakes.

In recent years, cases of interference against SDF and U.S. Forces aircraft by kite flying and laser irradiation have frequently occurred in the areas surrounding air stations in Atsugi and Futenma, including the case in November 2016 which led to an arrest of an individual on suspicion of laser irradiation against SDF aircraft in flight. These are extremely dangerous and malicious acts that may disrupt a pilot’s ability to control aircraft and result in a catastrophe such as a crash. From the viewpoint of preventing unforeseen accidents in advance, as well as ensuring the safety of the area and the safe operation of aircraft, the MOD disseminates information regarding the risks involved in those acts to local residents by putting up posters and requests their cooperation in reporting to the police while closely cooperating with relevant ministries and agencies as well as relevant local governments. Additionally, the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act was revised in December 2016, making these interference acts subject to regulation as well as fines and other penalties.

Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

Scale and Features of Defense Facilities

The uses of defense facilities are diverse, and they often require large volumes of land. In addition, as of January 1, 2017, approx. 28% of the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the U.S. Forces in Japan is jointly used by the SDF in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, with the purpose to enhance the diversity and efficiency of Japan-U.S. bilateral training and exercises. Meanwhile, problems related to restricted establishment and operations of defense facilities have emerged due to the urbanization of areas around many of the defense facilities. Also, another problem is that frequent aircraft operations such as takeoffs and landings cause noise and other issues, impacting the living environment of local residential communities.

KeyWord Defense facilities

This is a generic term referring to the facilities used by the SDF as well as the facilities and areas used by the U.S. Forces in Japan in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.
Initiatives to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

Defense facilities, as the foundation that supports the defense capabilities of Japan and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, are indispensable for our country’s security. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain conditions for constant and stable utilization by ensuring harmony between the defense facilities and the surrounding areas as well as obtaining the understanding and cooperation of the local residents. For that purpose, the MOD has taken measures to promote harmony between defense facilities and surrounding areas since 1974, based on the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Act).

(1) Measures based on the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities

Based on the Living Environment Improvement Act, the MOD has implemented various measures to prevent, alleviate, and mitigate impact such as aircraft noise in the surrounding areas caused by the SDF or U.S. Forces activities, or by establishing and operating defense facilities including airfields. Furthermore, taking into consideration the requests from the relevant local governments, the MOD partially revised the Living Environment Improvement Act in 2011, and conducted a

Reference 78 (Outline of Measures to Improve the Living Environment in the Areas Surrounding Defense Facilities)

(2) Measures based on the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities

(3) Measures for Harmony Between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

(4) Status of SDF Facilities (Land Plots)

(5) Status of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan (Exclusively Used Facilities)
review to enable the Specified Defense Facilities Environments Improvement Adjustment Grants to be applied to so-called soft projects, such as aid for medical expenses. In addition, the MOD added defense facilities to be eligible for these grants. Focused work is also underway to provide sound insulation at residences and efforts are being made to ensure its further progress.

Regarding the Specified Defense Facilities Environments Improvement Adjustment Grants, the MOD has implemented initiatives such as the PDCA Cycle process since April 2014, aiming to increase the effectiveness of these grants.

(2) Considerations for Future Harmonization of Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas
In response to the requests by related local governments, the MOD continues to consider practical ways to achieve more effective and efficient measures to harmonize defense facilities and surrounding areas, in light of the severe fiscal situation.

Fig. III-5-1-4 (FY2017 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas near Bases (Based on Expenditures))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Mainland</th>
<th>Okinawa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects for preventing disturbances</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound insulation projects</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures related to relocations</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies for stabilizing people’s livelihoods</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road improvement projects</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environments Improvement Adjustment Grants</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initiatives Taken by Local Authorities in the Vicinity of Defense Facilities

To ensure the stability of the lives and the enhancement of the welfare of local residents, local authorities in the vicinity of defense facilities conduct various initiatives to improve the living environment utilizing the national subsidy provided by the MOD to deal with obstacles resulting from the presence of defense facilities.

For example, if the lives of local residents are affected by the presence of defense facilities, the national subsidy is used to install firefighting vehicles and other equipment in order to facilitate firefighting activities.

In addition, using the national subsidy, the MOD conducts noise insulation work at schools and hospitals that require a quiet environment, so as to prevent and reduce the noise generated by the takeoff and landing of aircraft at the airfields of the SDF and the U.S. Forces in Japan. The MOD also provides assistance for noise insulation work at private residences.

As these examples demonstrate, cooperation with relevant local authorities is essential for facilitating harmony between defense facilities and their surrounding communities.