The increasingly severe security environment and the broadening roles of the SDF

The reorganization from the Defense Agency to the Ministry of Defense (MOD) marked its 10th anniversary in January 2017. During the past decade, the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) engaged in disaster relief activities following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake in Japan, and in counter-piracy activities in the waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden and the dispatch of SDF personnel to peacekeeping operations (PKO) in South Sudan.

Today’s security environment surrounding Japan is severer compared with 10 years ago, as North Korea has pushed ahead with the development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles and China has attempted to change the status quo in the East and South China Seas.

The MOD/SDF will proactively contribute more than ever to securing peace and stability as well as prosperity in the world, while pursuing security in Japan and peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.
Reorganization Decade

2013
- Establishment of the National Security Council
- Development of the National Security Strategy
- Development of the 2013 National Defense Program Guidelines

2014
- Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology

2015
- Development of the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation
- Enactment of the Legislation for Peace and Security
- MOD restructuring, establishment of the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency

2016
- Enforcement of the Legislation for Peace and Security

2017
- 10th anniversary of the reorganization into the MOD

- Kumamoto Earthquake (2016)
- Radiactivity measurement following North Korea’s nuclear test (2009, 2013, and 2016)
- Transport of Japanese nationals, etc. in Algeria (2013)
- Transport of emergency disaster relief following the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (2014)
- International disaster relief activities in Nepal (2015)
- International disaster relief activities in Philippines (2013)
- Deployment of the "kaketsuke-keigo" mission (from 2016 to 2017)
- The French Navy’s Mistral (left) and MDF Kunisaki (right) conducting exercise
- Capacity building assistance (2012–)
  [GSDF personnel giving a lecture in Timor-Leste (2012)]
- Dispatching commander to multilateral force (CTF151) (2015, 2017)
  [Rear Admiral Ito giving a speech on his assignment as CTF Commander (2015)]
- International disaster relief activities in Philippines (2013)
- Dispatching commander to multilateral force (CTF151) (2015, 2017)