Surveillance in the Sea of Japan

46th Air Warning Group, Air Self-Defense Force

Voice
46th Air Warning Group, Air Self-Defense Force
Staff Sergeant Takeshi Suzue
I work with pride at a key site protecting airspace on the Sea of Japan side in extreme cold and am involved in surveillance activities that take place 24 hours a day.

Sado Island’s Air Self-Defense Force radar site

Surveillance in the East China Sea

Self-Defense Fleet, Maritime Self-Defense Force

Voice
Destroyer Abukuma, Maritime Self-Defense Force
Leading Seaman Raika Maruyama
My job is conducting surveillance with my own eyes. I carry out my duties on the front line even on rainy and windy days.

Picture of an activity that is strongly suspected to be a so-called “ship-to-ship transfer” involving a North-Korean-flagged vessel, which is prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions, observed by Destroyer Umigiri in international waters in the East China Sea (May 2018)

Tanker of unknown nationality

North Korean tanker

Picture of a North Korean tanker with a North Korean flag
Surveillance in waters and airspace around Japan
Constant surveillance activities

The Self-Defense Forces constantly monitors waters and airspace around Japan with 24 hours a day operations to respond rapidly and seamlessly to various situations.

Surveillance in the area around Hokkaido

301st Coast Observation Unit, Ground Self-Defense Force

Rebun Island Ground Self-Defense Force Vice-Camp

VOICE
301st Coast Observation Unit, Ground Self-Defense Force
Master Sergeant
Makoto Ashizaki

I carry out surveillance of ships passing through the La Perouse (Soya) Strait with high alertness as part of operations that take place 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

Yonaguni Coast Observation Unit, Ground Self-Defense Force

Post on the western side of Yonaguni Island

Surveillance facility located on a hill

These locations show an image of the scope of surveillance activities and do not clarify the actual precise scope.
Measures against airspace violations
60 years of promoting peace in the skies

The Air Self-Defense Force detects and identifies aircraft flying in areas around Japan’s airspace. When the ASDF finds an aircraft that might violate Japan’s airspace, fighters and other aircraft embark on an emergency scramble to confirm the subject aircraft and monitor the situation. If the aircraft violates Japan’s airspace, the ASDF issues a warning to leave. Japan began measures against airspace violations in 1958 and has conducted a total of 27,144 scrambles so far as of the end of FY2017.

* Refer to Section III, Chapter 1, Sub-section 2 for “Number of scrambles since the Cold War period and breakdown”

Total: 4,698 times (past 5 years)
Average: 2.57 times/day

When I was a child, I admired my father, who was a F-15 pilot, so I aimed to become a fighter pilot. Our mission is becoming more complex in the southwestern area with an increase in the number of scrambles and diversification of target aircraft. I train every day to be capable of handling any situation.

When I was a child, I admired my father, who was a F-15 pilot, so I aimed to become a fighter pilot. Our mission is becoming more complex in the southwestern area with an increase in the number of scrambles and diversification of target aircraft. I train every day to be capable of handling any situation.

First Lieutenant Shohei Taguchi
304th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 9th Air Wing, Air Self-Defense Force

Take off!!
Disaster Relief
Prompt and appropriate responses to large-scale disasters, etc.

The Self-Defense Forces collaborates and cooperates with local governments etc. when natural disasters and other disasters occur. We work on various activities, such as search and rescue for afflicted people and vessels/aircraft in distress, flood prevention, medical care, infectious disease control, water supply, and transportation of people and goods.

**Response to natural disasters**

**103rd Engineer Equipment Unit, 5th Engineer Brigade, Ground Self-Defense Force**

Staff Sergeant Hideyuki Sasakawa

While keenly feeling the danger of torrential rain disasters, I advanced through blocked roads to isolated areas along with local firefighters and carried numerous afflicted people to safety.

**103rd Engineer Equipment Unit, 5th Engineer Brigade, Ground Self-Defense Force (Jul-Aug 2017)**

**Infectious disease prevention measures by Ground Self-Defense Force (January 2018)**

**Heavy snowfall in Fukui Prefecture**

Nighttime snow removal activities by Ground Self-Defense Force (February 2018)

**Landslide in Oita Prefecture**

Search and rescue activities by Ground Self-Defense Force (April 2018)

**Tormential rains in July 2018**

Search and rescue activities by Maritime Self-Defense Force (July 2018)
Transport of emergency patients, processing of unexploded shells, and other activities to protect the lives and safe living of Japanese people

The Self-Defense Forces handles emergency transport of emergency patients from outlying islands and other areas. Depending on the circumstances, we provide wide-area medical transport via the Aero-Medical Evacuation Squadron to transport seriously ill patients using Air Self-Defense Force C-130H transport planes (401 emergency transports took place in fiscal 2017).

Emergency patient transport and other activities

- Image: Emergency patient being transported by 15th Helicopter Unit, Ground Self-Defense Force
- Image: Aero-Medical Evacuation Squadron, Air Self-Defense Force during wide-area medical transport

Process of unexploded shells and other activities

- Image: 71st Air Corps, Maritime Self-Defense Force on sea rescue activities
- Image: Members of the 101st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, Ground Self-Defense Force processing unexploded shells
- Image: Members of the Okinawa Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, Maritime Self-Defense Force preparing for disposal of explosive dangerous materials
5

Training and exercises for various situations
Enhancement of effective deterrence and response capabilities

Japan-U.S. bilateral exercises and Self-Defense Forces joint exercises are conducted in a visible manner in order to respond to various situations effectively and enhance deterrence capability. Various plans are continuously reviewed and updated in light of lessons learned from these training activities and exercises.

Japan-U.S. bilateral training

Joint exercises by Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces

Joint exercises with local public entities

I directly support the Governor in matters related to protecting Japanese citizens and other crisis management, including disaster prevention and ballistic missile response, utilizing my experience and knowledge as a commander and staff in the Ground Self-Defense Force.

Nagasaki Prefecture Crisis Management Section, Councilor Koji Aoki (second person from the right in the photo) (in charge of protecting Japanese citizens)