Since March 28, 2020, the SDF has conducted various activities, including support of quarantine at airports to reinforce border control against COVID-19, and education on prevention of infection for employees of private accommodation facilities to prevent the spread of community-acquired infection. The SDF Central Hospital admitted patients infected via community spread of the virus.

In January 2020, the MOD voluntarily dispatched SDF personnel in order to implement disaster relief operation for Japanese citizens who returned to Japan due to the spread of COVID-19 in China. In addition, SDF Reserve Personnel qualified as doctors and nurses, etc. were mobilized to provide medical support.

Since March 28, 2020, the SDF has conducted various activities, including support of quarantine at airports to reinforce border control against COVID-19, and education on prevention of infection for employees of private accommodation facilities to prevent the spread of community-acquired infection. The SDF Central Hospital admitted patients infected via community spread of the virus.
**Activities in the SDF Central Hospital**

Among other activities, the SDF Central Hospital admitted and cared for patients suffering from COVID-19.

*Explain the X-ray procedure to the patient*

*Patient guidance*

*PCR testing*

*Letters of encouragement to patients from the hospital*

### Sharing Information at Home and Abroad

The MOD/SDF set up special pages on their and other websites that published detailed measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the MOD/SDF shared information, lessons learned, and knowledge obtained through measures to fight COVID-19 with other countries via their embassies in Tokyo and also telephone conversations with defense ministers of 15 countries. **(As of June 16)**

### Main MOD/SDF Activities Against COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disaster relief operations to prevent the spread of infections</td>
<td>Infantry relief deployment</td>
<td>January 31-March 16, 2020</td>
<td>Cruise ship “Diamond Princess” medical observation and operations support</td>
<td>Returned Japanese citizens who required health observation and disembarking cruise ship passengers</td>
<td>Airports (Narita and Haneda) (note 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster relief operations or reinforced border control</td>
<td>Infantry relief deployment</td>
<td>From March 28 to May 25, 2020</td>
<td>Transport support: transporting evacuees/foreign nationals from airports (Narita, Haneda, Kansai International, Chubu Centrair International) to accommodation facilities to await PCR test results</td>
<td>Temporary accommodation facilities</td>
<td>Support for training to local government and accommodation facility staff to prevent infection measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster relief operations to combat community-acquired COVID-19</td>
<td>Requests from prefectural governors and other authorities</td>
<td>April 3, 2020, onwards</td>
<td>Support for training to local government and accommodation facility staff to prevent infection measures</td>
<td>Airfield of emergency cases</td>
<td>Support for training to local government and accommodation facility staff to prevent infection measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities by SDF hospitals, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support for training to local government and accommodation facility staff to prevent infection measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing of information about lessons/findings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support for training to local government and accommodation facility staff to prevent infection measures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** Quarantine support by the second and third chartered flights was conducted prior to disaster relief operations and cooperation with other government agencies in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Operations by the fourth and fifth chartered flights were conducted on the basis of disaster relief operations and cooperation with other government agencies to prevent the spread of infection.

**Note 2:** Conducted as disaster relief operations on the basis of cooperation with other government agencies in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
In FY2019, Japan saw various natural disasters. The SDF provided flexible support in response to those disasters by appropriately identifying needs as they shifted according to changes in the situation. In the disaster relief operations in response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Habigis), the SDF established a joint task force led by the Commander of the Ground Component Command and mobilized SDF Reserve Personnel and SDF Ready Reserve Personnel.

Disaster Relief Operations in Response to Heavy Rain Accompanying a Weather Front

August 2019

Disaster Relief Operations in Response to the 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai)

September 2019
Disaster Relief Operations in Response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Habigis)

October 2019

ASDF personnel using a rescue helicopter to save lives

GSDF personnel assisting in supplying water

GSDF personnel rescuing a stranded person

ASDF water tankers being filled up with water from the MSDF JS “Uraga” to assist in supplying fresh water

ASDF personnel searching for missing persons

GSDF personnel providing bathing support

GSDF personnel disposing of disaster waste

ASDF personnel covering the roof of a typhoon-damaged house with blue tarpaulins

GSDF personnel providing meals support

Defense of Japan
### Launches of Ballistic Missiles by North Korea

**July 2019**
- **Date:** May 4, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Max. approx. 250 km

**August 2019**
- **Date:** May 9, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 400 km/ approx. 250 km
- **Date:** July 25, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 600 km
- **Date:** August 6, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 450 km
- **Date:** August 10, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 400 km
- **Date:** August 16, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 250 km
- **Date:** August 24, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 350 to 400 km

**September 2019**
- **Date:** September 10, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Max. approx. 300 to 350 km

**October 2019**
- **Date:** October 2, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** SLBM “Pukguksong-3”
- **Number of launches:** 1
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 450 km
- **Date:** October 31, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Appro. 350 to 400 km
- **Date:** November 28, 2019
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 380 km
- **Date:** March 2, 2020
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 240 km
- **Date:** March 9, 2020
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Max. approx. 200 km
- **Date:** March 21, 2020
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 400 km
- **Date:** March 29, 2020
- **Presumed type of missile:** Short-range ballistic missiles
- **Number of launches:** 2
- **Flight distance:** Approx. 250 km

North Korea is proceeding with ballistic missile development at an extremely rapid pace and launched more than 30 missiles and other objects, including what are presumed to be new short-range ballistic missiles and a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) since May 2019. These short-range ballistic missiles presumed to be new types are distinctive in that they use solid fuel and fly at lower altitudes than conventional ballistic missiles. North Korea is therefore believed to be trying to breach missile defense networks by making it more difficult to detect signs of a launch and making early detection harder. There are concerns that such advanced technologies will be applied to longer-range missiles.

North Korea is relentlessly pursuing increasingly complex and diverse modes of attack and is steadily strengthening and improving its attack capabilities. These enhancements in its capabilities make early detection of the signs of a launch and the interception of the missiles more difficult, thereby posing new challenges for the intelligence gathering, early warning, and interception postures of relevant countries, including Japan. Working closely with relevant ministries and agencies, as well as countries including the United States, the MOD/SDF take all possible measures to ensure Japan’s peace and security, sparing no effort in gathering and analyzing the necessary information and undertaking warning and surveillance activities.
Aegis-equipped Destroyer (DDG) JS “Maya”
Commissioned in March 2020. Equipped with BMD capability from the outset.

PAC-3MSE
Deployment began in March 2020. Offers protection over more than double the area covered by the existing PAC-3.

FPS-7
Warning and control radar currently being rolled out. Able to detect and track over long distances and wide areas.
February 2020

In the Middle East region, amidst rising tensions, attacks took place on ships, including a case in which a Japan-related vessel suffered damage in June 2019. Under these circumstances, Japan has decided to dispatch a Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) vessel for the purpose of information gathering and the utilization of the existing counter-piracy unit as a part of Japan’s independent efforts.

January 2020-

Two MSDF P-3C left Japan on January 11, 2020, along with the replacement of the counter-piracy unit and began information gathering activities on the 20th. JS “Takanami” left port on February 2 and started to engage in information gathering activities in the field on February 26.
Sokui-no-rei, Ceremony of the Accession to the Throne

The SDF presents ceremonies including guards of honor, lining up and gun salutes to the Emperor, state guests and others at national events. A guard of honor to state guests from foreign countries at their welcome reception is essential for diplomatic procedure. At the Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi (Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden [State Hall]), the GSDF fired salutes in the Kita-no-maru area of the Outer Gardens of the Imperial Palace. At the celebration parade in November of the same year, the GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, the National Defense Academy and National Defense Medical College conducted guards of honor, playing music and lining up. In addition to the members who were assigned to these duties, many other members participated in the event, including preparation for the implementation by the SDF.

November 2019
2020 marked the 60th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. “Today, more than ever, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is a pillar that is indestructible, a pillar immovable, safeguarding peace in Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and in the world, while assuring prosperity therein,” Prime Minister Abe said in his speech at a reception to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Security Treaty, which was held on January 19 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Ikura Guest House.

The Prime Minister expressed his determination to continue working to enhance the Alliance, saying, “it is incumbent upon us to make it even more robust, to make it a pillar for safeguarding peace and security in both outer space and cyberspace. Let us keep and enhance [the Alliance], ... to make it a pillar safeguarding freedom, liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law ... sixty years, one hundred years down the road.”
Defense Dialogue by Minister Kono

After assuming the office of the Minister of Defense, Minister Kono actively held meetings with his counterparts and visited foreign countries. Defense cooperation and exchanges with foreign countries were stepped up to an unprecedented extent in FY2019.

Bilateral Dialogues with Many Countries

A number of bilateral dialogues were held, including the first ministerial-level “2+2” meeting with India, the first Defense Ministerial Meeting with Ukraine, and the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting held during the first official visit to China as a Japanese Minister of Defense in ten years.

Number of bilateral dialogues and consultations (April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020)

Active Utilization of Telephone Conversation

Minister Kono has been more proactive in holding telephone conversations than ever and has endeavored to deepen communications with other countries. In FY2019, telephone conversations took place with as many as 12 countries.

Active Participation in Multilateral Conferences

Minister Kono participated in the Manama Dialogue and the Doha Forum for the first time as a Japanese Minister of Defense, and also attended the Munich Security Conference for the first time in 11 years, highlighting the presence and the position of the government of Japan to the international community. On the occasion of the ADMM-Plus, Minister Kono introduced the Vientiane Vision 2.0, an updated guideline for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, which had been announced at the Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting, thereby further deepening defense cooperation between Japan and ASEAN member countries.