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April 2026

Ministry of Defense



Ensuring “Sustained Operational Capability (SOC)”

The Importance of Sustained Operational Capability

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has turned into a prolonged conflict lasting over four years

- Armed conflict always involves an opponent. While Japan would seek to bring a situation to an early resolution through every possible measure, it could become prolonged if the opponent refuses to it.
 - ▶ We must not leave any room for misunderstanding that prolonging the situation would lead to a successful invasion.

It is essential to establish a system capable of securing a stable supply of necessary supplies and delivering them to units

- Ukraine is consuming approximately 2,000 artillery shells per day.* As all types of equipment, ammunition, etc. are expended in large quantities, it is crucial to secure necessary supplies in advance and ensure stable supply with long-term conflict in mind.
- For Japan, an island nation surrounded by water on all sides and consisting of many islands, it is important to be able to transport Self-Defense Force (SDF) units, equipment, supplies, etc. swiftly and reliably over an extended period.

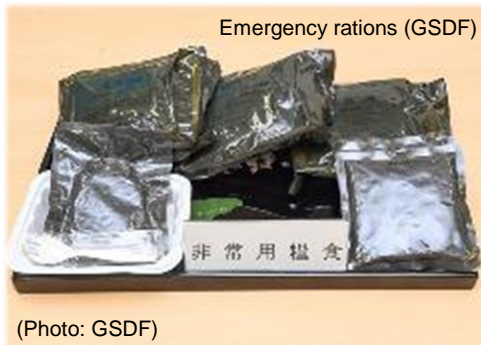


*As of March 2024

Current Initiatives

Sustainability and resilience

- Promote the expansion of domestic production base to enable the early and stable mass production of ammunition, etc.
- Strengthen sustainment and maintenance systems for ammunition.
- Build new fuel tanks and lease civilian fuel tanks.
- Secure the required quantities of rations and clothing.



Transport assets*

- Establish the SDF Maritime Transport Group
 - Landing Support Vessel (LSV) ×2, Landing Craft Utility (LCU) ×4, Maneuver Support Vessels (MSV) ×4
- Acquire an 8-vessel PFI fleet
 - Passenger vessels ×2; Cargo vessels ×4, etc.;
 - Container vessels ×2
- Acquire airlift capabilities
 - C-130H aircraft ×13, C-2 aircraft ×20,
 - CH-47J aircraft ×15, KC-130H aircraft ×3,
 - KC-46A aircraft ×12, KC-767 aircraft ×13

(*Figures reflect budget allocations up to the FY2026 budget)



▶ Further strengthening of these initiatives is necessary from the perspective of SOC

Direction of Consideration

Secure sufficient SOC to be able to handle prolonged conflict in order to enhance deterrence and response capabilities

Main items for consideration

- Stockpiling of ammunition, etc. essential for SDF operations
- Strengthening of production and procurement bases
- Reinforcement of transportation systems, centered on maritime transport capabilities
- Initiatives to maintain the functionality of camps, bases, etc.
- Enhancement of medical functions





Reinforcement of Facilities

Direction of Consideration

- In transforming defense capabilities, it is important to develop defense facilities more rapidly and in greater numbers under appropriate contracts, as these facilities are indispensable for operations and form the foundation of activities needed to respond to new ways of warfare.
- Compared to the procurement of equipment, the development of defense facilities generally takes more time, which poses a challenge.
- Therefore, there must particularly be acceleration of development of facilities required to address new ways of warfare.

Main items for consideration

Strengthening of initiatives to address new ways of warfare

- Promotion of facility development in coordination with various items of consideration such as stand-off defense capabilities, unmanned asset defense capabilities, and Pacific defense
- Strengthening of passive defense functions to limit damage through measures such as hardening, undergrounding, and dispersing facilities
- Development of facilities as part of response to prolonged conflict (e.g., storage depots and fuel tanks that support stockpiling functions)
- Active utilization of external capabilities for facility management, base operations, etc.

Continuation of ongoing initiatives

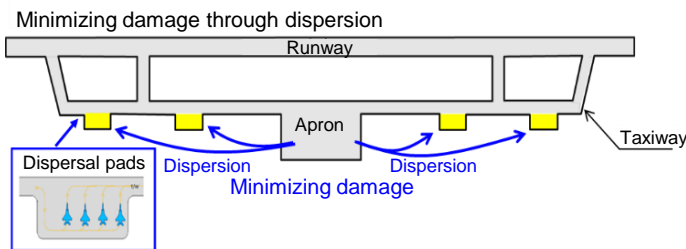
- Reconstruction and renovation of aging facilities such as barracks and office buildings (to improve living and working conditions).
- Expansion of ammunition depots
- Development of facilities in alignment with force reorganization and the acquisition of equipment

Specific Direction of Each Initiative (Initiatives to be Strengthened)

Strengthening of initiatives to address new ways of warfare

- **Facility development linked to new challenges**
Implement facility development in coordination with various items of consideration, including stand-off defense capabilities, unmanned asset defense capabilities, and Pacific defense
- **Enhancement of passive defense functions**
Based on factors such as the conditions of each camp and base, as well as the characteristics of each type of equipment, strengthen passive defense capabilities to limit damage through measures such as hardening, undergrounding, and dispersing facilities
- **Response to prolonged conflict**
In addition to accommodating stationed units, ensure redundancy to allow for the reception of reinforcement units, and secure facilities such as those for the storage and accumulation of supplies, including warehouses and fuel tanks
- **Active utilization of external capabilities for facility management, base operations, etc.**

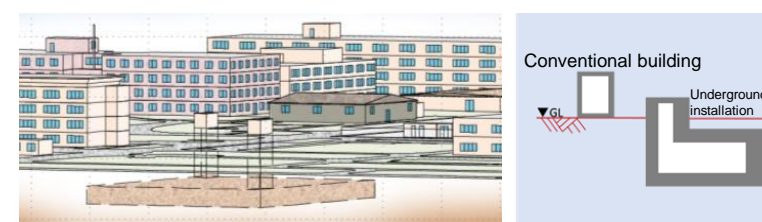
Development of dispersed pads (image)



Aircraft shelter development



Undergrounding of major command headquarters (image)



Specific Direction of Each Initiative (Ongoing Initiatives)

Continuation of existing initiatives

- Renewal of aging facilities
For aging facilities at camps and bases nationwide, it is necessary to **steadily advance their renewal through reconstruction and renovation** from the perspectives of **disaster preparedness** and **improving the living and working conditions of SDF personnel**
- Expansion of ammunition depots
To meet the growing demand for ammunition storage, it is necessary to promote the expansion of ammunition depots. In addition, standardization of ammunition depots should be pursued to **reduce costs and shorten lead times**
- Facility development in coordination with force reorganization and equipment acquisition
Steady implementation of facility development in line with schedules for force reorganization, equipment procurement, etc.

Renewal of aging facilities
(image)



Improvement of living and working conditions (image)



Emphasis on privacy, calm environment, etc.



Development of ammunition depots



Above-ground ammunition depot



Underground ammunition depot



Enhancement of Medical Functions

Basic Approach to “Enhancement of Medical Functions”

Progress to date

Based on the current Defense Buildup Program, efforts to enhance medical functions in the southwestern region include increasing the number of beds and expanding medical departments in conjunction with the reconstruction of the SDF Naha Hospital. In addition, a seamless medical and evacuation system—from the front lines to transport destination—has been developed, including the introduction of damage control surgery (DCS) training and the establishment of a system enabling the SDF to independently secure and stockpile blood products.

To enable response to various wartime situations and diverse missions both domestically and overseas, common medical functions across the SDF are being centralized to promote integrated operations. At the same time, a framework is being built to mobilize the full capabilities of SDF medical services, including the National Defense Medical College, in order to advance fundamental reforms aimed at improving combat trauma care capabilities.

Future direction

From the perspective of the need to ensure sustained operational capability based on lessons learned from the aggression against Ukraine, among others, the following are necessary:

- It is urgent to secure medical supplies and equipment (pharmaceuticals and medical materials), hospital bed capacity, and medical personnel from a long-term perspective.
- In wartime situations, cases of Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are expected to increase. Additionally, advancements in weapon capabilities are likely to lead to more traumatic brain injuries and musculoskeletal impairments due to limb damage, increasing demand for physical rehabilitation. Accordingly, it is necessary for the Ministry of Defense (MOD) / SDF to establish unified planning and implementation processes.

Full-scale consideration will be initiated toward achieving these objectives in preparation for the next program

- **Secure medical supplies and equipment**
- **Secure hospital bed capacity and medical personnel**
- **Establish systems to address wartime stress disorders**
- **Establish physical rehabilitation systems**

Current Situation and Vision

Before



- (1) Securing medical supplies and equipment
- It is necessary to strengthen procurement from a long-term perspective
 - It is necessary to diversify sources of imports for pharmaceutical raw materials, etc.



- (2) Securing hospital bed capacity and medical personnel
- From a long-term perspective, it is necessary to secure hospital beds and medical personnel beyond the current levels held by SDF hospitals, etc.



- (3) Establishing systems to address wartime stress disorders
- It is necessary to advance the development of policies and medical systems that assume wartime situations



- (4) Establishing physical rehabilitation systems
- It is necessary for the MOD/SDF to conduct unified planning and implementation processes for rehabilitation

After



- (1) Securing medical supplies and equipment
- Consider measures for securing supplies and equipment from a long-term perspective and establish systems capable of responding to contingencies
 - Ensure domestic supply chains in coordination with relevant organizations



- (2) Securing hospital bed capacity and medical personnel
- Secure the necessary number of hospital beds from a long-term perspective
 - Secure medical personnel who can provide cooperation from a long-term perspective



- (3) Establishing systems to address wartime stress disorders
- Promote self-care, line-based care, and establish continuous education systems
 - Institutionalize training opportunities for commanders
 - Form mental health teams for deployment during wartime and establish operational frameworks
 - Develop systems for research, study, and personnel training related to wartime stress disorders



- (4) Establishing physical rehabilitation systems
- Form and train specialist teams
 - Develop early intervention protocols, etc.
 - Provide specialized medical care to patients and strengthen coordination with external medical institutions
 - Support return-to-duty and establish peer support systems (consultation frameworks for injured personnel and their families)

Direction of Consideration

To protect the lives and physical well-being of JSDF personnel, the development of medical supplies and equipment and medical systems, as well as responses to acute stress disorders in wartime and the establishment of rehabilitation systems, will be positioned as critical foundations and advanced as priority areas of consideration. At the same time, cooperation with Japan's ally and like-minded countries in the medical field will be promoted.

Main items for consideration

■ Medical supplies and equipment

- Measures to secure the necessary medical supplies and equipment.

■ Medical systems

- Systems that incorporate cooperation with external partners to build medical systems from a long-term perspective.

■ Wartime stress disorders

- Enhanced responses for JSDF personnel who develop PTSD and measures for cases where PTSD develops after the situation has subsided or after retirement.

■ Rehabilitation

- Support for the return to duty of injured personnel, as well as support for reintegration into society for those who are forced to retire.

