

(Press Release)

December 14, 2024
Japan Ministry of Defense

Commencement of Force Flow

A small detachment of approximately 100 logistics support Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) has started to relocate from Okinawa to Guam in line with the Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee (“2+2”) on July 28, 2024. Relocations will take place in a phased approach, and no unit headquarters will be moving during this iteration.

Commencement of relocation to Guam signifies the first phase of relocating Marines to locations outside of Japan. The Government of Japan (GOJ) and the United States Government (USG) will continue to work together to strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, while mitigating the impact on local communities, including those in Okinawa.

Forward presence and routine engagement with Allies and partners are essential to the United States’ ability to deter attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion and respond to crises in the region, to include providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief when necessary. The Marine Corps is committed to the defense of Japan and meeting operational requirements to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Ultimately, the Marine Corps will maintain a forward presence in the Indo-Pacific through a combination of stationing and rotating Marines in Japan, Guam and Hawaii.

Guam relocation construction projects have been funded by GOJ cash contributions of up to USD 2.8 billion in Fiscal Year 2008 dollars. These contributions mainly support infrastructure projects on Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Naval Base Guam, and Andersen Air Force Base. The USG will fund any remaining costs while both governments continue to collaborate on the development of Camp Blaz, which will serve as the main installation for Marines stationed in Guam.

Deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance will be strengthened by Marines and the Japan Self Defense Forces conducting joint training in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Training locations include those whose development has been funded by GOJ cash contributions. The USG and GOJ will continue to discuss the possibility of further joint training opportunities.

The USG and GOJ will continue to collaborate by prioritizing Alliance capabilities, optimizing Alliance force posture to address increasing security challenges in the region, mitigating the impacts on Okinawa, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region.