

The Latest News on the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces

JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS



Mar. 2020

No. 121



Special Feature

Counter-Piracy Operations by JSDF

The 60th Anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty

International Disaster Relief Activities
in the Commonwealth of Australia

Capacity Building Assistance by the MOD/JSDF

Recent Training and Exercises

Cover Photograph :
Counter-Piracy Operations by JSDF



MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

www.mod.go.jp/e/jdf/



Counter-Piracy Operations by JSDF

For Japan and the international community, the waters off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden are extremely important sea lanes. In response to the piracy

incidents in the area, Ministry of Defense (MOD) and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) takes measures for counter-piracy operations.

1 Legislation Concerning Counter-Piracy Operations

In March 2009, for the purpose of protecting Japan-affiliated vessels from acts of piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, two Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) destroyers began providing direct escort to Japan-affiliated vessels, while JMSDF P-3C patrol aircraft also commenced warning and surveillance operations in June the same year.

In July the same year, in order to deal appropriately and effectively with acts of piracy, the Anti-Piracy Measures Act made it possible to protect the vessels of all nations from acts of piracy.

2 Activities by the Self-Defense Forces

Deployment Surface Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement (DSPE)

The DSPE conducts counterpiracy measures using JMSDF destroyers (one destroyer dispatched). The DSPE strives to ensure the safety of ships navigating in the area in two different manners – direct escort of private vessels

across the Gulf of Aden, and zone defense in allocated areas in the Gulf of Aden. There are Japan Coast Guard (JCG) officers aboard the JMSDF destroyer.



Deployment Air Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement (DAPE)

The DAPE conducts counterpiracy activities using JMSDF P-3C patrol aircraft (two aircraft dispatched). The unit conducts warning and surveillance operations in the flight zone that is determined in coordination with the CTF 151 headquarters and confirms any suspicious boats. At the same time, the unit also provides information to the JMSDF destroyers, the naval vessels of other countries and

civilian vessels, responding by such means as confirming the safety of the surrounding area immediately, if requested. The information gathered by JMSDF P-3Cs is constantly shared with other related organizations, and contributes significantly to deterring acts of piracy and disarming vessels suspected of being pirate ships.



Deployment Support Group for Counter Piracy Enforcement (DGPE)

In order to improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the DAPE, the DGPE carries out activities such as maintenance of the facility.

In addition to this, coordination with Government of Djibouti, the U.S. and other countries which are operating in Djibouti is one of the important tasks.



CTF151 Deployed Unit at the Headquarters

In order to strengthen coordination with the units of other countries engaged in counter-piracy operations and enhance the effectiveness of the JSDF's counter-piracy operations, the MOD has dispatched JSDF personnel to the

CTF 151 Headquarters since August 2014. During the period from May to August 2015, JSDF personnel assumed command of CTF 151 for the first time. The fourth commander is currently in office.

Disaster Relief Operations

In response to the damage caused by the heavy rain in Djibouti, a part of JSDF originally deployed for anti-piracy operations conducted water pumping in elementary school and junior high school as one of the international disaster relief operations from November 26 to December 2, 2019.



The counter-piracy operations by JSDF have been highly praised by the international community. For example, national leaders and others have expressed their gratitude, and JSDF has also been repeatedly well-received by the United Nations Security Council Resolution.

fact that the assumed root causes of piracy such as terrorism and poverty of Somalia have still remain unresolved and Somalia's capability to crack down on piracy is still insufficient, there is no great change in the situation which calls for counter-piracy operations.

Although the number of acts of piracy occurring in the area has currently hovered at low level, considering the

The MOD/JSDF will continue its utmost efforts to conduct counter-piracy operations.





The 60th Anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty

January 19th, 2020 was the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

To mark the occasion, Minister of Defense Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi, U.S. Secretary of Defense Esper, and U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo issued a joint statement on January 17th saying, "While honoring the achievements of the past 60 years, we reiterate our unshakeable commitment to strengthen the Alliance and to uphold our common values and principles towards the future."

On the following day, January 18th, U.S. President Trump issued a statement mentioning the importance of the role of the Japan-U.S. alliance. He expressed, "As the security environment continues to evolve and new challenges arise, it is essential that our Alliance further strengthen and deepen."

On January 19th, the Minister of Defense and the Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a reception commemorating the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security of Japan and the United States of America at Ikura Guest House. It was attended by approx. 250 participants, including Prime Minister Abe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso, and people from Japan and overseas involved in developing Japan-U.S. relations.

The reception began with a performance of the Japan and U.S. national anthems by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Central Band. Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Motegi gave their greetings, followed by greetings from U.S. Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Young; U.S. Forces Japan Commander Lt. Gen. Schneider; and Ms. Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower. Defense Minister Kono then made a toast.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Abe looked back on exchanges made between former President Eisenhower and former Prime Minister Kishi at the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. He called the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty an indestructible, immovable pillar that upholds peace and grants prosperity in Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and the world today and in every era. He then expressed his deep gratitude to those who have made continuous, around-the-clock efforts to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and expressed his desire for the Japan-U.S. Alliance to continue to shine the light of hope, calling it the "Alliance of Hope."

Signed documents of the original Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the current Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and its instruments of ratification were displayed at the reception. Photographs were displayed showing Operation Tomodachi, a disaster relief operation conducted by the U.S. Forces in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11th, 2011, and Prime Minister Abe and President Trump's visit to the JS KAGA.





Transportation of Australian firefighters by C-130H

International Disaster Relief Activities in the Commonwealth of Australia

In response to the bushfire in the Commonwealth of Australia, the MOD/JSDF dispatched a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team (Japan Self-Defense Forces Units) including two JASDF C-130H Transport Aircraft and approx. 70 personnel to transport firefighters and goods on January 15th, 2020.

The bushfire in Australia has been raging since September 2019 and the damage is spreading.

On January 13th, the Australian Department of Defence informed the MOD that they might submit a request for its assistance. The MOD/JSDF dispatched an investigation team to Australia to gather information on the situation and the need for assistance, and to coordinate with related organizations.

The Australian government submitted the request for assistance on January 14th, and approx. 70 personnel including the JASDF's 1st Tactical Airlift Wing departed Komaki Air Base on January 15th for RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) Base Richmond in New South Wales, where operations in Australia were based.

The dispatched personnel conducted transportation activities in Edinburgh and King's Court in eastern Australia, where damage has been significant. There, they conducted air transport of local firefighters and goods.

This is the first time that the MOD/JSDF has conducted international disaster relief activities at the request of Australian government. One of the dispatched personnel told the media, "We received a great deal of support from the Australian Defence Force after the Great East Japan Earthquake, so I want to do my utmost to repay for the support as part of this mission."



JASDF C-130H transporting Australian Defense Force



Securing a buggy to aircraft



Transportation of disaster victims by C-130H



Unloading a buggy from aircraft

Series 1

Capacity Building Assistance by the MOD/JSDF

The MOD/JSDF have undertaken bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchange in various forms.

This series introduces Capacity Building Assistance, which is to develop human resources and provide technical support in the security and defense fields for other countries.

Capacity Building Assistance is implemented to help other countries improve their own capacity by utilizing JSDF capacity. In 2012, the MOD/JSDF began providing Capacity Building Assistance in fields related to security and defense. Since then, 15 countries and one organization mainly in the Indo-Pacific region have been provided Capacity Building

Assistance by dispatching JSDF experts, inviting military personnel of partner countries to Japan, or combining these. It has covered fields such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), defense medicine, maritime security, and peacekeeping operations (PKO).

In 2018, the number of Capacity Building Assistance conducted by means of dispatch was 137 (13 countries, 23 officials), and the number of that conducted by means of invitation was 63 (7 countries, 9 trainees).

In addition to such Capacity Building Assistance, we are combining more practical and diverse measures to further strengthen and deepen defense cooperation and exchange.



Series 1 ▶ Capacity Building Assistance to Myanmar: Aviation Meteorology

The Capacity Building Assistance for Myanmar in the field of Aviation Meteorology started as a 4-year project in 2018. It aims to support the establishment of a weather unit in the Myanmar Air Force modeled after that of the JASDF, so that the Myanmar Air Force can undertake safe air operation. As part of this project, JASDF personnel have been dispatched to Myanmar, or Myanmar Air Force personnel have been invited to Japan to undertake seminars and provide practical training in the field of aviation meteorology.

Four JASDF personnel were dispatched to Myanmar from September 24th to 27th, 2019. During that period, they contributed to improving Myanmar Air Force's capabilities through lectures on meteorological observation and meteorological statistics, practical training on drawing cross-sectional aerodrome forecasts, and a lively question-and-answer session.

Recent Training and Exercises

Training and Exercises in Japan

On January 12th, the 1st Airborne Brigade held New Year's Jump 2020 at the JGSDF Camp Narashino. Minister Kono observed the event. It included parachute drop demonstrations with the participation of the U.S. unit in commemoration of the event, and ground demonstrations. Minister Kono jumped from a parachute tower to experience the unit's training.



New Year's Jump 2020 conducted by the 1st Airborne Brigade

From January 18th to 30th, the JGSDF conducted field training exercise Forest Light (WA) with the U.S. Marine Corps in Japan. Using training areas in Kyushu, the JGSDF and the U.S. Marine Corps worked to strengthen cooperation and to enhance response capabilities on bilateral operations.



Field training exercise Forest Light (WA)

Training and Exercises Overseas

• Bilateral Exercise with the U.S.

From January 2nd to February 7th, the JGSDF conducted Combat Training Center 20, a bilateral exercise with the U.S. Army in the U.S.

The JGSDF 39th Infantry Regiment and 9th Division participated in the exercise to improve bilateral response capabilities between Japan and the U.S. by training mutual coordination.



Combat Training Center 20

From January 5th to February 27th, the JGSDF is conducting Iron Fist 2020, a bilateral field exercise with the U.S. Marine Corps in the U.S.

It is the first time for the 2nd Amphibious Rapid Deployment Regiment, established in the end of JFY 2018 as a subordinate unit of Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade, to participate in the exercise. The unit is conducting training on amphibious operations utilizing vast training areas in the U.S.



Iron Fist 2020

From January 20th to 31st, the JMSDF participated in Sea Dragon 2020 hosted by the U.S. Navy, a multilateral exercise of Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft.

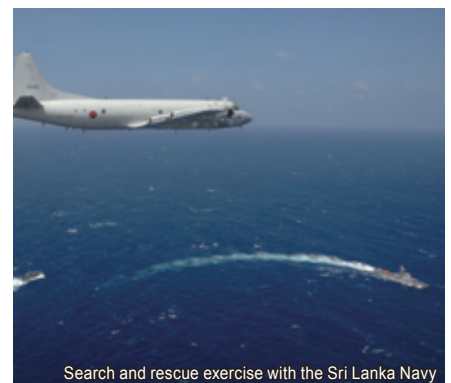
One P-3C fixed-wing patrol aircraft and approximately 30 personnel were dispatched to conduct the anti-submarine warfare training with the U.S. Navy and other participating navies.



Sea Dragon 2020

• Bilateral Exercise with Sri Lanka

On January 21st, the JMSDF conducted a search and rescue exercise with the Sri Lanka Navy in the waters and airspace west of Sri Lanka. Through this exercise, the JMSDF deepened mutual understanding with the Sri Lanka Navy.



Search and rescue exercise with the Sri Lanka Navy



JDF NEWSLETTER Be the first to receive updates!

Send us a blank message at jdfmod@mod.go.jp to sign up for our newsletter.



For inquiry, contact following office:

Public Affairs Division, Ministry of Defense, Japan TEL:+81-3-3268-3111 (switch board) Web:<http://www.mod.go.jp/e/index.html>



www.facebook.com/JapanGov

[@JapanGov](https://twitter.com/JapanGov)

We Are Tomodachi
-Magazine to our friends around the world-



January 2020: "We Are Tomodachi Winter 2020" Released