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JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS

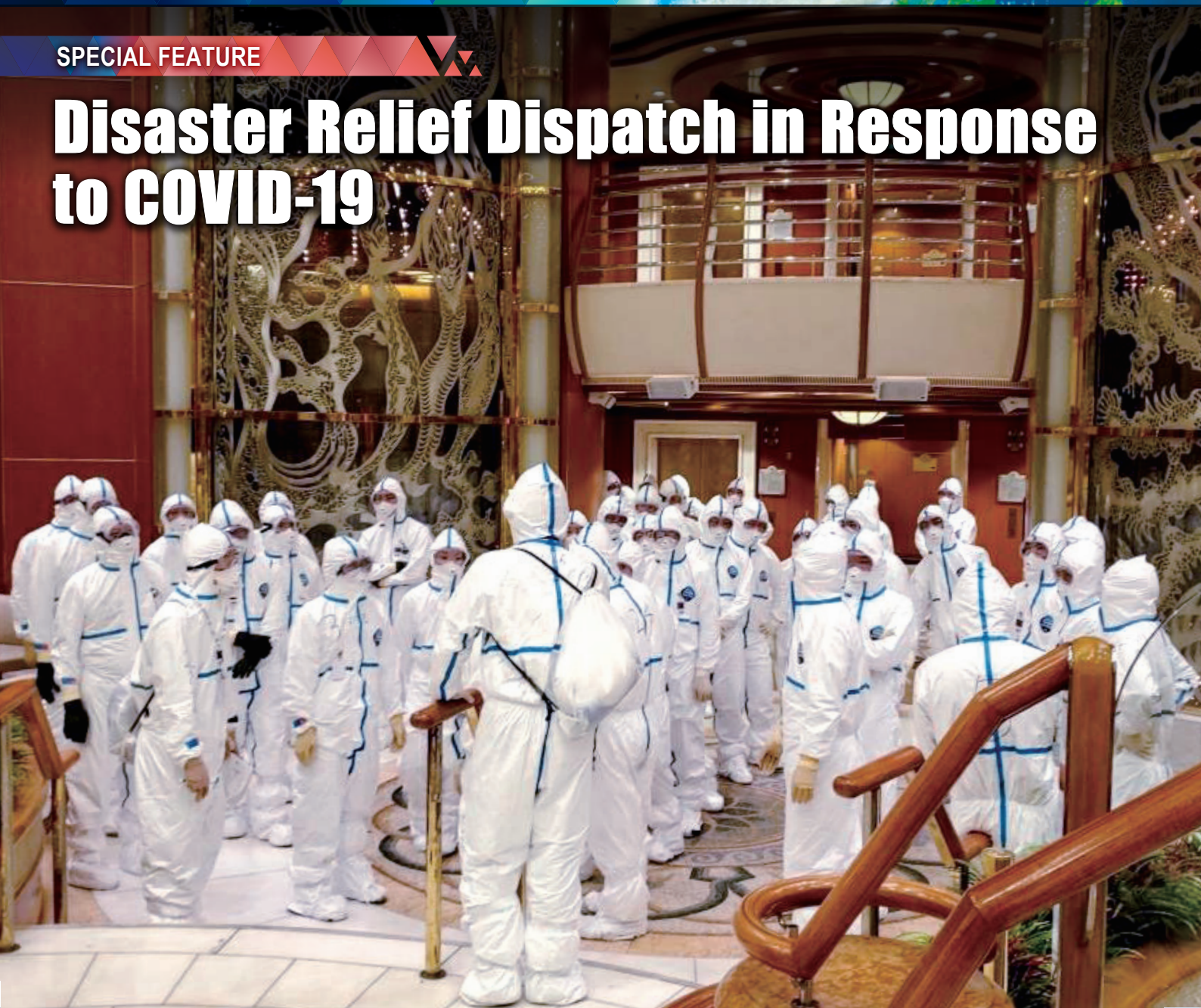


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SPECIAL FEATURE

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JSDF Deployment in the Middle East ~for enhancing information gathering activities~

Disaster Relief Dispatch in Response to COVID-19

January 31st, 2020 - In response to the urgent need to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Defense Minister Kono issued an order to implement disaster relief dispatch.

Following the order, the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) deployed the civilian vessel *Hakuo* to Tokyo Bay. The vessel acted as an operational base and accommodation for the JSDF personnel conducting livelihood support and other assistance activities. Furthermore, two nurses from the JSDF Central Hospital were dispatched to carry out in-flight quarantines on the charter flights from Hubei, China.

Among the deployed personnel, a total of about 2,200 personnel provided support for the civilians who stayed at on-shore accommodation facilities after they returned from Hubei by government-chartered flights, while on the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship, a total of about 2,700 personnel carried out support activities to deal with the mass infection. They conducted various assistance activities including daily living support (providing daily necessities, etc.), transport via JSDF vehicles, and medical assistance

(health checks, etc.). In terms of transport support, the JSDF transported passengers who would return to their countries including the United States, Australia, Canada, Israel, Italy, EU countries, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, India and Indonesia by charter flights, and their baggage to Haneda Airport via JSDF vehicles. Also, approx. 10 JSDF Reserve Personnel with medical and nursing qualifications were called up for the deployment.

After the completion of the activities onboard the cruise ship and at the accommodation facilities, the MOD/JSDF did PCR testing of all JSDF personnel who may have come into contact with infected individuals.

Minister Kono ordered to terminate the disaster relief dispatch and the activities of the Reserve Personnel on March 16th after confirming that all PCR test results were negative and having the deployed personnel undergo a 14-day observation period.

The MOD/JSDF will continue to accept COVID-19 patients into JSDF hospitals, as well as provide support to local authorities if they face difficulties responding to the situation.

The Peace and stability in the Middle East is critically important for peace and prosperity of the international community, including Japan. The Middle East is the primary supplier of energy for the world. As Japan depends about 90% of its imported crude oil on this region, it is also extremely important for Japan to ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East.

As the tensions in the Middle East has increased, the Cabinet Decision was made on December 27th, 2019 to promote unified government efforts to secure peace and stability in this region, and to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels. Under the Decision, alongside encouraging further diplomatic efforts and thoroughly implementing navigation safety measures, as part of the government's efforts to ensure the safety of navigation, the Government of Japan determined to conduct information gathering activities by the JSDF in order to strengthen information gathering posture necessary for ensuring the safety of Japan-related vessels.

Following the Cabinet Decision, the MOD/JSDF decided to conduct information gathering activities by utilizing

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) aircraft and ships.

The MOD/JSDF assigned information gathering activities to the two P-3C patrol aircrafts based in Djibouti, which have engaged in counter-piracy operations since 2009. The two aircrafts departed from Japan on January 11th, 2020 with 60 crew members and commenced the activities on January 20th.

Furthermore, the MOD/JSDF dispatched the *JS Takanami* with approx. 200 personnel to the Middle East as a new unit called "Deployment Surface Force for Information Gathering".

The *JS Takanami* commenced operations in the international waters in the Gulf of Oman and the North Arabian Sea on February 26th, 2020.

The *JS Takanami* confirmed approx. 3,200 vessels from February 26th to March 31st, working to ensure the safety of navigation.

The MOD/JSDF will continue to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East, as well as the safety of Japan-related vessels.





JGSDF preparing meals as part of disaster relief operation



JGSDF providing hot meals to disaster victims

Field Feeding of the JGSDF

The JGSDF Camp Matsudo provides training for the JSDF personnel engaged in logistic support such as food, clothing, fuel, parachutes, and equipment to supply water.

Among the many courses offered, the Food Enlisted Men General Course (FEG Course) provides training for the personnel who prepare meals for JSDF units in the field. Members of the course spend three months learning the fundamentals of nutrition science and cooking techniques. They are also required to master outdoor cooking techniques by learning to use various types of equipment available for field cooking.

Upon completing the course, graduates become field feeding personnel, working to ensure that JSDF units can perform their duties at their best even in harsh environments through serving meals to them.

As the JSDF has had increased opportunities to engage in overseas activities in order to contribute to maintaining peace and security in the international community, managing health conditions of the deployed personnel is important for them to fulfill their responsibilities in remote regions.

Available food supplies and cooking environment differ depending on the area of deployment. The field feeding personnel therefore use a variety of techniques to ensure they can provide fresh and safe meals, aiming to maintain the health of the deployed personnel.

As well as ensuring that the deployed personnel maintain their physical condition, the field feeding personnel also serve seasonal meals that the deployed personnel are familiar with, such as regional Japanese cuisine and traditional New Year's dishes. These efforts help reduce their stress during deployment, keeping psychological wellbeing, and improving morale.

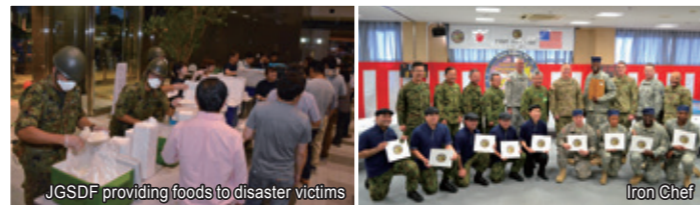
During disaster relief activities, in addition to search and rescue and decontamination duties, daily living support, such as providing meals and bathing, is also another important mission.

The Field Kitchen 1 (Remodeled) is one piece of equipment used by the JGSDF for these purposes. The Kitchen is a portable cooking equipment mounted on a one-ton trailer, consisting of six kitchen ranges and ovens, vegetable slicer and other cooking tools. This equipment allows the field feeding personnel to prepare enough amount of hot meals for about 250 people within 45 minutes. Such equipment enables the JGSDF to provide hot meals even at places like evacuation centers.

There are also opportunities to use this function to enhance defense cooperation and exchanges with other countries.

For instance, during the Japan-U.S. Joint Field Training Exercise *Yamasakura* (YS), a cooking competition called "Iron Chef" was held, in which the JGSDF and U.S. Army competed against each other to earn the title of best chef. This initiative helped further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

By making the best use of capabilities of JSDF personnel and a variety of equipment, the MOD/JSDF will continue to ensure Japan's security and contribute to the peace and security of the world as a member of the Asia-Pacific region and international society.



JGSDF providing foods to disaster victims

Iron Chef



Instructor teaching cooking techniques

Field Kitchen 1 (Portable cooking equipment)

Portable cooking equipment

Instructor teaching cooking techniques



Field cooking exercise

Recent Military Exchanges

From the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, the MOD/JSDF is required to actively contribute to ensuring the security of Japan, the peace and stability of the region, and the peace, stability, and prosperity of the entire international community. For this reason, in line with the free and open Indo-Pacific vision, and in accordance with

the new National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG), Japan will strengthen bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchanges as part of multi-faceted and multi-layered security cooperation.

This corner covers the visit to Cambodia made by the Chief of Staff, JGSDF and the visits to Vietnam and Thailand made by the Chief of Staff, Joint Staff.

Chief of Staff, JGSDF visits Cambodia

From February 26th to 29th, General Yuasa, Chief of Staff, JGSDF made an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the first time for the JGSDF Chief of Staff.

During the visit, General Yuasa paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Hun Sen and met with Deputy Chairman of the Royal Cambodian Armed Force (RCAF) Joint Staff, Lt. Gen. Hun Manet, a counterpart of the JGSDF Chief of Staff and a son of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The Kingdom of Cambodia was the first country to which Japan dispatched JSDF personnel for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) in 1992. Currently, the JGSDF has provided the capacity building program on engineering to the RCAF candidates for UN PKO deployment. These efforts have helped the RCAF personnel improve their

capacities, and they are now contributing to the peace and stability in the international community through operations in Lebanon, Central Africa, and Mali.

Through these courtesy calls and meetings, the Cambodian Government and the RCAF expressed great appreciation for the capacity building program by the JGSDF and the human resource development through the acceptance of Cambodian students. They also confirmed that these support initiatives should continue in the future.



Courtesy call to Prime Minister Hun Sen

Gen. Yuasa and Lt. Gen. Hun Manet

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff visits Vietnam

On March 2nd, General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff visited the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, where he paid a courtesy call on General Ngo Xuan Lich, Minister of Defence, and held a meeting with Sr Lt. Gen. Phan Vang Giang, Chief of the General Staff. The leaders

exchanged views on the security environment surrounding the two countries and agreed to promote defense cooperation and exchanges to contribute to the promotion of the Joint Vision Statement on Japan-Vietnam Relations.



Courtesy call on Gen Lich, Minister of National Defence

Group Photos

Inspection of exercise

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff visits Thailand

On March 5th, General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff visited the Kingdom of Thailand, where he made a courtesy call on General Chaichan Changmongkol, Deputy Minister of Defence and held a meeting with General Pornpipat Benyasri, Chief of the Defence Forces.

The leaders agreed to strengthen bilateral relations based on the Japan-Thailand Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges and exchanged views on the security environment surrounding the two countries.



Courtesy call on GEN Changmongkol, Deputy Defence Minister

Meeting with GEN Benyasri, Chief of Defence Forces

Guard of Honor



Commission of JS Oryu and DDG Maya

Commission of JS Oryu

In the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, given the importance of information gathering and surveillance/patrol activities in the waters around Japan, it is necessary to implement measures to increase the number of submarines in order to effectively conduct various operations including anti-submarine warfare and to ensure the defense of peripheral waters as well as the safety of maritime navigation.

Under such circumstances, the JS *Oryu* was put into commission on March 5th, currently assigned at the JMSDF Kure District.

The JS *Oryu* is the eleventh *Soryu*-class submarine and

features a lithium-ion batteries. Compared to conventional *Soryu* submarines, the lithium-ion batteries provide the JS *Oryu* significantly improved duration and speed underwater.

Specifications

- ▷ **Standard displacement:** 2,950t
- ▷ **Length:** 84.0m
- ▷ **Beam:** 9.1m
- ▷ **Draft:** 10.3m
- ▷ **Main engines:** two diesel engines, four Stirling engines, one propulsion motor
- ▷ **Speed:** approx. 20kt (underwater)
- ▷ **Crew:** approx. 65



Commission of DDG Maya

Given North Korea's improved ballistic missile capabilities, the MOD/JSDF needs to pursue the comprehensive improvement of its response capabilities against the threat of ballistic missiles. For reinforcing the multi-layered and sustainable defense posture for the entire territory of Japan against ballistic missile attacks, it is necessary that the MOD/JSDF procure additional Aegis-equipped destroyers.

Against such a backdrop, the DDG *Maya* went into commission on March 19th, currently assigned at the JMSDF Yokosuka District.

The DDG *Maya* is the first *Maya*-class destroyer with ballistic missile response capabilities. One of its distinctive features is that it is equipped with Cooperative

Engagement Capability (CEC), which allows the destroyer to share information on enemy missiles and aircraft on a real-time basis with assets such as Aegis-destroyers and airborne early warning aircraft.

Specifications

- ▷ **Standard displacement:** 8,200t
- ▷ **Length:** 170.0m
- ▷ **Beam:** 21.0m
- ▷ **Draft:** 12.0m
- ▷ **Engine:** combined gas turbine-electric and gas turbine (COGLAG) (two shafts)
- ▷ **Speed:** approx. 30kt
- ▷ **Crew:** approx. 300



Series 03 Capacity Building Program by MOD/JSDF

Capacity Building Program for Vietnam and ASEAN



Briefing about JASDF Pararescue Jumper



TTX

Capacity Building Programs for Vietnam



Vietnam's focus on maritime security is increasing. The development of undersea medicine, one of the medical fields within the maritime security area, is a challenge for the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN). For that reason, Japan has been cooperating with the VPN in the field of undersea medicine, in response to a request from the Vietnam's government, since FY2012.

The capacity building program encompasses an overview of undersea medicine, training module, case study, and also an introduction to Japan's experiences. Representatives of the VPN are invited to Japan on an iterative basis to examine JMSDF facilities.

During the 2013 and 2015 iterations of the program, Japan, the United States and Australia held joint seminars with the participation of experts from each country. These seminars included lectures and other events to disseminate knowledge and share lessons learned in the field of undersea medicine.

In recent years, Japan has conducted capacity building programs in fields additional to undersea medicine, including air rescue, undersea UXO clearance, and cybersecurity.

For instance, Japan held the fourth iteration of its Air Rescue Seminar in Vietnam on March 10th, 2020, in which the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) personnel gave lectures on procedures for air rescue and other topics to Vietnam People's Air Force officials.



Discussion of case study (Undersea Medicine)

Presentation by JMSDF officer (Undersea UXO Clearance)

Capacity Building for ASEAN on HA/DR



Southeast Asia is situated in the heart of the Indo-Pacific region and is strongly impacted by natural disasters and the effects of climate change. Since 2018, the MOD has organized and run the annual "Japan-ASEAN Invitation Program on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)". This invitation program is based on the "Vientiane Vision" – the guiding principle for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation that aims to reinforce multilateral coordination in response to large natural disasters and other challenges.

The third invitation program was carried out as a specific effort based on "Vientiane Vision 2.0", the updated version of the guiding principle for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, which Minister Kono announced at the ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting in November 2019. Convened from 18th to 23rd February 2020, this third program encompassed 22 participants from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat. Through seminars on HA/DR, a Table Top Exercise (TTX) to hone multilateral coordination in the context of natural disasters, and the development of practical skills (in 2020, participants observed the Nankai Trough Megathrust Earthquake exercise), this ongoing program aims to strengthen multilateral coordination to enable rapid and effective responses to regional natural disasters of the nature of those in recent years.



TTX

Seminar

Recent Training and Exercises

Training and Exercise Overseas

Overseas Training Cruise

From March 14th, the Overseas Training Cruise is underway for junior officers to acquire necessary knowledge and skills, and to develop the required talents as the JSDF officers.

Approx. 260 personnel including 58 graduates who completed the 72nd aviation officer candidate course are participating in this training, which was designed to train them through various types of training on vessel operations (ship handling, firefighting, water tight, replenishment at sea, etc.) and tactical training (anti-submarine warfare and anti-air warfare, etc.).



JS Teruzuki with USS Gabrielle Giffords



JMSDF personnel waving hands to USS Gabrielle Giffords



JMSDF personnel watching USS Gabrielle Giffords

Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training

The JMSDF conducted bilateral training with the U.S. Navy in the water and airspace from the southern Kanto region to the northern Guam from February 29th to March 5th.

This training aimed on improving the tactical skills for the JMSDF and enhancing the solidarity with the U.S. Navy. The JS *Suzunami* and JS *Sawagiri* from the JMSDF and the Guided Missile Cruiser USS *Antietam* and USS *Shiloh*, the Destroyers USS *Barry* and USS *Mustin* from the U.S. Navy participated in this training.

The JMSDF and the U.S. Navy will further strengthen the deterrence capability of the Japan-U.S. Alliance through such bilateral training.



The JMSDF and U.S. Navy ships in the bilateral training



The JMSDF and U.S. Navy ships in the bilateral training



The JMSDF and U.S. Navy ships in the bilateral training



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-Migrate to our friends around the world-



March 2020: "We Are Tomodachi Spring 2020" Released