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SPECIAL FEATURE

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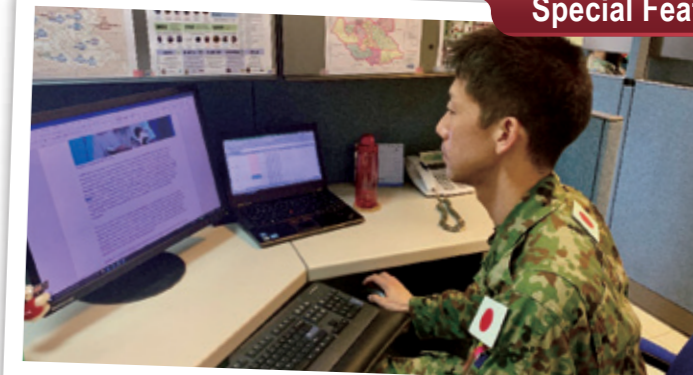
Video Teleconference



Engineering Officer checking tents



Logistics Officer



Database Officer



Database Officer meeting with a JMAC analyst



Logistics Officer meeting with Thai engineers



Engineering Officer discussing the construction of COVID-19-related facility



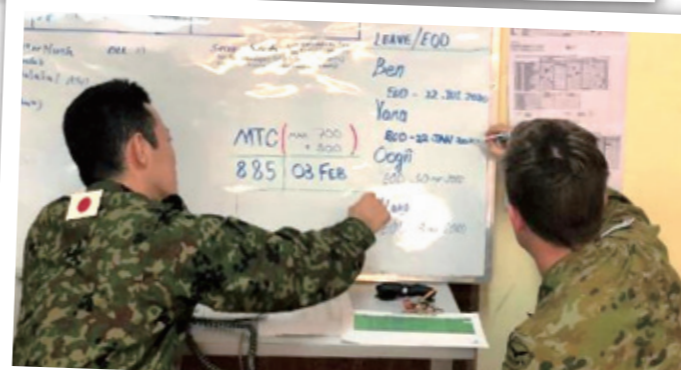
Air Operations Officer adjusting daily flight plan



Database and Engineering Officers with their colleagues



Japanese Staff Officers



Logistics Officer having a meeting



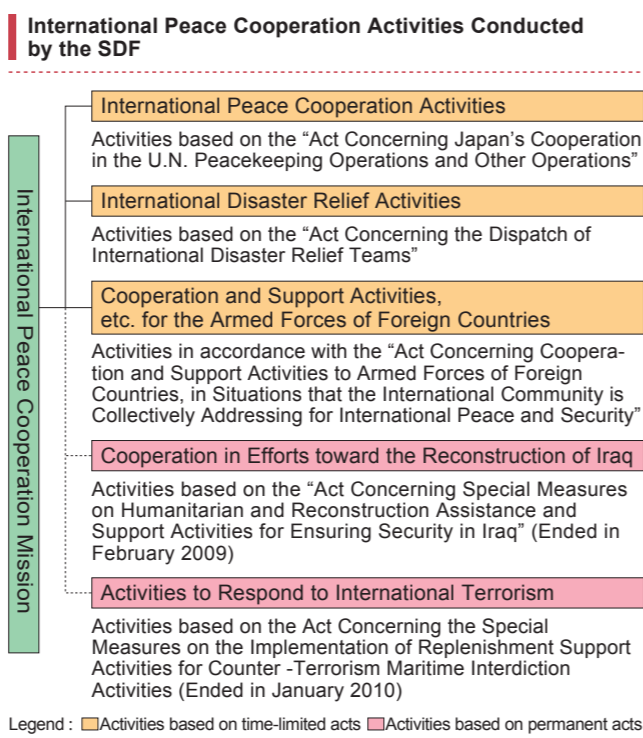
Engineering Officer inspecting the Royal engineers

Overview of the JSDF's International Peace Cooperation Assignments

In order to play a more active role for international peace, Japan enacted the Act on Cooperation for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (International Peace Cooperation Act or PKO Act) in June 1992. Ever since then, it has been making personnel and in-kind contributions to assist efforts led by the UN and other organizations.

Specifically, the law sets out four pillars of Japan's participation and contribution in international peace cooperation: 1. UN Peacekeeping Operations, 2. Internationally Coordinated Operations for Peace and Security, 3. International Humanitarian Relief Operations and 4. International Election Observation Operations. Upon implementations the law stipulates that these operations shall be carried out in accordance with the five principles for participation*.

*Created by editing the Road to Peace (the Cabinet Office)
http://www.pko.go.jp/pko_j/info/other/pdf/pamphlet2020/pko_pamphlet2020.pdf



The Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) has been promoting international peace cooperation activities in various regions, including Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Timor-Leste, Nepal, and South Sudan for more than 25 years, and the results of these activities have been highly praised both inside and outside Japan.

As part of international peace cooperation activities, personnel dispatches to the UNMISS headquarters are continuing and four Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) members currently carry out duties at the UNMISS headquarters, such as procuring and transporting goods needed in UNMISS activities, collecting and compiling information, planning and proposing UNMISS engineering activities, and assisting in operation of aircraft run by UNMISS. Additionally, one liaison staff member has been dispatched to the liaison office in South Sudan to support these JGSDF members of UNMISS.



Engineering Officer having a meeting

Further, as the MOD/JSDF is able to participate in Internationally Coordinated Operations for Peace and Security along with the enforcement of the Legislation for Peace and Security, it has dispatched staff officers to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) since April 2019. (See the next page for details of the Dispatch to the MFO.)

As stated in the National Defense Program Guidelines, in line with the Legislation for Peace and Security, the MOD/JSDF will actively promote international peace cooperation assignments, while giving comprehensive consideration to such factors as purposes of missions, situations in host countries, and political and economic relations between Japan and host countries. While making good use of past experiences to develop human resources, Japan will actively contribute through such efforts as sending embedded personnel to mission headquarters and so on.



Recent Telephone Conferences

As COVID-19 has been impacting the defense cooperation between Japan and foreign countries, Defense Minister Kono; Chief of Staff, Joint Staff

Yamazaki; and Chief of Staff, Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) Marumo held teleconferences with their counterparts in foreign countries.



Defense Minister's Telephone Conferences



Minister Kono had teleconferences with Minister Parly of France on April 17th; with German Federal Minister of Defence, Kramp-Karrenbauer and U.S. Defense Secretary Esper on April 24th respectively. Moreover, he had a

conversation with Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Ben Wallace of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on April 28th.

France, Germany and U.K.

In these telephone conversations, Minister Kono and respective ministers exchanged views on issues such as the roles to be played by the defense authorities given the global spread of COVID-19. Minister Kono explained the infection-preventative measures the JSDF have taken in their operation on the cruise ship Diamond Princess and analysis by the SDF Central Hospital using a presentation document on the JSDF engagement in response to COVID-19, and his counterparts also explained the situations in their respective countries. In the teleconference with Germany, Minister Kono touched upon a letter of thanks for JSDF medical care sent by a

German couple, and Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer also showed her appreciation for the JSDF assistance.

Further, bearing in mind the circumstances arisen by the spread of COVID-19, Minister Kono and ministers of the three countries agreed on sharing information, knowledge and lessons learnt about the measures taken by defense authorities towards overcoming the virus; sharing threat recognition based on potential effects of the spread of the virus on defense policy of each country; and promoting vigorously defense cooperation and exchanges to uphold and reinforce the Free and Open Indo Pacific.

U.S.

In the teleconference with U.S. Defense Secretary Esper on April 24th, the two ministers exchanged views on the response to COVID-19, the situations in the Indo-Pacific region including North Korea, and various issues regarding cooperation with the U.S. Forces in Japan.

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Yamazaki's Telephone Conferences



Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Yamazaki had a video teleconference with General Milley, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 15th; teleconferences with Chair-

man of the NATO Military Committee Air Chief Marshall Peach on April 21st and General Campbell, Chief of the Australian Defence Force on April 22nd respectively.

U.S., Australia

Through each of the teleconferences with the U.S. and Australia, the senior leaders exchanged views on ways to combat COVID-19, including the situation of the infection and countermeasures.

In addition, General Yamazaki and General Milley reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance in the region and their commitment to continuing close military

cooperation to deal with common challenges for peace and stability in the region and the international community.

General Yamazaki and General Campbell reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-Australia defense cooperation and their commitment to continuing close military cooperation to deal with common challenges for peace and stability in the region and the international community.

NATO

General Yamazaki and Air Chief Marshall Peach reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-NATO defense cooperation and their commitment to continuing close military cooperation to share the information by seizing opportunities for peace and stability in the region and the international community.

Chief of Staff, JASDF Marumo's Telephone Conferences



Chief of Staff, JASDF Marumo had teleconferences with General Brown, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces on April 17th; with Lt Gen Paredes, Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force on April 23rd; and with Lt Gen Schneider, Commander, 5th Air Force / U.S. Forces Japan and Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force on the 28th respectively. Furthermore, he had a video teleconference with air chiefs in the Indo-Pacific region on the 30th.

through their prevention and response measures against the pandemic.

Further, in the respective teleconferences with General Brown and Lt Gen Schneider, General Marumo and the two leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance as the cornerstone in the region and their commitment to maintaining robust cooperation between the two air forces.

In other teleconferences with the Philippines, India and air chiefs in the Indo-Pacific region as well, General Marumo agreed on maintaining robust cooperation between air forces of each country in the region.

In each of these teleconferences, there were exchanges of views regarding the situation and impact of COVID-19 in each country, as well as the systems to prevent infection, among other matters. Amidst the disaster relief activities of the JSDF to respond to COVID-19, not a single member has been infected, and it is believed this is due to the JSDF's practices (basics such as hand disinfection, wearing masks, virus protection measures, etc.). Information, lessons and

knowledge gained through the JSDF's activities have been published on the MOD/JSDF website and social media.

The previous month's edition focused on the disaster relief activities regarding the cruise ship Diamond Princess and the returnees from Wuhan, China. On the next page, we will cover the JSDF activities, intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19, that have been completed or are currently underway, following the disaster relief order issued on March 28th.

JSDF's Dispatch to the MFO

1 MFO: Multinational Force & Observers

After the 4th Middle-East War in 1973, the Peace Treaty between the State of Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt (hereinafter - the Peace Treaty) was signed in March 1979. However, the UN Security Council did not approve of the establishment of a UN force and observer group according to that treaty. Against this backdrop, Egypt and Israel signed the Protocol to the Treaty of Peace through the agency of the United States, establishing the Multinational

Force & Observers (MFO) as an alternative to the envisioned UN force and observer group.

The MFO is headquartered in Rome. Its mission is to monitor the ceasefire between Egypt and Israel while facilitating confidence building efforts in the Sinai Peninsula.

Japan has provided financial support to the MFO since 1988 and, starting in April 2019, has dispatched two JGSDF officers to serve at the MFO headquarters.

2 Significance of the dispatch to the MFO

Since 1982, when its activities started, the MFO has contributed to peace and stability in the Middle East, a foundation of peace and prosperity for Japan, by facilitating confidence building between Egypt and Israel.

Dispatching JSDF personnel to the MFO headquarters further contributes to peace and stability in the Middle East, promotes cooperation with 12 other dispatching countries including the U.S., and provides fresh opportunities to develop human resources.

3 Duties of the JGSDF personnel at the MFO headquarters

The two personnel have been assigned to the Coordination and Liaison Department inside the Military Affairs Division headquarters at the South Camp in Sharm el-Sheikh, located in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula.

They act as liaison officers between Egypt and Israel. Other responsibilities include managing schedules and checking reports from other liaison members belonging to the Liaison Department. In the new living and working environment, they engage in their duties in an orderly manner, keeping close communication with their colleagues.





Scrambles through the FY2019

The JASDF detects and identifies aircraft approaching the Japanese airspace with assets such as warning and control radars, and airborne early warning and control aircraft. By such means, the JASDF ensures the security of Japan's airspace. When there is the possibility that aircraft violates the territorial airspace of Japan, the JASDF scrambles its fighter aircraft to gather detailed information of the aircraft, and if necessary, track and monitor it.

The JASDF scrambled 947 times in the FY2019 (April 1st, 2019 - March 31st, 2020). Although this was a decrease by 52 times compared to the FY2018, the record was the third most since Japan first implemented the measures against airspace violations in 1958. Including estimates, the flag countries of the aircraft, forcing the JASDF to take actions, were China with 675 scrambles (approx. 71%), Russia with 268 scrambles (approx. 28%), and other countries with less than 1%. By regional air defense forces, the Northern Air Defense Force scrambled 198 times, the Central Air Defense Force 35 times, the Western Air Defense Force 133 times, and the Southwestern Air Defense Force 581 times.

The Chinese military flights marked as unusual include the flight of H-6 bomber that flew between the main island of Okinawa and Miyako Island and the new Y-9 surveillance aircraft, which was visually confirmed for the first time.

Unusual flights by Russia include the violations of Japan's airspace by Tu-95 bomber and A-50 airborne early warning and control; and the first visual confirmation of Su-34 fighter bomber. In the FY2019, all three publicly announced cases of airspace violation were the acts by Russian aircraft.



Disaster Relief Dispatch in Response to COVID-19 after March 28

To respond to COVID-19, Minister of Defense Kono ordered disaster relief operations on March 28th in order to implement measures aiming for strengthening border control and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Japan. Following the order, the MOD/JSDF provided support

activities including quarantine support, transport support, and living support to returnees and visitors to Japan who arrived by air from overseas. Further, the MOD/JSDF conducted domestic activities to prevent community-level spread of COVID-19.

Support for returnees and visitors from overseas

To provide quarantine support, JSDF medical personnel collected body fluid from returnees and visitors at Narita and Haneda airports for PCR test. Transportation support was offered to transport Japanese returnees and visiting foreigners to accommodation facilities from the airports (Narita, Haneda, Kansai International, Chubu International), where they would stay until PCR test results were

confirmed. In addition, living support (meal distribution, etc.) was provided to returnees and visitors staying at accommodation facilities in the Kanto, Kansai, and Chubu regions.

The JSDF disaster relief operations to strengthen border control to tackle the spread of COVID-19 based on the March 28 dispatch order ended on May 31st.

Activities to prevent community spread of COVID-19

Based upon requests from prefectural governors, etc., the JSDF implemented support activities in 29 prefectures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in communities. These activities include transportation support, living support at accommodations, support for body fluid sample collection, and support for hygiene education for private businesses such as hotels and related people such as

medical personnel, local government employees, and personnel at fire and police departments. Hygiene education covered topics such as a briefing on COVID-19, procedures for putting on and off protective clothing, and sanitation measures.

(All the information in this article is as of the end of May.)



JS Shirase returns from the 61st Antarctic research

Icebreaker JS *Shirase* returned to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Yokosuka District, Japan on April 6th, after completing support activities for the 61st Antarctic research.

Japan launched its 1st Antarctic Research Expedition in 1956, marking the dawn of Japan's Antarctic research. Showa Station was opened in the following year, and since then, relevant ministries and agencies have been collaboratively conducting research, observation, and transportation for over 60 years.

The JMSDF was given a transport mission for the expedition in 1963. Its first transport mission took place with the 7th Antarctic Research Expedition in 1965.

The JS *Shirase* is the JMSDF's third-generation icebreaker since the JMSDF started its transport mission, following the JS *Fuij* and the first-generation JS *Shirase*. (Before the JMSDF started its transport mission, transport was carried out by the icebreaker *Soya* operated by the Japan Coast Guard.)

The JS *Shirase* departed from Harumi Pier in Tokyo on November 12th, 2019. After embarking expedition members in Fremantle, Australia, it then sailed to Antarctica. On the way, an extensive observation was conducted off the Totten Glacier, one of the largest glaciers in East Antarctica, which was the main mission of the 61st

Antarctic Research Expedition. As the tip of the Totten Glacier extends into the sea, warm seawater flows underneath it, encouraging its rapid melting. This time, Japan conducted the extensive observation to clarify the melting process.

On January 5th, the JS *Shirase* berthed at a fixed location 400m off Showa Station and began on-site operations. High transportation efficiency was achieved using two transport helicopters simultaneously to off-load fuel, food, and observation instruments. Then, the JS *Shirase* loaded materials to be brought back from the station such as garbage and scrap, and the crews also provided support for the station's facilities construction and field observation.

After completing these missions, the JS *Shirase* left Showa Station on January 29th, embarking the 60th Expedition crews who was replaced by the 61st Expedition crews. On her way back, the JS *Shirase* also supported observation mission off the Totten Glacier and disembarked the crews of the 60th Expedition in Sydney as they would return to Japan by air. The JS *Shirase* departed from Sydney on March 21st and arrived at Yokosuka on April 6th.

On April 15th, the JS *Shirase's* Commanding Officer Takeuchi reported to Minister Kono about the return of the ship from Antarctic.



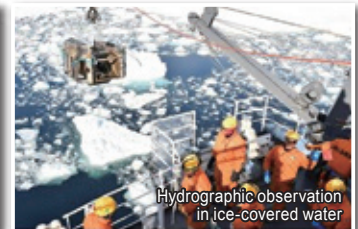
Loading a transport helicopter



Study Session



Stationary Observation



Hydrographic observation in ice-covered water



Icebreaker JS Shirase



Setting an ice anchor



Raising the Rising-Sun flag on the Fuji Cairn



Off-loading observation instruments



JS Shirase mooring at Yokosuka

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