

# Enhancing Intelligence Capabilities

## 1 Military Intelligence Collection

For formulating defense policy accurately in response to the changes in the situation and for operating defense capabilities effectively in dealing with various situations, it is necessary to grasp medium- to long-term military trends in the neighboring countries of Japan and to detect the indications of various situations promptly. To this end, the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Self-Defense Force (SDF) always makes efforts to collect information swiftly and accurately by using various methods.

Examples of intelligence collection means used by the MOD/SDF include: (1) collecting, processing and analyzing military communications and signals emanating from electronic weapons in the air over Japan; (2) collecting, processing, and analyzing data from various imagery satellites (including Information Gathering Satellite);<sup>1</sup> (3) surveillance activities by ships, aircraft and other assets; (4) collecting and organizing a variety of open source information; (5)

information exchanges with defense organizations of other nations; and (6) intelligence collection conducted by defense attachés and other officials.

Additional attachés were dispatched to Belgium, where the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) are headquartered, in February 2019 in view of the importance of ensuring continued robust collaboration, cooperation and mutual security arrangements with Europe. In March 2019, a new dispatch was made to Chile in view of the importance of collecting strategic information in Pacific Rim countries. Additional attachés are also dispatched to Malaysia, a country located on key sea lanes and with which Japan is increasingly engaged across a range of fields from military exchange to capacity building support, defense equipment and technology cooperation.

 Fig.VI-3-1 (Dispatched Defense Attachés)

## 2 Initiatives towards Enhancing Intelligence Capabilities

Under the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG),<sup>2</sup> in order to provide timely and effective intelligence support to policy decision and SDF operations, the MOD/SDF will promote initiatives to comprehensively enhance intelligence capabilities at all stages of intelligence, including gathering, analyzing, sharing and securing of information.

Specifically, the MOD/SDF will drastically strengthen information gathering and analysis capabilities so that the MOD/SDF will be fully capable of meeting various intelligence requirements including those related to new domains. This will be conducted by strengthening gathering postures for SIGINT and IMINT through establishing and enhancing capabilities of information collection facilities, utilizing Information Gathering Satellites and commercial

satellites, and diversifying means for information collection through new equipment such as long-endurance Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs). Furthermore, the MOD/SDF will also strengthen the gathering posture of HUMINT through enhancing its defense attaché system, reinforce the gathering posture of OSINT and expand its cooperation with allied countries.

In this regard, the MOD/SDF will proactively utilize the latest information processing technology, promote all-source analysis by fusing a wide variety of information sources together, and successfully develop and connect systems that will promote information sharing.<sup>3</sup>

In order to respond appropriately to increasingly diversified intelligence requirements, the MOD/SDF will promote the securing and training of highly capable personnel handling

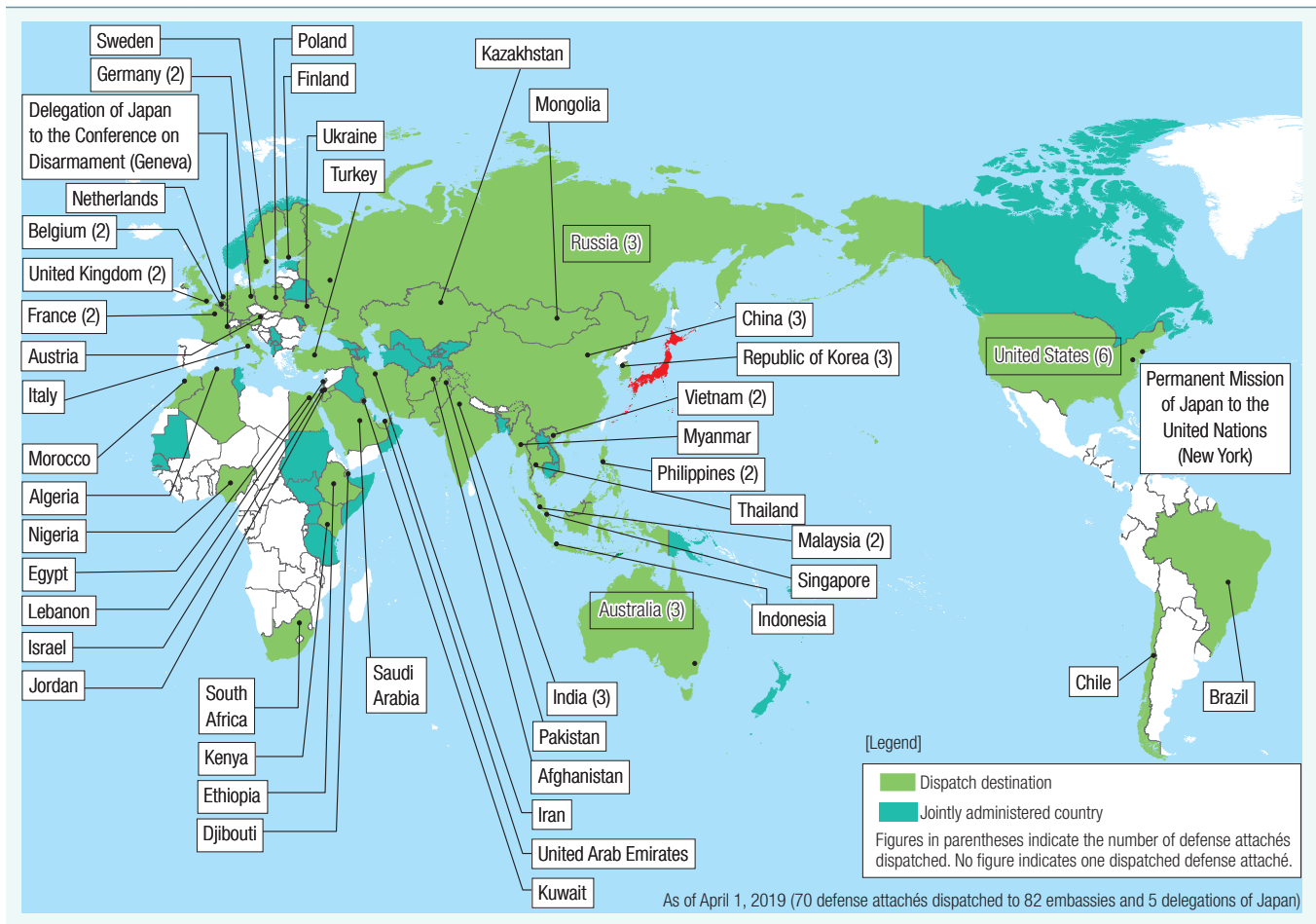
<sup>1</sup> Information Gathering Satellite (IGS) of the Japanese government is operated by the Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Center. The MOD, along with other ministries and agencies, utilizes the imagery intelligence provided by the IGS.

<sup>2</sup> See Part II, Chapter 3, Section 1, Footnote 1

<sup>3</sup> The FY2019 budget includes the construction of a new common information platform to realize all source analysis by gathering a wide variety of broad-ranging information collected by individual SDF services and the Defense Intelligence Headquarters.

Fig. IV-3-1

Dispatched Defense Attachés



information collection and analysis. Moreover, the MOD/SDF will take steady measures in various directions including recruitment, education, training, and personnel allocation to strengthen comprehensive information collection and analysis capabilities.

With regard to information security, the MOD/SDF will

coordinate with relevant offices to make every effort by such means as education in ensuring information sharing on a need-to-know basis, and in taking preventative measures against information leakage. Also, the MOD/SDF will strengthen counter-intelligence capability within the MOD/SDF by promoting collaboration with relevant organizations.