

Interaction with Local Communities and Japanese Citizens

Various activities of the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Self-Defense Forces (SDF) are hard to implement without the understanding and cooperation of each and every person

and local governments. Therefore it is necessary to further deepen the trust between local communities and people, and the SDF.

Section

1

Collaboration with Local Communities

The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG) provides that, in recent years, training and exercises of SDF and U.S. forces in Japan are becoming more diverse and defense equipment more sophisticated, and that, as a result, it is becoming all the more important to gain understanding among and secure cooperation from local governments and residents around defense facilities.

Therefore, the NDPG provides that the MOD/SDF will constantly and actively engage in public relations activities regarding defense policies and activities, and that, upon fielding units and equipment of SDF or U.S. Forces in Japan and conducting training and exercises, the MOD/SDF will make careful, detailed coordination to meet the desires and conditions of local communities, while sufficiently fulfilling accountability.

1 Supporting Civilian Life

The MOD/SDF conduct activities to support the lives of citizens in a range of fields, in response to requests from local governments and relevant organizations. Such activities contribute to further deepening the trust in the SDF, and provide SDF personnel with pride and confidence.

The GSDF handles the disposal of unexploded ordnance and other dangerous explosives found throughout Japan. In FY2018, there were approx. 1,480 such cases (approx. 53.0 tons). In particular, cases handled in Okinawa Prefecture accounted for approx. 38% of the total cases. The MSDF clears and disposes of underwater mines and other dangerous explosives, and approx. 4,456 explosives (approx. 2.8 tons) were handled in FY2018.

The SDF camps and bases allow the local residents access

to their facilities to the extent that it does not interfere with unit activities, thus striving to foster friendly interaction with local communities. The SDF also provides transportation and other assistance at a variety of athletic events. In addition, it supports regional medical treatment efforts by providing general medical care at some SDF hospitals as well as conducting urgent transport for emergency patients from isolated islands. Furthermore, based on national policy,¹ the MOD/SDF ensures opportunities for local small and medium sized enterprises to receive orders, while taking efficiency into account, by such measures as the promotion of separated/divided ordering² and the securing of competition amongst companies within the same qualification and grade divisions.³



See Reference 63 (Activities in Civic Life)

2 Cooperation from Local Governments and Other Relevant Organizations for the SDF

(1) Recruitment of Uniformed SDF Personnel and Cooperation with Re-employment Support

Amid the harsh recruitment and employment situation, the cooperation from local governments and relevant organizations

¹ "The Contract Basic Policy of the Government regarding Small and Medium Enterprises in FY2018" (Cabinet decision on September 7, 2018)

² For example, this is a method through which grouping of products, etc. takes place when putting up the order for general competitive bidding, and then a successful bidder for the groups is decided.

³ This means that out of the bidding participation eligibility categorized into grade A-D, there is competition between grade C or D only, which comprise mostly small and medium enterprises.

is vital to secure highly qualified personnel and to support the re-employment of uniformed SDF personnel who retire at a relatively young age under the SDF's early retirement system.

(2) Support for and Cooperation with SDF Activities

The SDF camps and bases maintain close relations with local communities, and therefore, various forms of support and cooperation from the local community are indispensable for the SDF to conduct its diverse activities, including education

and training, and disaster relief. Moreover, units dispatched overseas for international peace cooperation operations and other duties receive support and cooperation from the relevant organizations for the procedures involved.

The MOD/SDF are further strengthening cooperation with relevant entities such as local governments, police and fire services in order to ensure immediate and sure activities by the SDF in various contingencies.

VOICE Making a Connection with the Local Community

Betsukai Town, Hokkaido

Located on the eastern edge of Japan, Betsukai Town extends over a vast 1,300 km² of land abundant in nature. Dairy farming and fishery are the town's main industries. The residents of the town are keenly aware of the importance and necessity of the nation to protect the lives and assets of its people, due to the town's close proximity to Kunashiri Island, which is one of Japan's northern territories in dispute and is only 1.6 km away.

Betsukai Town hosts two SDF-related facilities: the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area, the largest facility of this kind in Japan, and GSDF Camp Betsukai, which manages and operates the training area. SDF troops staying in the camp actively participate in local activities held by the town.

In 1997, the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area accepted relocation of live fire drills by the U.S. forces across Prefectural Route 104 in Okinawa. This training area was the first Japanese facility to accept such relocation in an effort to ease the military impact on the people of Okinawa. The residents of Betsukai Town at that time commented that reducing the impact on Okinawa as much as possible was the responsibility of Japanese citizens and they wanted to be helpful on this matter.

Since then, military drills have been held every year in the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area not only by the U.S. forces but also by SDF units from all around Japan. Every time military units come to the town, the "SDF support group of Betsukai Town," consisting of town resident volunteers, hosts an exchange meeting to create an opportunity for local people and SDF troops to deepen friendships and strengthen ties between them.

Betsukai Town will continue to support SDF troops engaged in national defense through the spirit of public-private partnership.

Kozo Sone, Betsukai Town Mayor



Betsukai Town residents and SDF troops taking care of rows of cherry trees planted in the region



SDF troops and the support group gathered in an exchange meeting

Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture

Situated in the central coastal region of Miyagi Prefecture, Higashimatsushima City is about a one-hour drive from Sendai. The city is rich in nature and surrounded by two shades of blue: the sea encircling Okumatsushima, and the clear sky.

After ASDF Matsushima Air Base in the city was damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the ASDF's Blue Impulse aerobatic demonstration team and 21st Fighter Training Squadron (F-2 fighters) had been practicing at other bases. More recently, the teams have returned to the home air base, resuming training flights above the city's urban area and other tasks related to national defense.

Although Higashimatsushima City has to deal with some land use restrictions due to the existence of the air base on its premises, the Special Defense Facilities Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants are available for the city to effectively improve municipal roads and develop the local community. The city also works to develop a good relationship between the air base and the local residents by communicating base-related information to them. In addition, the city has been using grants for improvement of facilities vital to people's livelihoods in order to reconstruct a rest facility in Yamoto-kaihin-ryokuchi Park (Yamoto seashore green park), which will be

completed this year, and a building for the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, which is scheduled to be completed next year. These facilities were severely damaged by the great earthquake and we have long waited for their reconstruction.

Since I became mayor, my goal has been to support the coexistence and mutual prosperity of the local community and Matsushima Air Base. This air base is set to be the first Japanese destination at which the torch for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will arrive. We hope to invite many local residents to the ceremony to celebrate this occasion and are currently making necessary requests to relevant ministries and agencies.

In order for the air base and the city to be able to continue sharing prosperity, we will strive to build mutual trust between the base, the city, and the local residents.

Iwao Atsumi, Higashimatsushima Mayor



Local crowds excited about the Blue Impulse exhibition flight
(Matsushima Air Base Festival)



Rest facility constructed in Yamoto-kaihin-ryokuchi Park (using grants
for improvement of facilities vital to people's livelihoods)

Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture

Sasebo City, with a population of about 250,000, is an administratively determined “core city” (i.e., mid-sized city) situated in the north of Nagasaki Prefecture. The city is home to such facilities as MSDF Sasebo District Headquarters, GSDF Camp Ainoura, and U.S. Navy Sasebo Base.

Sasebo Naval District began operation and the modern Sasebo Port was opened 130 years ago in 1889. Sasebo City developed rapidly as the home of naval forces and built up mutual trust with the MSDF and GSDF after World War II.

The city's relationship with the SDF has been becoming even stronger in recent years through such developments as the launch of the GSDF Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade in March 2018, the inauguration of the Sakibe Subcamp in March 2019—the site for the deployment of an amphibious vehicle unit—and the formulation of specific port use plans by the MSDF, including the construction of a long stretch of quay walls.

We are currently working to promote reemployment of retired SDF personnel to revitalize local industry under Sasebo City's comprehensive strategy for overcoming population decline and vitalizing local economy. We have established the Sasebo City liaison committee for promoting re-employment of retired SDF personnel, consisting of the SDF, the chamber of commerce and industry, economic organizations, and the local governments. The committee is regularly meeting to discuss this subject from various perspectives, such as life quality and welfare, through collaboration between the public and private sectors.

We will continue making our utmost effort to create environments favorable to SDF personnel by developing a city conducive to harmonious coexistence between the SDF and the local community, enhancing SDF facilities vital to national defense, and ensuring adequate life quality for SDF personnel and their families.

Norio Tomonaga, Sasebo Mayor



Sasebo Mayor Tomonaga giving a welcome speech during a
ceremony to welcome the MSDF training squadron to Sasebo
Port on March 30, 2019



Amphibious vehicles parading to commemorate the first
anniversary of the launch of the GSDF Amphibious Rapid
Deployment Brigade and the 64th anniversary of the inauguration
of GSDF Camp Ainoura on April 28, 2019

3 Activities for Securing Understanding and Cooperation of Municipal Governments and Local Residents

Regional Defense Bureaus established in eight locations nationwide make efforts to build cooperative relationships with their respective local communities, through collaboration with SDF units and Provincial Cooperation Offices. Specifically, Regional Defense Bureaus hold seminars on defense issues for local residents and provide explanations about the defense white paper to local governments in order to gain wide understanding on defense policies. They also host Japan-U.S. friendship programs for citizens who live near U.S. Forces facilities and areas in Japan, U.S. Forces

personnel, and the families to interact with each other through sports and music.

Furthermore, Regional Defense Bureaus provide necessary explanations and conduct coordination for relevant local governments when implementing the realignment of the U.S. Forces, the reorganization of SDF units, deployment of equipment, and training. They also conduct the necessary liaison and coordination in the event of incidents and accidents, or any other emergency situation, such as major earthquakes.

4 Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

1 Scale and Features of Defense Facilities

The uses of defense facilities are diverse, and they often require large volumes of land. In addition, as of January 1, 2019, approx. 28% of the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the U.S. Forces in Japan is jointly used by the SDF in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, with the purpose to enhance the diversity and efficiency of Japan-U.S. bilateral training and exercises. Meanwhile, problems related to restricted establishment and operations of defense facilities have emerged due to the urbanization of areas around many of the defense facilities. Also, another problem is that frequent aircraft operations

such as takeoffs and landings cause noise and other issues, impacting the living environment of local residential communities.

Q See Fig. IV-4-1-1 (Status of SDF Facilities [Land Plots])
Fig. IV-4-1-2 (Status of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan [Exclusively Used Facilities])

2 Promoting Measures Aimed at the Areas Around Defense Facilities

Defense facilities, as the foundation that supports the defense capabilities of Japan and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, are indispensable for our country's security. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain conditions for constant

Fig. IV-4-1-1 Status of SDF Facilities (Land Plots)

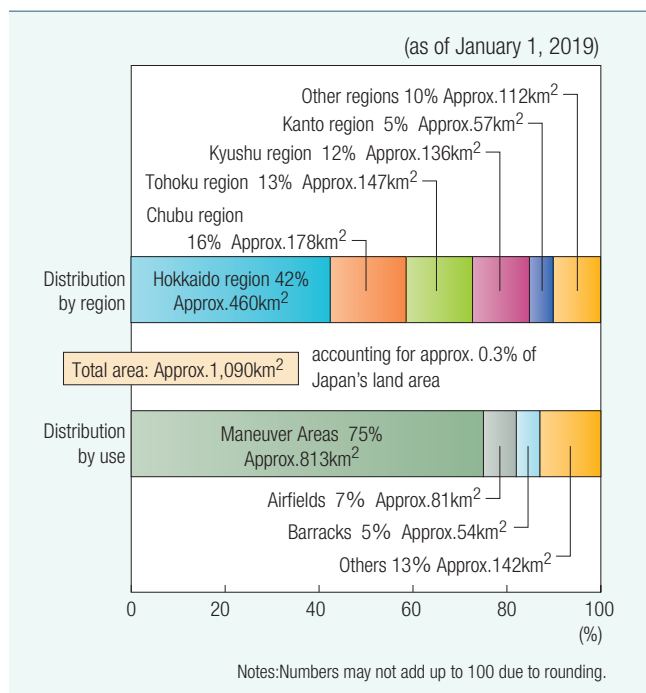


Fig. IV-4-1-2 Status of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan (Exclusively Used Facilities)

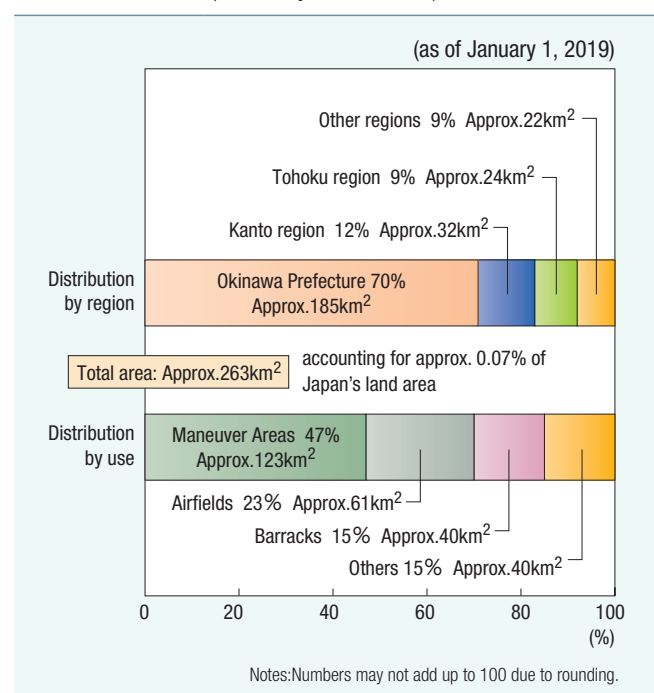


Fig. IV-4-1-3 Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

Purpose	Measures	Description of Measures
Preventing Noise Problems	Subsidies to finance sound insulation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational facilities such as elementary schools, junior high schools, and kindergartens; medical facilities such as hospitals and clinics; and welfare facilities such as nursery centers, day-service centers for the elderly, and special nursing homes for the elderly • Housing
	Compensation for relocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation for relocating buildings • Land procurement • Improvement of public facilities such as roads, water-supply systems, and sewage facilities in the area where housing, etc., is to be relocated
	Improving green belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting trees, installing grass fields
Preventing Impact Besides Noise	Subsidies to finance impediment prevention work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canals, reservoirs, roads, river improvement, television broadcast community reception facilities
Reducing Impediment Related to Living and Business	Subsidies for building facilities meant to stabilize people's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, radio broadcast facilities, nursing homes, fire departments, parks, waste disposal facilities, welfare centers for the elderly, public facilities for learning, etc. • Agricultural facilities, fishing facilities
Reducing Impact on Surrounding Areas	Provision of specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving public facilities such as traffic facilities, recreation centers, and welfare facilities • Medical expenses, operating costs of community buses, assessment fees for earthquake resistance for school buildings, etc.*

* Newly added due to the partial revision of the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities (effective as of April 27, 2011)

and stable utilization by ensuring harmony between the defense facilities and the surrounding areas as well as obtaining the understanding and cooperation of the local residents.

For that purpose, the MOD has taken measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate aircraft noise and other impacts caused by activities of the SDF or the U.S. Forces, or by the establishment/operation of airport and other defense facilities in the surrounding area since 1974 based on the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Act).

Taking into consideration the requests from the relevant local governments, the MOD partially revised the Living Environment Improvement Act in 2011, and conducted a review to enable the Specified Defense Facilities Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants to be applied to so-called soft projects, such as aid for medical expenses. In addition, the MOD added defense facilities to be eligible for these grants. Focused work is also underway to provide sound insulation at residences.

Regarding the Specified Defense Facilities Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants, the MOD has implemented

Fig. IV-4-1-4 FY2019 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas near Bases (Based on contracts)

(100 million yen)		
Project	Mainland	Okinawa
Projects for preventing disturbances	92	13
Sound insulation projects	586	181
Measures related to relocations	43	2
Subsidies for stabilizing people's livelihoods	271	86
Road improvement projects	64	15
Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants	185	33
Other projects	14	1

initiatives such as the PDCA Cycle process since April 2014, aiming to increase the effectiveness of these grants.

In response to the requests by related local governments, the MOD continues to consider practical ways to achieve more effective and efficient measures to harmonize defense facilities and surrounding areas, in light of the severe fiscal situation.



Fig. IV-4-1-3 (Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas)

Fig. IV-4-1-4 (FY2019 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas near Bases (Based on Contracts))

5 Other Initiatives

1 Response to Cases of Interference against SDF and U.S. Forces Aircraft by Laser Irradiation and Kite Flying

Cases of interference against the SDF and U.S. Forces

aircraft by laser irradiation and kite flying have frequently occurred in the areas surrounding air stations in Atsugi and Futenma. In October 2018, laser light was irradiated at a Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) transport helicopter

flying over Miyazaki Prefecture and temporarily reduced the eyesight of a co-pilot. Starting from around the same month, incidents of laser irradiation aimed at U.S. Forces aircraft have occurred frequently around Yokota Air Base as well. These are extremely dangerous and malicious acts that may disrupt a pilot's ability to operate aircraft and result in a catastrophe such as a crash. Therefore, the MOD disseminates information regarding the risks involved in these acts to local residents by putting up posters and requests their cooperation in reporting to the police while closely cooperating with relevant local governments. Additionally, the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act was revised in December 2016, making these interference acts subject to regulation as well as fines and other penalties.

2 Response to Small Unmanned Aircraft Flying over Defense Facilities and Surrounding Airspace

In recent years there have been terror attacks overseas including attempted ones using unmanned aircraft systems, including commercial drones, some of which are targeted at military facilities. Given such a situation, there is a concern that drone terror attacks on the SDF facilities or the facilities/area of the U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) can also happen in Japan, which will pose a serious threat to the function of military installations for defending Japan. To address such a concern, the Act on Prohibition of Flight of UASs around and over Key Facilities was enforced on June 13, 2019, to prohibit small unmanned aircraft from flying over the SDF facilities and the facilities and area of the USFJ designated by the Minister of Defense. On the same day, the Minister of Defense designated 13 SDF facilities where major SDF Headquarters are located.



Initiatives taken by local authorities in the vicinity of defense facilities

It is imperative to gain cooperation from related local authorities in order to achieve harmony between defense facilities and nearby areas.

Local authorities in the vicinity of defense facilities conduct initiatives to improve the local living environments utilizing assistance projects funded by the Ministry of Defense to address obstacles resulting from the presence of defense facilities, thereby ensuring the stability of the lives of local residents and the enhancement of their welfare.

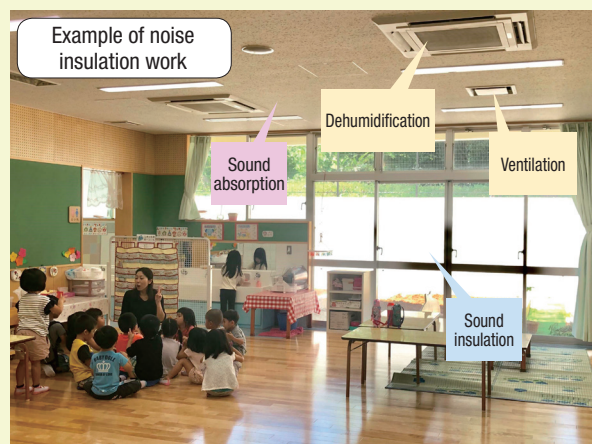
For example, in cases where training sites, airfields, and other facilities affect the lives of local residents, local authorities construct gymnasiums and other venues to facilitate evacuations of residents using the national subsidy.

In addition, schools, hospitals and other facilities that require quiet environments are outfitted with noise insulation features that prevent and alleviate noise generated by the takeoff and landing of aircraft at airfields used by the SDF and U.S. Forces stationed in Japan and other activities.



(Photo provided by Konan City, Aichi Prefecture)

In Konan City, which lies adjacent to Gifu Airfield, a gymnasium was constructed to facilitate smooth evacuations of local residents.



(Photo provided by Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture)

Noise insulation work involves the installation of soundproof sashes (sound insulation), installation of air-conditioning equipment to keep the sealed indoor environment comfortable (ventilation, temperature holding, and dehumidification), and the installation of sound absorption materials on the room walls and ceilings (sound absorption).

Chapter 4