

# Defense Chronology

## Fight Against the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The worldwide pandemic of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) poses a critical security threat not only to Japan, but also to the international community as a whole. The Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) are engaged in activities to prevent the spread of infection using all available resources.

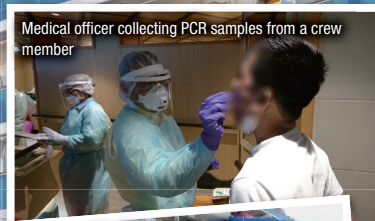
In January 2020, the MOD voluntarily dispatched SDF personnel in order to implement disaster relief operation for Japanese citizens who returned to Japan due to the spread of COVID-19 in China. In addition, SDF Reserve Personnel qualified as doctors and nurses, etc. were mobilized to provide medical support.



Transport support for people returning to their home countries by chartered flights to respective countries



Life support assistance for returned Japanese nationals



Medical officer collecting PCR samples from a crew member



Ambulance providing transport support



Reserve SDF member engaged in nursing duties

## January 2020

SDF vehicles engaged in disaster relief operations for the cruise ship

Since March 28, 2020, the SDF has conducted various activities, including support of quarantine at airports to reinforce border control against COVID-19, and education on prevention of infection for employees of private accommodation facilities to prevent the spread of community-acquired infection. The SDF Central Hospital admitted patients infected via community spread of the virus.

## March 2020



Training on how to wear protective clothing



Training for accommodation facility staff in preventing infection



Transporting returnees/foreign nationals awaiting PCR test results from airports to accommodation facilities

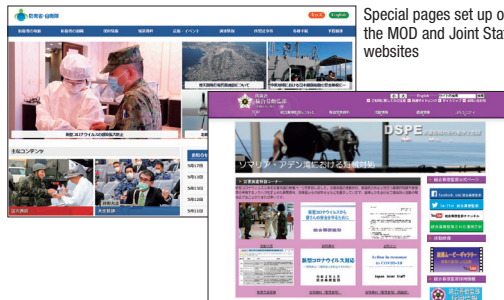


## Activities in the SDF Central Hospital

Among other activities, the SDF Central Hospital admitted and cared for patients suffering from COVID-19.



## Sharing Information at Home and Abroad



Special pages set up on the MOD and Joint Staff websites

The MOD/SDF set up special pages on their and other websites that published detailed measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the MOD/SDF shared information, lessons learned, and knowledge obtained through measures to fight COVID-19 with other countries via their embassies in Tokyo and also telephone conversations with defense ministers of 15 countries. (As of June 16)

## Main MOD/SDF Activities Against COVID-19

	Form of Deployment	Period	January	February	March	April	May
Disaster relief operation to prevent the spread of infection	Voluntary relief deployment	January 16, 2020	Chartered flights Quarantine support (note 1)	Cruise ship "Diamond Princess" Medical support and quarantine support (Note 2) Life support assistance (delivery of supplies, support for disinfection, etc.) Transport support for disembarking passengers Returned Japanese nationals who required health observation and disembarking cruise ship passengers Temporary accommodation facilities Life support assistance (distribution of supplies, serving of meals, collection of medical questionnaire, etc.) Medical support (patient rounds and medical care by medical officers and nurses)			
Disaster relief operations or reinforced border control	Voluntary relief deployment	From March 28 to May 31, 2020		Transport support (transporting returnees/foreign nationals from airports (Narita, Haneda, Kansai International, Chubu Centrair International) to accommodation facilities to await PCR test results)		Airports (Narita and Haneda) Quarantine support (note 2) Temporary accommodation facilities Life support assistance (distribution of meals, etc.)	
Disaster relief operations to combat community-acquired COVID-19	Requests from prefectural governors and other authorities	April 3, 2020-				Life support assistance at accommodation facilities Support for training to local government and accommodation facility staff (training in preventing infection) Support for PCR sample collection and medical support Airlift of emergency cases Transport between hospital and accommodation facilities for patients who tested positive (asymptomatic or with mild symptoms) and were staying at accommodation facilities	
Activities by SDF hospitals, etc.			Admission of patients who tested positive		Presentation of case analyses	Clinical trial of Avigan (favipiravir)	
Sharing of information about lessons/findings						Publication of "Keeping Everyone Safe from COVID-19" on the Joint Staff website Sharing of lessons/findings with other countries (including via telephone conversations with other defense ministers)	

(Note 1) Quarantine support by the second and third chartered flights was conducted prior to disaster relief operations on the basis of cooperation with other government agencies in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Operations by the fourth and fifth chartered flights were conducted on the basis of disaster relief operations and cooperation with other government agencies in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.  
(Note 2) Conducted as disaster relief operations on the basis of cooperation with other government agencies in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare



# Disaster Relief Operations

In FY2019, Japan saw various natural disasters. The SDF provided flexible support in response to those disasters by appropriately identifying needs as they shifted according to changes in the situation. In the disaster relief operations in response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Habigis), the SDF established a joint task force led by the Commander of the Ground Component Command and mobilized SDF Reserve Personnel and SDF Ready Reserve Personnel.

## Disaster Relief Operations in Response to Heavy Rain Accompanying a Weather Front

### August 2019



Personnel clearing up an oil spill



GSDF personnel going to rescue stranded people



An ASDF C-2 at Saga Airport to deliver supplies

## Disaster Relief Operations in Response to the 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai)



GSDF personnel covering the roof of a typhoon-damaged house with blue tarpaulins



ASDF personnel operating a drone to check the extent of the damage



GSDF personnel removing fallen trees to restore power

### September 2019



# Disaster Relief Operations in Response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Habigis)

## October 2019



ASDF personnel using a rescue helicopter to save lives



GSDF personnel assisting in supplying water



GSDF personnel rescuing a stranded person



ASDF personnel searching for missing persons



GSDF personnel providing bathing support



ASDF water tankers being filled up with water from the MSDF JS "Uruga" to assist in supplying fresh water



ASDF personnel covering the roof of a typhoon-damaged house with blue tarpaulins



GSDF personnel disposing of disaster waste



GSDF personnel providing meals support



# Launches of Ballistic Missiles by North Korea

## July 2019



Short-range ballistic missiles (described by North Korea as "new type of tactical guided weapon")

[JANES]

## August 2019



Short-range ballistic missiles (described by North Korea as "new weapon" or as "tactical guided weapon")

[JANES]

## September 2019



Short-range ballistic missiles (described by North Korea as "super-large multiple rocket launcher")

[JANES]

## October 2019



Submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)

[JANES]

North Korea is proceeding with ballistic missile development at an extremely rapid pace and launched more than 30 missiles and other objects, including what are presumed to be new short-range ballistic missiles and a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) since May 2019.

These short-range ballistic missiles presumed to be new types are distinctive in that they use solid fuel and fly at lower altitudes than conventional ballistic missiles. North Korea is therefore believed to be trying to breach missile defense networks by making it more difficult to detect signs of a launch and making early detection harder. There are concerns that such advanced technologies will be applied to longer-range missiles.

North Korea is relentlessly pursuing increasingly complex and diverse modes of attack and is steadily strengthening and improving its attack capabilities. These enhancements in its capabilities make early detection of the signs of a launch and the interception of the missiles more difficult, thereby posing new challenges for the intelligence gathering, early warning, and interception postures of relevant countries, including Japan. Working closely with relevant ministries and agencies, as well as countries including the United States, the MOD/SDF take all possible measures to ensure Japan's peace and security, sparing no effort in gathering and analyzing the necessary information and undertaking warning and surveillance activities.

### Launches of Ballistic Missiles by North Korea (since 2019)

Date	Presumed type of missile	Number of launches	Flight distance
May 4, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Max. approx. 250 km
May 9, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 400 km/ approx. 250 km
July 25, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 600 km
August 6, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 450 km
August 10, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 400 km
August 16, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 250 km
August 24, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 350 to 400 km
September 10, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Max. approx. 300 to 350 km
October 2, 2019	SLBM "Pukguksong-3"	1	Approx. 450 km
October 31, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 350 to 400 km
November 28, 2019	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 380 km
March 2, 2020	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 240 km
March 9, 2020	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Max. approx. 200 km
March 21, 2020	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 400 km
March 29, 2020	Short-range ballistic missiles	2	Approx. 250 km



# Aegis-equipped Destroyer (DDG) JS “Maya”

Commissioned in March 2020. Equipped with BMD capability from the outset.



## PAC-3MSE



Deployment began in March 2020. Offers protection over more than double the area covered by the existing PAC-3.

## FPS-7



Warning and control radar currently being rolled out. Able to detect and track over long distances and wide areas.





# Commencement of Information Gathering Activities for Ensuring the Safety of Japan-related Vessels in the Middle East



## February 2020



An oil tanker ablaze after a June 2019 attack in the Gulf of Oman (EPA/Jiji)

In the Middle East region, amidst rising tensions, attacks took place on ships, including a case in which a Japan-related vessel suffered damage in June 2019. Under these circumstances, Japan has decided to dispatch a Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) vessel for the purpose of information gathering and the utilization of the existing counter-piracy unit as a part of Japan's independent efforts.



Two MSDF P-3C left Japan on January 11, 2020, along with the replacement of the counter-piracy unit and began information gathering activities on the 20th. JS "Takanami" left port on February 2 and started to engage in information gathering activities in the field on February 26.

## January 2020-





# Sokui-no-rei, Ceremony of the Accession to the Throne

The SDF presents ceremonies including guards of honor, lining up and gun salutes to the Emperor, state guests and others at national events. A guard of honor to state guests from foreign countries at their welcome reception is essential for diplomatic procedure.

At the Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi (Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden [State Hall]), the GSDF fired salutes in the Kita-no-maru area of the Outer Gardens of the Imperial Palace. At the celebration parade in November of the same year, the GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, the National Defense Academy and National Defense Medical College conducted guards of honor, playing music and lining up. In addition to the members who were assigned to these duties, many other members participated in the event, including preparation for the implementation by the SDF.



## November 2019





# Japan-US Alliance/Defense Dialogue

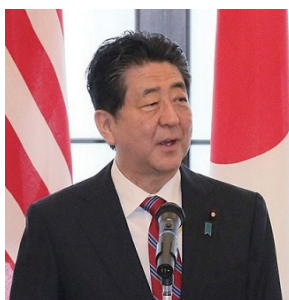
## 60th Anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Alliance



### January 2020

Prime Minister Abe, photo shoot with Ms. Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower

[Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan]



[Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan]

2020 marked the 60th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

"Today, more than ever, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is a pillar that is indestructible, a pillar immovable, safeguarding peace in Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and in the world, while assuring prosperity therein," Prime Minister Abe said in his speech at a reception to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Security Treaty, which was held on January 19 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Iikura Guest House.

The Prime Minister expressed his determination to continue working to enhance the Alliance, saying, "it is incumbent upon us to make it even more robust, to make it a pillar for safeguarding peace and security in both outer space and cyberspace. Let us keep and enhance [the Alliance], ... to make it a pillar safeguarding freedom, liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law ... sixty years, one hundred years down the road."



[Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan]



[Jiji]

Possessed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## Defense Dialogue by Minister Kono

After assuming the office of the Minister of Defense, Minister Kono actively held meetings with his counterparts and visited foreign countries. Defense cooperation and exchanges with foreign countries were stepped up to an unprecedented extent in FY2019.



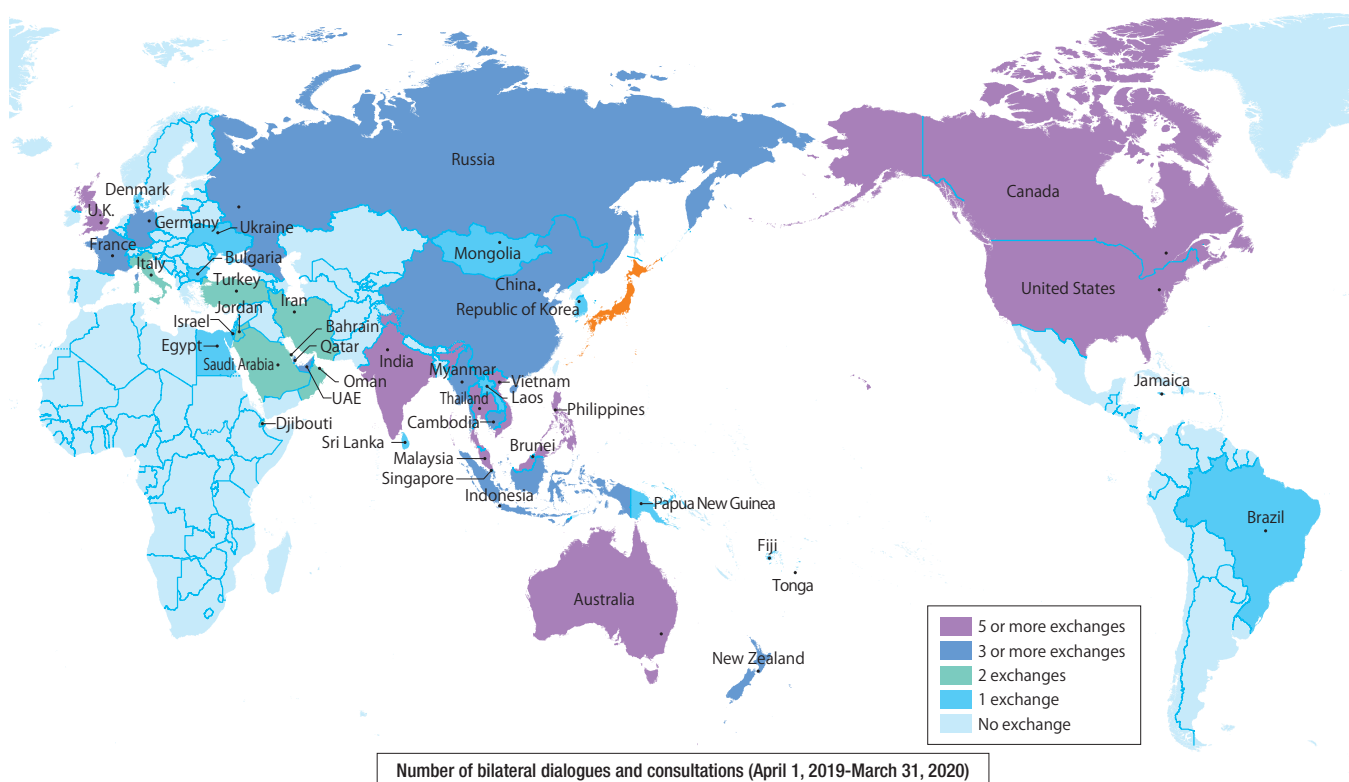
Japan-India "2+2" (November 2019)



Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting (December 2019)

### Bilateral Dialogues with Many Countries

A number of bilateral dialogues were held, including the first ministerial-level "2+2" meeting with India, the first Defense Ministerial Meeting with Ukraine, and the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting held during the first official visit to China as a Japanese Minister of Defense in ten years.



Number of bilateral dialogues and consultations (April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020)

### Active Utilization of Telephone Conversation



Minister Kono has been more proactive in holding telephone conversations than ever and has endeavored to deepen communications with other countries. In FY2019, telephone conversations took place with as many as 12 countries.

### Active Participation in Multilateral Conferences



The ADMM-Plus (November 2019)



Manama Dialogue (November 2019)



Doha Forum (December 2019)

Minister Kono participated in the Manama Dialogue and the Doha Forum for the first time as a Japanese Minister of Defense, and also attended the Munich Security Conference for the first time in 11 years, highlighting the presence and the position of the government of Japan to the international community. On the occasion of the ADMM-Plus, Minister Kono introduced the Vientiane Vision 2.0, an updated guideline for Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, which had been announced at the Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting, thereby further deepening defense cooperation between Japan and ASEAN member countries.