

Section
2

Organization of the MOD/Self-Defense Forces (SDF)

1 Organizational Structure Supporting Defense Capability

1 Organization of the MOD/SDF

To fulfill their mission of defending Japan, the MOD/SDF¹ consists of various organizations, mainly the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces as armed forces.

Q See Fig.II-2-2-1 (Organizational Chart of the MOD/SDF)
Fig.II-2-2-2 (Outline of the MOD/SDF)
Fig. II-2-2-3 (Organizational Diagram of the Self-Defense Forces)
Fig. II-2-2-4 (Location of Principal SDF Units [for illustrative purposes] [As of March 31, 2020])

2 Systems to Support the Minister of Defense

The Minister of Defense takes charge of and manages the matters related to the defense of Japan as the competent minister, and is in overall charge of the SDF duties in accordance with the provisions of the SDF Law. The Minister is supported by the State Minister of Defense, the Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of Defense (two) and the Senior Adviser to the Minister of Defense. There are also the Special Advisers to the Minister of Defense, who advise the Minister of Defense, and the Defense Council, which deliberates on basic principles concerning affairs under the Ministry's jurisdiction. Furthermore, there are the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense, who organizes and supervises the administrative affairs of each bureau and organization to support the Minister of Defense, and the Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs, who is responsible for the overall coordination of duties such as those related to international affairs.

Moreover, the Internal Bureaus of the MOD, Joint Staff, Ground Staff Office, Maritime Staff Office, Air Staff Office, and the Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), as an external bureau, have been established in the MOD. The Internal Bureaus of the MOD are responsible for basic policy relating to the duties of the SDF. The Director-General of the Minister's Secretariat and the Directors-General of each Bureau within the Internal Bureaus, along

with the Commissioner of ATLA who is in charge of defense equipment administration, support the Minister of Defense in accordance with their respective responsibilities, by providing assistance from a policy perspective – namely, to ensure that the affairs under the jurisdiction of the MOD are properly carried out in accordance with laws and regulations in order to accomplish the duty of the MOD. The Joint Staff is a staff organization for the Minister of Defense concerning the operation of the SDF. The Chief of Joint Staff provides centralized support for the operations of the SDF for the Minister of Defense from a military expert's perspective. The Ground Staff, Maritime Staff and Air Staff are the staff organizations for the Minister of Defense concerning their respective services except operations of the SDF, with the Chiefs of Staff for the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF), the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) and the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) acting as the top ranking expert advisers to the Minister of Defense regarding these services. In this manner, the MOD has ensured that the support for the Minister from a policy perspective and the support for the Minister from a military expert's perspective are provided in a well-balanced manner like the two wheels of a cart, so to speak, in order for the Minister of Defense to appropriately make decisions. This existing concept regarding the support system for the Minister of Defense has been made even more explicit by Article 12 of the Ministry of Defense Establishment Act, which has been amended to stipulate that the support for the Minister of Defense provided by the Director-General of the Minister's Secretariat and the Directors-General of each Bureau as well as the Commissioner of ATLA shall be conducted in cooperation with the support for the Minister by each Chief of Staff, since 2015, when the Act was amended for the establishment of ATLA and the reorganization of Joint Staff, etc., as part of an initiative for the MOD reform.²

¹ The MOD and the SDF form a single organization. Whereas the term "Ministry of Defense" refers to the administrative aspects of the organization, which manages and operates the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF, the term "SDF" refers to the operational aspects of the organizations whose mission is the defense of Japan.

² The Government has made replies regarding civilian control and the role of the civilian officials in the Internal Bureaus during the Diet deliberations on the Amendment Act, stating: "Civilian control means prioritizing politics over the military in democratic countries. Civilian control in our country consists of control by the Diet, control by the Cabinet (including the National Security Council), and control within the MOD. Control within the MOD means that the Minister of Defense, a civilian, manages, operates, and controls the SDF. In addition to support from political appointees, such as the State Minister of Defense and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of Defense, support from civilian officials in the Internal Bureaus also plays an important role in aiding the exercise of civilian control by the Minister of Defense. The role of civilian officials in the Internal Bureaus in civilian control is to support the Minister of Defense, and there is no relationship in which civilian officials of the Internal Bureaus issue commands to units."

3 Base of Defense Administration in Regional Areas

The MOD has Regional Defense Bureaus in eight locations across the country (Sapporo City, Sendai City, Saitama City, Yokohama City, Osaka City, Hiroshima City, Fukuoka City, and Kadena Town) as its local branch in charge of

comprehensive defense administration.

In addition to implementing measures to alleviate the impact on local communities hosting bases and inspecting equipment, Regional Defense Bureaus carry out various measures to obtain the understanding and cooperation of both local public entities and local residents towards the MOD/SDF activities.

Q See Part IV, Chapter 5, Section 1 (Collaboration with Local Communities)



Officials meeting held in the office of the Minister of Defense (January 2020)



Officials meeting in the form of a video conference (May 2020)



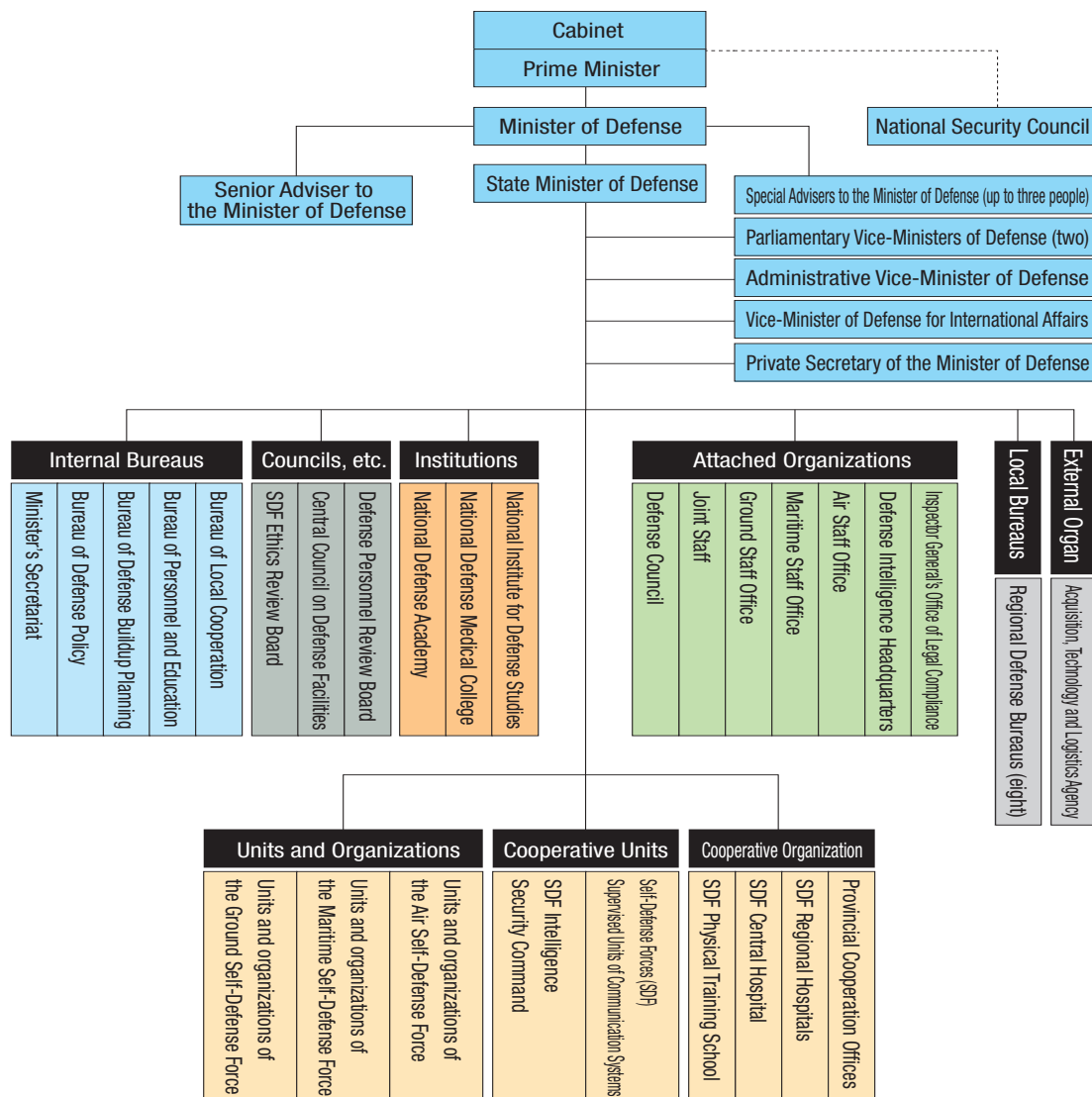
Head Office of the Ministry of Defense, wherein the Internal Bureaus of the MOD, Staff Offices, National Institute for Defense Studies, Defense Intelligence Headquarters, Inspector General's Office of Legal Compliance, and Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency, etc. are located (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)



Video : Overview of SDF activities (record of 2019 by the MOD)
URL : <https://youtu.be/-QQqerQtxGc>

Fig.II-2-2-1

Organizational Chart of the MOD/SDF



*Excluding temporary or special positions



Video : GSDF—toward a new dimension

URL : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzWSOKSknc4>



MSDF official PR video ~STRENGTH & READINESS~

URL : <https://youtu.be/tqvQCZy9IcY>



Video : Protecting our Peaceful Sky—six ASDF missions

URL : <https://youtu.be/QvQxurm0BMQ>



Video : ATLA official PR video (digest)

URL : <https://youtu.be/N7iy0vqUUFi>



Fig.II-2-2-2

Outline of the MOD/SDF

Organization	Outline
Internal Bureaus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsible for basic policy relating to the duties of the SDF (defense and security affairs, basic conduct of the SDF [political and administrative affairs such as planning and drafting of laws and regulations or government-level policies], personnel affairs, budgets, etc.) ● Composed of the Bureau of Defense Policy, Bureau of Defense Buildup Planning, Bureau of Personnel and Education, and Bureau of Local Cooperation, in addition to the Minister's Secretariat
Joint Staff (JS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A staff organization for the Minister of Defense concerning the operation of the SDF ● Responsible for making plans on defense and security affairs concerning joint operation and making action plans ● The Minister's commands concerning the operations of the SDF are delivered through the Chief of Staff, JS and orders concerning operations of the SDF are executed by the Chief of Staff, JS.
Ground Staff Office Maritime Staff Office Air Staff Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff organizations for the Minister of Defense concerning the duties of each SDF unit ● Responsible for making plans on defense and security affairs of each SDF unit and making plans on buildup of defense capabilities, education and training, etc.
GSDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ground Component Command <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed mainly of Airborne Brigades, Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigades, etc. • Assumes unified command over GSDF troops. ● Regional Armies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed of multiple divisions and brigades, and other directly controlled units (such as engineer brigades and antiaircraft artillery groups) • There are five regional armies, each mainly in charge of the defense of their respective regions ● Divisions and Brigades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed of combat units, combat support units, logistics support units and others
MSDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-Defense Fleet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists of key units such as the Fleet Escort Force, the Fleet Air Force (consisting of fixed-wing patrol aircraft units and such), and the Fleet Submarine Force • Responsible for the defense of sea areas surrounding Japan primarily through mobile operations ● Regional Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are five regional districts who mainly protect their responsible territories and support the Self-Defense Fleet
ASDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Air Defense Command <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed of four air defense forces • Primarily responsible for general air defense duties ● Air Defense Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composed of key units such as air wings (including fighter aircraft units and others), the Aircraft Control and Warning Wing (including aircraft warning and control units), and Air Defense Missile Groups (including surface-to-air guided missile units and others)
National Defense Academy of Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An institution for the cultivation of future SDF personnel ● Offers a science and engineering postgraduate course and a comprehensive security postgraduate course equivalent to master's or doctoral degree from a university (undergraduate and postgraduate courses)
National Defense Medical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An institution for the cultivation of future SDF medical personnel ● An institution for the cultivation of future SDF officers who are public nurses, nurses, and SDF engineering personnel ● Offers a medical course that complies with university establishment standards for PhD programs for schools of medicine
National Institute for Defense Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organization that functions as a "think tank" of the Ministry of Defense ● Conducts basic research and studies related to the administration and operation of the SDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research and studies on security • Conducts research and compiles data on military history • Management and publication of data on military history ● Educates and trains SDF personnel and other senior officials
Defense Intelligence Headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central intelligence organization of the Ministry of Defense, which collects, analyzes and reports on information related to Japan's national security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects various military information including imagery and geographical information, signal data, and publicized information; comprehensively analyzes and assesses the information; and provides intelligence to related organizations within the ministry and relevant ministries and agencies • Consists of the Directorate for Administration, Directorate for Programs, Directorate for Joint Intelligence, Directorate for Assessment, Directorate for Geospatial Intelligence, and Directorate for Signal Intelligence, as well as six communication sites
Inspector General's Office of Legal Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organization that inspects overall tasks of the Ministry of Defense and the SDF from an independent position
Regional Defense Bureau (eight locations nationwide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Bureaus in charge of comprehensive defense administration in regional areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures understanding and cooperation of local public organizations, and conducts cost audit, supervision, and inspection related to acquisition of defense facilities, management, construction, taking measures concerning neighborhood of the base, and procurement of equipment • Consists of eight Regional Defense Bureaus (Hokkaido, Tohoku, North Kanto, South Kanto, Kinki-Chubu, Chugoku-Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa)
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An external bureau in charge of effective and efficient procurement of defense equipment and international defense equipment and technology cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of constant project management throughout the life cycle of defense equipment from an integrated perspective • Smooth and prompt reflection of each unit's operational needs in equipment procurement • Proactive initiatives in new areas (further internationalization of defense equipment and investments in advanced technological research, etc.) • Achievement of procurement reform and maintenance and strengthening of the defense technological and industrial bases at the same time

Fig. II-2-2-3

Organizational Diagram of the Self-Defense Forces

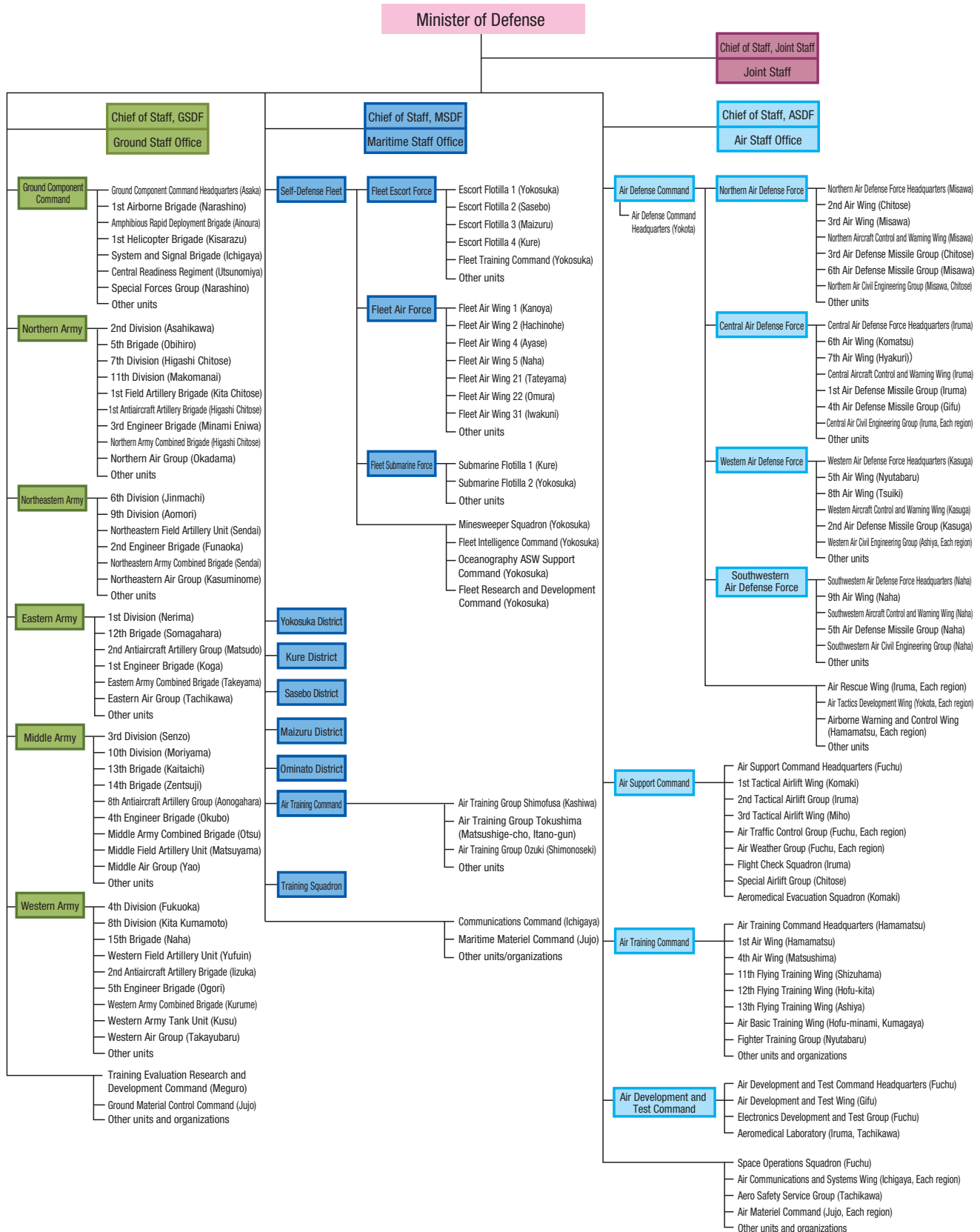
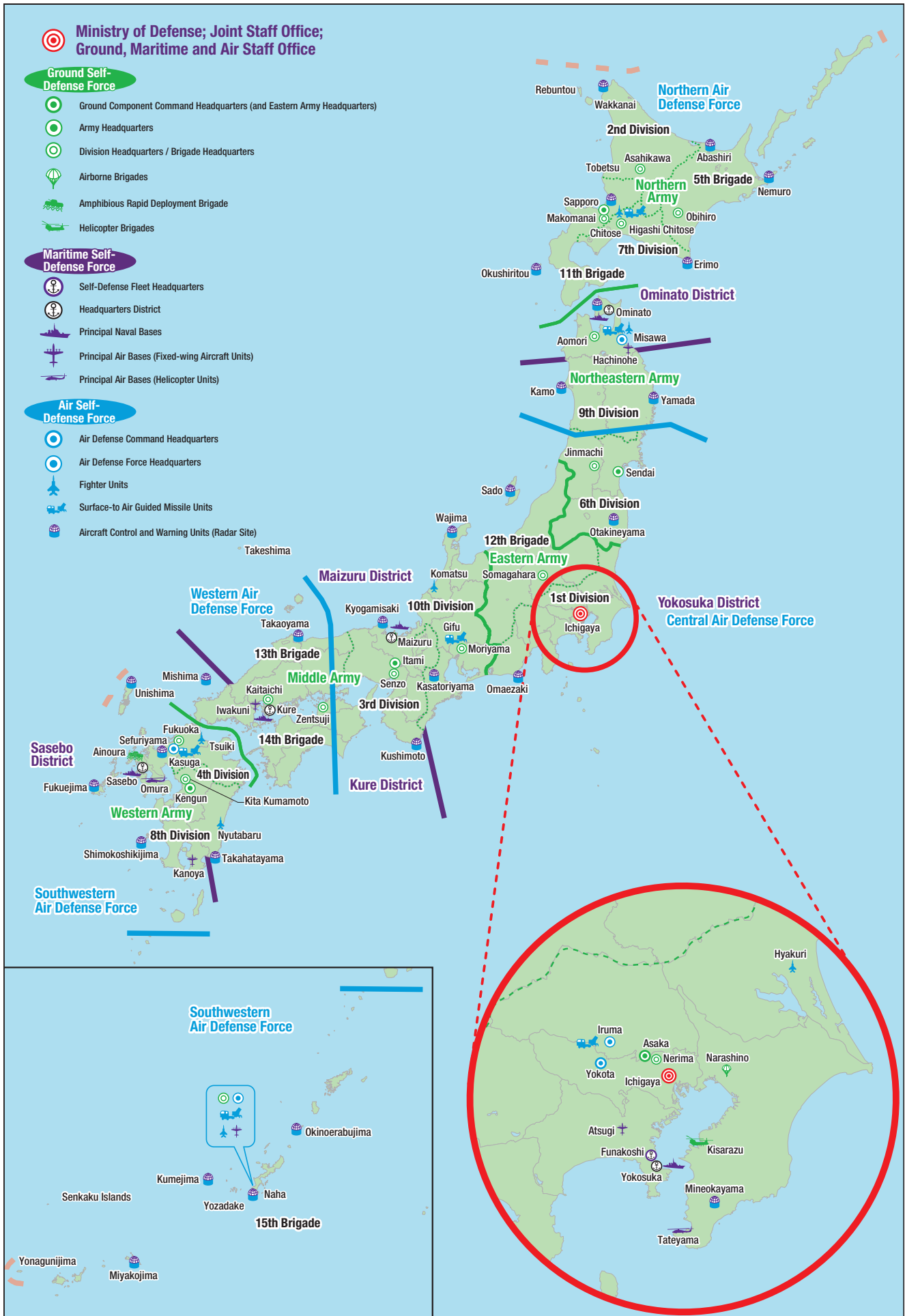


Fig. II-2-2-4

Location of Principal SDF Units [for illustrative purposes] [As of March 31, 2020]



2 Joint Operations System of the SDF

In order to rapidly and effectively fulfill the duties of the SDF, the MOD/SDF has adopted the joint operations system in which the GSDF, the MSDF, and the ASDF are operated integrally. Furthermore, in the future, it will work toward building an architecture that is capable of realizing cross-domain operations including new domains, which are space, cyberspace, and electromagnetic spectrum.

1 Outline of Joint Operations System

(1) Role of Chief of Joint Staff

- The Chief of Joint Staff develops a joint operations concept for SDF operations, and centrally supports the MOD on SDF operations from a military expert's perspective.
- The Minister's commands concerning the operations of the SDF are delivered through the Chief of Joint Staff, and orders concerning operations of the SDF are executed by the Chief of Joint Staff. In doing this, the Minister's commands and orders are delivered through the Chief of Joint Staff not only in cases where a joint task force³ is organized, but also in cases where a single SDF unit is employed to respond.

(2) Relationship between Chief of Joint Staff, and Other Chiefs of Staff

The Joint Staff undertakes functions relating to the operations of the SDF, while the Ground, Maritime and Air Staff Offices undertake functions for unit maintenance, such as personnel affairs, building-up defense capability, and education and training.

Q See Fig. II-2-2-5 (Operational System of the SDF and Roles of the Chief of Joint Staff and the Chiefs of Staff of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces)

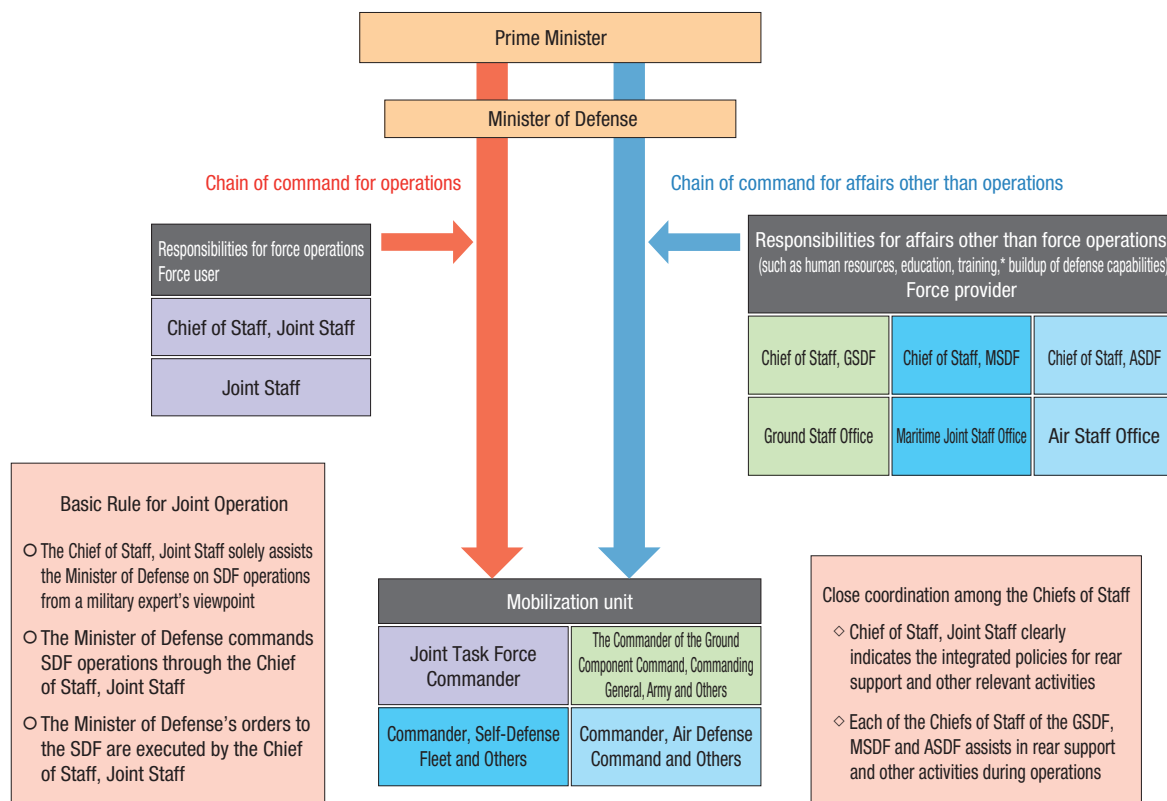
2 Strengthening Joint Operational Functions

(1) Past Initiatives

In order to ensure the accuracy of decision-making relating to the operations of the SDF and to make the process swifter, in October 2015, the Bureau of Operational Policy was abolished and some of its functions, such as the planning and drafting of laws and regulations relating to unit operations, were transferred to the Bureau of Defense Policy in order to unite affairs concerning actual operations of the units into the Joint Staff. This change has made the Joint Staff assume

Fig. II-2-2-5

Operational System of the SDF and Roles of the Chief of Joint Staff and the Chiefs of Staff of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces



*The Chief of Staff, Joint Staff is responsible for joint training

³ This applies to the case in which a special unit is organized to carry out a specific duty, or the required troops are placed partly under the authority of a commander outside of their usual command structure based on Article 22, paragraphs 1 or 2 of the SDF Law, and refers to units made up of more than two units of the GSDF, the MSDF, or the ASDF.

work that the Internal Bureaus had previously conducted, such as external explanations, including replies at the Diet, and communication and coordination with related ministries and governmental agencies. Regarding this work, therefore, the Administrative Vice Chief of Joint Staff, a Vice-Chief of Joint Staff level post for civilian officials, and the Joint Staff Councilor, a post for civilian officials at the level of a division director and department director general have been established to conduct external coordination duties,

etc., taking advantage of the expertise of civilian officials concerning actual operations of the units.

(2) Future Initiatives

In order to realize cross-domain operations, the Joint Staff's posture designed for efficient SDF operations and for new domains will be strengthened, thereby enabling swift and effective exercise of the SDF's total capabilities. In addition, the future framework for joint operations will be examined.

Column

Duties of the Self Defense Forces

The Ministry of Defense and Self Defense Forces are national administrative entities and obviously require a legal basis in carrying out their respective duties. The Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Defense defines the administrative scope of the Ministry of Defense, and Article 5 of the Act states that the Self Defense Forces Law determines the duties, actions, and authority of the Self Defense Forces. The Self Defense Forces Law provides a list (similar to an index) of what the Self Defense Forces are allowed to do in accordance with specified procedures to address various situations.

Article 3 in the Self Defense Forces Law divides the duties of the Self Defense Forces into main duties (item 1 of the same article) and secondary duties (items 1 and 2 of the same article). Defense actions to defend Japan correspond to main duties, and only the Self Defense Forces carry out these duties.

Secondary duties consist of "duties for maintaining public order as necessary" (secondary duties under item 1) and duties defined by other laws "to an extent that does not interfere with performance of the main duties" (secondary duties under item

2). The former includes public security operations that police entities cannot handle alone, maritime security operations, destruction measures against ballistic missiles and other weapons, and measures against intrusion of territorial airspace. The latter covers responses to situations that will have an important influence (logistics support activities), international peace cooperation activities (international peace cooperation operations and international disaster relief operations), and activities related to Internationally Coordinated Operations for Peace and Security (Cooperation and Support Activities, etc.). These main and secondary duties are jointly known as "inherent duties."

Activities handled by the Self Defense Forces on the basis that it is appropriate to utilize skills, experience, and organizational functions cultivated by the Self Defense Forces over many years are known as "additional duties" (separate from inherent duties). These include transportation for national guests, education and training consignments, and cooperation with athletic events.

