

Section
5

Response to Large-Scale Disasters, etc.

1 Response to Large-Scale Disasters, etc.

When disasters such as natural disasters occur, the SDF works in collaboration with local governments, engaged in various activities such as the search and rescue of disaster victims or ships or aircraft in distress, controlling floods, offering medical treatment, preventing epidemics, supplying water, and transporting personnel and goods.

1 Basic Concept

Among the roles that must be served by Japan's defense capability as set forth in the NDPG, the idea of "(4) response to large-scale disasters, etc." is as follows.

In the event of a major disaster, all possible measures will be taken to rapidly transport and deploy the SDF units required and if necessary, to sustain the mobilization for a long period. Not only will the SDF units respond to the needs of affected residents and local authorities through care, proper collaboration and cooperation, but they will also be engaged with institutions concerned, local authorities and the private sector to save lives, achieve urgent rehabilitation and provide life support.

Since the damage situation is unclear at the beginning of a disaster, the SDF will maintain response readiness to any damage and need for activities while giving the first priority to life-saving activities. For livelihood support, the SDF will coordinate the division of roles, response policy, activity period, utilization of private companies and other matters with relevant parties including the local governments and ministries concerned at the local response headquarters, etc.

In addition, based on the "Examination Report on the Initial Response to the Heavy Rain in July 2018" (November 2018), in order to rescue and support more victims in the event of a large-scale disaster and considering possible confusion of the local authorities, the MOD/SDF will not only wait for requests from the authorities but also actively propose specific support activities by the SDF. In actual activities, the SDF will provide flexible support by accurately gathering needs, which change depending on the situation.¹

For this purpose, the SDF is strengthening dissemination of information so that people who truly need support by the SDF can easily access the information related to support.

Furthermore the SDF has put in place arrangements for an initial response to ensure that disaster relief operations are conducted promptly. This is called "FAST-Force."

Q See Fig. III-1-5-1 (Flow from Request to Dispatch and Withdrawal and Response by the Government); Fig. III-1-5-2 (State of Readiness for Disaster Relief [Standard]); Part II, Chapter 5, Section 1-4 (Disaster Relief Dispatches and Others)

2 Response by the MOD/SDF

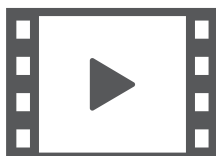
(1) Response to Natural Disasters, etc.

a. Disaster Relief in Response to the Flooding Caused by Heavy Rain Accompanying a Front in August 2019

In August 2019 a heavy rain around northern Kyushu caused river flooding. In response to disaster relief requests from the governor of Saga Prefecture, the SDF sent liaison officers to coordinate closely with local governments to save lives, provide bathing facilities and meals, respond to an oil leak from iron works, support accumulation of disaster waste and epidemic control, distribute goods, supply water at hospitals and music by a band, for example. This mission involved approximately 32,000 personnel in total, 7,500 of whom engaged in the affected area, and 50 aircraft. In total, approximately 150 people were rescued, and 4,200 were provided with bathing facilities.

b. Disaster Relief in Response to the 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai)

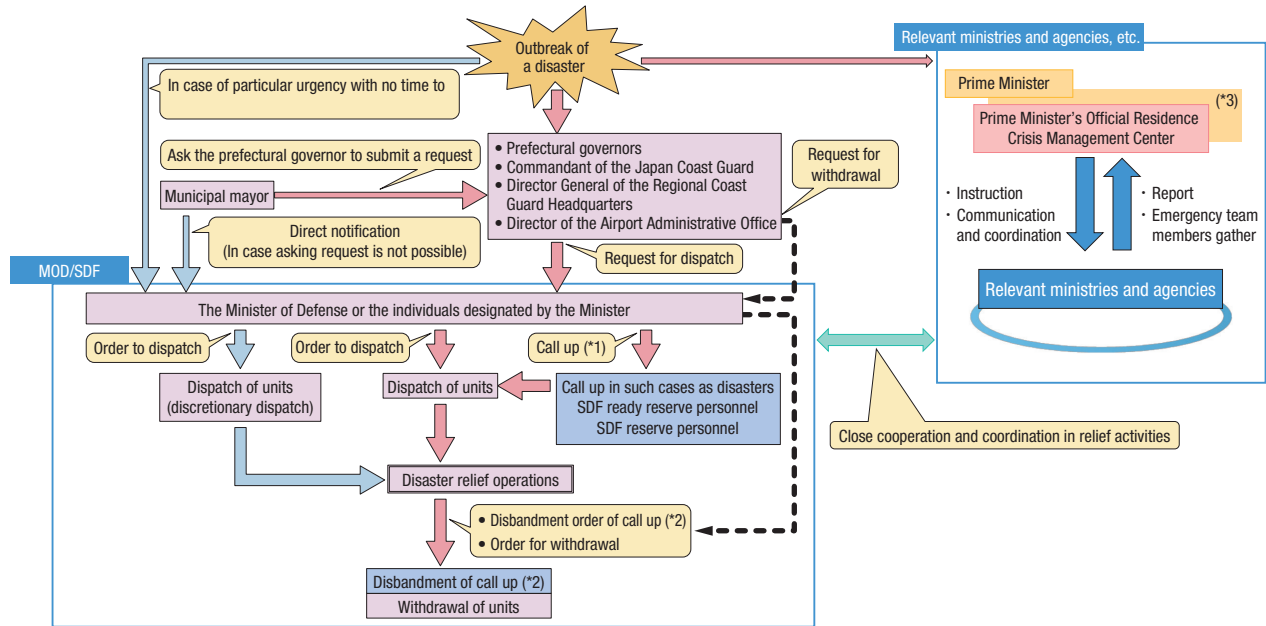
In September 2019 a violent storm accompanying the 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai) caused a large-scale blackout due to fallen utility poles and other damage. In response to disaster relief requests from the governors of Chiba and Kanagawa Prefectures, the SDF sent up to 50 liaison officers to coordinate closely with the Tokyo



Video: Disaster relief in response to the heavy rain accompanying a front in August 2019
URL: <https://youtu.be/JLvrKDWnAlg>

¹ Recently, the scale of SDF's disaster relief operations has become large and the period of the operations has also become long due to record heavy rains and typhoons. As the GSDF played a leading role in disaster relief operations in response to the 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai), the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis), and others, approximately 300 training/exercises were cancelled, downsized, or postponed.

Fig. III -1-5-1 Flow from Request to Dispatch and Withdrawal and Response by the Government



Notes: 1. SDF ready reserve personnel and SDF reserve personnel will be called on by the Minister of Defense as necessary with the approval of the Prime Minister.
 2. Disbandment of call-up of SDF ready reserve personnel and SDF reserve personnel must be done by the Minister of Defense.
 3. In the event of emergencies, such as a natural disaster, nuclear disaster, or accident, an emergency team consisting of director-general level personnel of respective ministries and agencies is called on.
 Furthermore, in the event of a disaster of extreme severity, a ministerial meeting is held based on the Prime Minister's decision, and the government may establish an emergency headquarters or hold the National Security Council, depending on the circumstances.

Fig. III -1-5-2 State of Readiness for Disaster Relief (Standard)



Common to All
The state of readiness with which SDF troops can begin gathering information immediately after an earthquake of seismic intensity five-lower or higher occurs. * When an earthquake of seismic intensity five-upper or higher occurs, information is to be collected by using aircraft.
FAST-Force (GSDF) First response units throughout Japan (about 3,900 personnel, about 1,100 vehicles, and about 40 aircraft) are on standby around-the-clock and will be deployed in an hour upon receiving an order as a standard procedure. Various units including helicopters (video transmission), chemical protection units, and bomb disposal units are on standby in each regional army.
FAST-Force (MSDF) Vessels on standby: Designate one response vessel in each regional district Aircraft on standby (about 20 aircraft): Deploy in 15 minutes to two hours in each base as a standard procedure
FAST-Force (ASDF) Standby for aircraft rescue and emergency transport duties (about 10-20 aircraft): Deploy within 15 minutes to two hours in each base as a standard procedure Aircraft on standby may commence information gathering as necessary for scrambling against aircraft intruding into Japanese territorial airspace.

Electric Power Company Holdings, Incorporated (TEPCO) Headquarters and six offices to supply water, lift patients, remove fallen trees and soil for outage restoration work, provide bathing facilities and help covering with blue sheets, for example. For removal of fallen trees to restore power supply, SDF-TEPCO coordination centers were set up in the TEPCO Headquarters and six offices in Chiba Prefecture to respond to the challenge together with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the TEPCO. During the mission, the SDF flexibly provided support in response to the needs of the victims: for example, personnel for other activities were temporarily sent to implement blue sheet covering, which became urgent as the forecast said the

weather would worsen. This mission involved approximately 96,000 personnel in total, 54,000 of whom engaged in the affected area, and 20 aircraft. In total, approximately 1,300 tons of water was supplied, 28,000 people were provided with bathing facilities and blue sheets were installed at around 1,820 places in 27 cities and towns.

c. Disaster Relief in Response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis)

In October 2019, the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (“Typhoon Hagibis”) was expected to approach East Japan while maintaining its great intensity. Since there was a risk of human damage and infrastructure damage including damage to houses, power and water outage from the Tokai to Kanto regions in particular, due to sediment disaster and flooding

Column Launch of the MOD/SDF's Official Twitter Account (For Disaster Response)

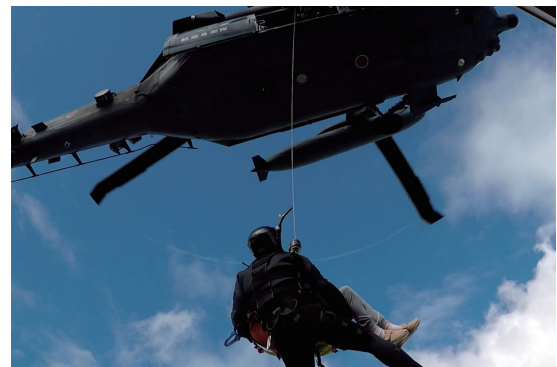
On October 11, 2019, the MOD launched a Twitter account aiming at widely disseminating information on activities related to the MOD/SDF's disaster response. Regarding the disaster relief operations in response to the East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis) in 2019, tweets were sent out on a round-the-clock basis to spread information with respect to locations and time for disaster-affected people to receive support (meals, water supply, and bathing assistance), and reconstruction activities, including clearing of roads and disposal of disaster-related wastes.

In order to mitigate the concerns of disaster-affected people, the MOD will continue to disseminate necessary information in the event of various disasters. Please follow the Official Twitter Account (For Disaster Response).

https://twitter.com/modjapan_saigai



GSDF personnel going to rescue isolated victims of the heavy rain due to frontogenesis in August 2019 (August 2019)



ASDF personnel engaging in activities to save lives using a rescue helicopter at the time of Typhoon Hagibis, which hit east Japan in 2019 (October 2019)



GSDF personnel removing fallen trees for restoring power supply after damage due to Typhoon Faxai that hit the Boso Peninsula in 2019 (September 2019)



Minesweeping tender JS "Uraga" providing bathing facilities at Soma Port at the time of Typhoon Hagibis, which hit east Japan in 2019 (October 2019)



Video: Disaster relief in response to Typhoon Hagibis, etc.
 URL: <https://youtu.be/EeCpz8QFN0g>

Column

Use of Drones for Disasters to Convey Information on the Current Status at the Time of Disasters

In August 2019, GSDF units in charge of regional disaster relief operations were equipped with drones for disasters.

Drones for disasters are information gathering equipment that can be expected to play an active role at the time of various disasters in such activities as surveying disaster-affected areas and identifying the damage status in areas that are difficult to be accessed by land.

The drone for disasters introduced at this time is composed of the main body itself, remote controller, and a tablet device with controlling software installed. It is capable of taking photographs with a resolution of 24 mega pixels (MP) and video at a frame rate of 60 fps.

At the disaster relief activities after the Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai) and the East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis") of 2019, which caused severe damage in September to October 2019, following videos and photographs are taken.

- Took videos and photographs of the areas that were difficult to be accessed by land due to clusters of fallen trees.
- Took aerial video and photographs of the damage status of

private residences in areas hit by strong winds.

- Took video and photographs of river floods
- Took video and photographs of the whole of the massive amount of disaster debris collected

The activity to take video and photographs was conducted by teams of three members each.

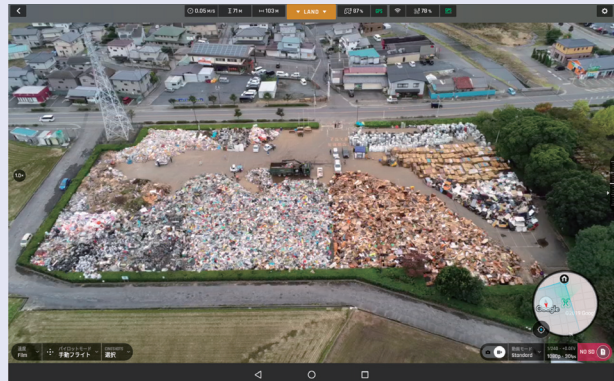
The video and photographs taken through the above activity were provided to units engaging in disaster relief operations at the disaster sites and were used to identify the damage status and also used as a reference for those units' activities. Some video and photographs were also provided to and used by relevant local governments.

In addition, the teams used video transmission equipment to distribute real-time or recorded video to senior organizations, such as the Joint Staff Office and Ground Staff Office (Camp Ichigaya) for the purpose of information sharing.

As explained above, information gathered through drones is effective in identifying the damage status at the time of disasters. Therefore, the SDF will continue to disseminate drones further and will prepare for disasters by enhancing the drone operation capability.



A drone for disasters



A photograph taken by a drone

caused by heavy rain and strong wind, the SDF established response readiness. In order to ensure an appropriate initial response, the SDF sent liaison officers to the prefectural offices without waiting for requests from the local authorities, while keeping initial response units and others at the ready for the action.

Typhoon Hagibis caused river flooding, large-scale inundations and sediment disasters in many places. In response to disaster relief requests from the governors of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Nagano and Shizuoka Prefectures, the SDF sent approximately 590 liaison officers to coordinate closely with up to 272 local governments to

save lives, supply water, provide bathing facilities and meals, dispose disaster waste, eliminate load obstacles and control epidemics. Considering that damage caused by Typhoon Hagibis was immense and extremely widespread, it was expected to require various relief activities for a long period of time. To address the challenge, the SDF established a joint task force led by the Commander of the Ground Component Command for the first time. In addition, SDF Reserve Personnel and SDF Ready Reserve Personnel were called up and approximately 410 such personnel engaged in support activities. This mission involved approximately 880,000 personnel in total, 84,000 of whom engaged in the affected area 100 ships, and 1,610 aircraft in total. To add

Column

Provision of Allergy-Conscious Meals

The responsibility for providing meals at emergency shelters in the event of a disaster rests primarily with local governments. When the SDF has received a request for meal provision support from local governments having difficulty providing meals themselves, it provides evacuees with meals prepared using its field cooking appliances based on food materials and menus prepared by local governments.

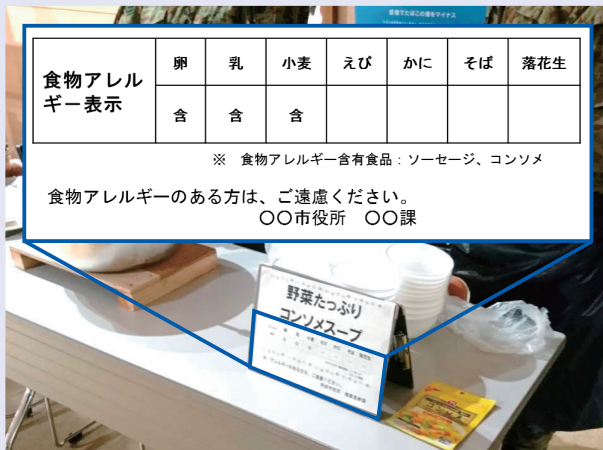
However, regarding meals provided at emergency shelters in the event of a disaster, no information on the ingredients was indicated. As a result, there were concerns over a lack of meals that people with a food allergy could eat without worry.

Therefore, when the SDF conducted disaster relief activities after the East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis) of 2019, the dispatched SDF units, in response to requests for meal provision support, provided meals with due consideration of the needs of people with a food allergy in cooperation with

relevant local governments. To be more precise, the dispatched SDF units (i) posted a reminder notice regarding food allergies, (ii) indicated food allergy information concerning the food materials used (prepared by local governments), and (iii) placed the packages and bottles of the food materials and seasonings used in front of the places where meals were distributed.

Consequently, it became possible for evacuees themselves to check on food allergy information regarding the food materials and seasonings used for the provision of meals, and for people with a food allergy to judge whether or not they could eat the meals provided without worry.

The SDF will continue to cooperate with local governments in providing meals with due consideration of the needs of people with a food allergy.



Indication of food allergy information concerning the food materials used



GSD personnel providing meals

this, approximately 2,040 people were rescued, 7,030 tons of water were supplied, and 70,230 people were provided with bathing facilities in total.

d. Disaster Relief in Response to Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Outbreak

Between July 2019 and the end of March 2020, the occurrence of CSF was confirmed in Aichi, Gifu, Mie, and Okinawa Prefectures. As prompt epidemic prevention measures, including slaughter of pigs, were required, the SDF assisted with the slaughter and other measures in response to disaster relief requests from the governors of the prefectures.² These missions engaged around 9,250 personnel and 1,440 vehicles.

e. Disaster Relief in Response to Forest Fire

Over the period from July 2019 to the end of March 2020, local authorities conducted firefighting operations against fighting forest fires but were unable to settle the situation despite their efforts. Based on requests issued by the governors of Hiroshima, Miyazaki and Ibaraki Prefectures, the SDF contributed to aerial firefighting and other resources. The SDF dispatches were conducted three times in total, including a total of some 380 personnel, around 30 vehicles and around 20 aircraft. Approximately 260 tons of water was applied on 45 occasions.



Fig. III-1-5-3 (Record of Disaster Relief [FY2019]);
Reference 14 (Record of Disaster Relief [Past Five Years])

² As a countermeasure to classical swine fever (CSF) outbreak, the MOD/SDF cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in aerial application of an oral vaccine for wild boars. The MOD/SDF carried out aerial application of the oral vaccine in the national forest in Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture in December 2019, and in Gunma and Tochigi Prefectures in April 2020.

(2) Transportation of Emergency Patients

The SDF uses its aircraft to transport emergency patients from isolated islands and remote areas with insufficient medical facilities (transportation of emergency patients). In FY2019, out of a total of 449 cases of disaster relief, 365 cases involved the transportation of emergency patients, with dispatches to remote islands such as the Southwestern Islands (Okinawa and Kagoshima Prefectures), the Ogasawara Islands (Tokyo), and remote islands of Nagasaki Prefecture

representing the majority of such cases.

In addition, the SDF carries out sea rescues upon requests by the Japan Coast Guard on such occasions as transport of emergency patients from vessels navigating areas of ocean far from the mainland where the aircraft of other organizations are unable to respond, due to reasons including a short flight range and emergencies of vessels due to incidents such as capsizing. Furthermore, the SDF conducts long-distance transportation for serious-case patients, by the ASDF transport aircraft C-130H utilizing its mobile medical units

Fig. III -1-5-3 Record of Disaster Relief (FY2019)

Description	Number of dispatches	Total number of personnel working in the field	Total number of vehicles	Total number of aircraft	Total number of vessels
Responses to storm, flood, and earthquake disasters	5	8,889	4,279	67	2
Transporting emergency patients	365	1,960		402	
Search and rescue	12	1,545	118	30	5
Assisting firefighting	46	6,228	554	179	
Other	19	24,663	2,646	29	2
Total	447	43,285	7,597	707	9
2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai)	1	Number of personnel working in the field: approx. 54,000 Number of overall personnel: approx. 96,000	approx. 19,000	approx. 20	approx. 20
2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis)	1	Number of personnel working in the field: approx. 84,000 Number of overall personnel: approx. 880,000	approx. 49,400	approx. 1,610	approx. 100

* Except for 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon and 2019 East Japan Typhoon.

* The number of overall personnel includes maintenance, communication, command, standby/back-up and other rear-service personnel in addition to personnel working in the field.

VOICE

Activities at Tokyo Electric Power Co., Inc. (TEPCO) during the Disaster Relief in Response to the 2019 Boso Peninsula Typhoon (Typhoon Faxai)

Captain KUBOYAMA Nobutoshi,
researcher at the Airborne Training Unit, GSDF
(Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture)

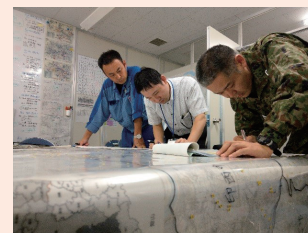
Typhoon Faxai occurred in September 2019, causing much damage in Chiba Prefecture. Damage to the power supply was particularly severe. Power failure due to fallen utility poles and disconnection continued for a long time all over the prefecture. Power restoration took time because disconnection, etc. due to fallen trees occurred over a wide area. The fallen trees were major obstacles for recovery operation.

In order to remove fallen trees and contribute to early power restoration, the SDF units in Chiba and other areas carried out disaster relief activities. I was sent as a liaison officer to Narita branch of TEPCO and engaged in tasks for liaison and coordination between the branch and SDF units.

At the beginning of the activities, due to the use of different maps and differences in the operation organizations, we had difficulty in sharing recognition of the damage situation and establishing a joint operation manual. In order to solve the

problems, we used common tools to simultaneously share information on damage location and made efforts to understand what the other party was able and not able to do with each other. As a result, these efforts reduced the time required from identifying damage location to joint operation and contributed to effective operation of SDF personnel on the site.

In recent years, natural disasters causing enormous damage have been increasing year by year. In order to meet the high expectations from the public toward the SDF, I will push forward with my duties as SDF personnel and the lessons of this disaster relief in mind.



The author (right) making coordination with the power company on removal of fallen trees for power restoration

Participating in Disaster Relief

Lieutenant Commander HATANO Yuka, Disaster Relief Team, 2nd Operation Section, Operation Department, Joint Staff, MOD (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)

The Joint Staff Office is an organization which centrally assists the Minister of Defense in SDF operation. The disaster relief team where I belong has a role to assist the Chief of Joint Staff to back up disaster relief activities as a mediator among GSDF, MSDF and ASDF, including coordination for timely input of personnel and equipment in the event of a disaster.

I joined the disaster relief team in March 2018. At that time I had little knowledge of the duties and equipment of the GSDF and ASDF. However, through disaster relief activities in response to the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake and repeated typhoon disasters, I was able to gain extensive knowledge of their organizations and capabilities, which include the capacity of GSDF's large-scale facility and advanced medical technology, and the ASDF's transportation capacity across the country and high water supply capacity using fresh water generators.

Each of the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF have their respective views and ceremonial manners that can be expressed with the word "culture." When there is a disagreement with GSDF/ASDF members in the disaster relief team, we may argue, jokingly saying, "This is a cultural difference." However, once a disaster occurs, in any situation, we share our knowledge cultivated

in our respective cultures and take advantage of our respective characteristics across the boundaries of the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF to carry out broad-ranging support activities and complete the mission. My workplace is not on disaster sites but the Ministry of Defense. Even so, through disaster relief activities, I can feel that GSDF, MSDF and ASDF units are tied and working together through disaster relief activities.

Recently, some cases require rescue operations, such as livelihood support and other operations that are different from usual disaster relief activities. In such cases, too, I am working with the goal of making "cross-cultural communication" smoother and becoming a skillful mediator together with colleagues of GSDF, MSDF and ASDF in their respective uniform colors.



The author (left of the upper photo) in response to COVID-19 in PFI-contracted private boat "Hakuou"

Participating in Disaster Relief Activities in Response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis)

Airman 1st Class FUKUI Keita, 2nd Section, 1st Flight, 2nd Air Civil Engineering Squadron, Central Air Civil Engineering Group, ASDF (Komatsu City, Ishikawa Prefecture)

I participated in disaster relief in response to the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon Hagibis) that occurred last fall. Before I participated in the first disaster relief, I had seen disaster relief activities only on television news. When I was informed that I would be sent to the disaster area, I firmly resolved to do anything that I could do for victims.

I was sent to Matsushiro Elementary School in Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture. Its playground was covered with driftwood, sludge and waste from the flooding rivers, so I strongly wanted to restore the site back to its normal state as soon as possible.

It was extremely difficult to restore the playground. We removed driftwood and sludge from the ground using a few heavy equipment units and by hand, but no matter how much we dug, we could not see the surface of the ground. When we caught a glimpse of the ground, more heavy rain spread

the sludge and we were put back to the beginning. It was not showy activity and, we were in a harsh situation.

However, the local elementary school children sang songs between the activities and sent letters to us. We were able to complete the mission thanks to their encouragement.

I hope that a disaster requiring our relief activity would never occur again but, if I am called to the mission again, I will be genuinely committed to my duty with a strong sense of responsibility and pride as I did in this mission.



The author removing driftwood, etc. in the playground.

in certain occasions.

Furthermore, in FY2019, the SDF carried out 46 dispatches of firefighting support, with 28 cases responding to fire in the areas near SDF facilities.

(3) The MOD/SDF Response to Nuclear Disaster

In order to respond to nuclear disasters, the MOD/SDF has formulated “The SDF Nuclear Disaster Response Plan.” The SDF also participates in general nuclear disaster prevention drills jointly implemented by the government, local governments, and nuclear operators, to confirm the effectiveness of municipal governments’ evacuation plan and to strengthen cooperation with relevant agencies in a nuclear disaster emergency. Moreover, since October 2014, SDF personnel (five personnel as of March 31, 2020) were transferred (on temporary assignment) to a section in charge of nuclear disaster prevention within the Cabinet Office as part of an effort to enhance the effectiveness of nuclear disaster response capabilities.

(4) Formulating Plans for Responding to Various Disasters

In the event of the occurrence of various disasters, the MOD/SDF will take all possible measures such as swift transportation and deployment of sufficiently sized units in their initial response. By establishing a rotating staffing posture based on a joint operational approach, the MOD/SDF will ensure that it is able to sustain a well-prepared condition for a long-term response. In doing so, the MOD/SDF will fully take into account the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters.

The MOD/SDF formulates various contingency plans for responses to large-scale earthquakes, which are under consideration at the Central Disaster Management Council, based on the Ministry of Defense Disaster Prevention Plan to respond to such earthquakes.

(5) Exercises Involving the SDF

In order to respond to large-scale and various other disasters in a speedy and appropriate manner, the SDF carries out various disaster prevention drills, and also actively participates in disaster prevention drills organized by the Japanese Government or local governments and is seeking to ensure cooperation with various ministries and agencies, and local governments.

a. Joint Exercise for Rescue (JXR)

The SDF conducts disaster drills concerning its command and staff activities, and coordination between its major units and with organizations related to disaster prevention in the

event of a large-scale earthquake to maintain and enhance the SDF’s earthquake response capability. In FY2018 the SDF carried out training in preparation for an earthquake directly hitting the Tokyo area. In FY2019, the SDF carried out training assuming the occurrence of an earthquake directly hitting the Tokyo area during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.³

b. Tomodachi Rescue Exercise (TREX) Joint Disaster Response Exercise with U.S. Forces

In February 2020, joint exercises were held with U.S. Forces stationed in Japan in the scenario of the Nankai Trench earthquake. The purpose of the exercise was to maintain and enhance earthquake disaster relief capabilities in collaboration between the SDF and U.S. forces and to strengthen cooperation with relevant local authorities.

c. Remote Island Disaster Relief Exercise (RIDEX)

In September 2019, the SDF participated in general disaster prevention training planned and organized by Okinawa Prefecture and a disaster drill of Ishigaki citizens and conducted a field training exercise to deal with sudden large-scale disasters in a remote island to maintain as well as enhance the SDF’s ability to respond to disasters in remote islands and strengthen collaboration with relevant local authorities.

d. Drill for medical treatment activities following a large-scale earthquake

In September 2019, the SDF participated in a drill organized by the Cabinet Office for medical treatment activities following a large-scale earthquake. In this drill, the SDF practiced various activities for disaster relief and coordination with organizations related to disaster prevention to maintain and enhance the SDF’s disaster response capability.

e. Other

They also took part in the Ministry of Defense Disaster



RIDEX: Transport of Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) to Shimojishima Airport by ASDF C-2 (September 2019)

³ On March 20, 2020, it was decided that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place between July 23 and August 8, 2021, and between August 24 and September 5, 2021, respectively.

Fig. III -1-5-4

List of the Three-Year Emergency Measures for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience (MOD)

Emergency measures	Outline of the measures	Period
Emergency measures for concrete block walls, etc. of SDF facilities	After the earthquake occurred in Northern Osaka in 2018, safety inspections were conducted with regard to concrete block walls, etc. on the borders of the SDF facilities adjacent to private properties and public roads and it was found that there are approximately 110 old concrete block walls and other structures that do not comply with the current Building Standards Act and pose safety risks. Therefore, the MOD will take emergency measures, such as removal of such dangerous walls and installation of new fences.	By FY2020
Emergency measures for SDF facilities	After the earthquake occurred in Northern Osaka in 2018, emergency inspections were conducted for the SDF's significant disaster response bases regarding their resilience to earthquakes, deterioration levels and the status of installation of power generators, and some of these facilities were found likely to cause hindrance to the SDF's prompt and appropriate performance of duties. Therefore, the MOD will take seismic reinforcement measures for around 10 facilities, countermeasures against deterioration for around 40 facilities, and measures to enhance power supplying capability for around 30 facilities.	By FY2020
Emergency measures for SDF equipment related to disaster prevention	As it is urgently necessary to develop equipment required for the SDF's relief activities upon a disaster from the perspective of preventing functional failures due to deterioration and of strengthening such relief activities, the MOD will take emergency measures for securing necessary equipment, communication devices, and vehicles for camps nationwide where old dysfunctional equipment was found.	By FY2020

Management Headquarters drill, the comprehensive disaster prevention drills on Disaster Prevention Day, and more.⁴

(6) Collaboration with Local Governments and Other Relevant Organizations

It is important for the MOD/SDF to strengthen collaboration with local governments and other relevant organizations under normal circumstances for the purpose of conducting disaster relief operations smoothly. For this reason, the SDF implements various measures including: (1) Assignment of the post of Liaison Officer for Civil Protection and Disaster Management (administrative official) at the SDF Provincial Cooperation Offices; (2) Temporary assignment of SDF officers to the department in charge of disaster prevention at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and mutual exchange between administrative officials of both the GSDF Middle Army and Hyogo Prefectural Government; and (3) Recommendation of retired SDF personnel with knowledge in disaster prevention in accordance with requests from local governments.

As of the end of March 2020, as many as 575 retired SDF personnel are working in disaster prevention and other sections in 398 local governments in 46 prefectures throughout the country. Such cooperation in human resources is a very effective way of strengthening collaboration between the MOD/SDF and local governments, and its efficacy was

confirmed through the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters. In particular, each GSDF regional Army establishes a forum for interaction with senior directors for crisis management and other officials from local governments and share information and exchange opinions to strengthen collaboration with those local governments.

In the event of a disaster, liaison officers are sent quickly and effectively from the units to the local municipalities in order to ensure smooth coordination.

Q See Reference 56 (Employment Situation of Retired Uniformed SDF Personnel in Disaster Prevention-related Bureaus in Local Government)

(7) Actions Based on the Three-Year Emergency Measures for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Building National Resilience

In December 2018, the three-year emergency measures for disaster prevention, mitigation, and building national resilience⁵ were approved by the Cabinet. Under the measures, the MOD is focusing on emergency measures for concrete block walls, etc. of SDF facilities, for SDF facilities and for SDF equipment related to disaster prevention, from the perspective of maintaining functions including important infrastructure for disaster prevention.

Q See Fig. III-1-5-4 (List of the Three-Year Emergency Measures for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience [MOD])

⁴ In addition, the following drills were conducted and participated in, in 2019: (1) government tabletop drills, (2) the Nuclear Energy Disaster Prevention Drill, (3) the large tsunami disaster prevention drill, (4) a drill related to the Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drill of Nine Prefectural and City Governments, (5) a drill related to the joint disaster drill among the Kinki prefectures, (6) comprehensive disaster prevention drills conducted by local governments or other bodies.

⁵ In recent years, the Heavy Rain in July 2018, Typhoon Jebi in 2018, Hokkaido Eastern Iburu Earthquake in 2018 and other natural disasters caused function loss of important infrastructures necessary for living and economic activities of the people, including the occurrence of blackouts and closure of airport terminals, which had a major effect on the activities. Learning from the experience, the Emergency Countermeasures stipulate physical and non-physical measures that individual ministries and agencies should implement intensively for the period of three years from the perspective of maintaining functions including important infrastructure for disaster prevention and important infrastructure supporting the national economy and people's lives.

2 Response to Rescue and Transport of Japanese Nationals Overseas, etc.

1 Basic Concept

In the event of natural disasters, insurgencies, and other emergencies overseas, the Minister of Defense can order SDF units to rescue or transport Japanese nationals and other people overseas upon request from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to guard, rescue or transport Japanese nationals overseas, etc. and upon subsequent consultations with the Minister, on the basis of Article 84-3 (rescue Japanese nationals overseas, etc.) or Article 84-4 (transport of Japanese nationals overseas, etc.) of the SDF Law.

2 Initiatives of the MOD/SDF

For prompt and appropriate implementation of rescue or transport of Japanese nationals overseas, the SDF is prepared to dispatch its units swiftly. Specifically, the SDF maintains operational readiness, with the GSDF designating personnel to a helicopter unit and a unit responsible for land transportation, the MSDF designating vessels such as transport ships (including ship-based aircraft), and the ASDF designating airlift units and personnel for dispatch.

Since these activities require close coordination among the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF, the MOD/SDF constantly conducts joint exercises. In December 2019, the SDF carried out an exercise in Japan for the rescue of Japanese nationals overseas to practice the whole process of the actions and coordination with related organizations in order to enhance integrated operational capabilities and to strengthen the coordination with the related organizations. Furthermore, from February to March 2020, the MOD/SDF also utilized the opportunity of the annual multilateral exercise Cobra Gold taking place in Thailand as training in a series of activities to protect Japanese nationals overseas in cooperation with the

relevant ministries and the Embassy of Japan in Thailand. With the participation of Japanese nationals in Thailand, the exercise strengthened the collaboration between the MOD/SDF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The MOD/SDF has conducted the transportation of Japanese nationals in four cases. Responding to the kidnapping of foreigners and Japanese in Iraq, 10 Japanese evacuated to Kuwait by an ASDF C-130H plane in April 2004. In January 2013, a government aircraft was deployed to bring seven Japanese nationals and the remains of a further nine nationals back to Japan following the kidnapping in Algeria. With respect to the terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which occurred in July 2016, the bodies of Japanese victims (seven nationals), their families, and other involved parties were transported to Japan by a government aircraft.

In relation to the deterioration of the situation in South Sudan in July of the same year, the ASDF transport aircraft C-130H transported four embassy staff from Juba to Djibouti.

Q See Part II, Chapter 5, Section 1-3-6 (Rescue and Transportation of Japanese Nationals Overseas)



Cobra Gold 20: Japanese nationals overseas boarding on an ASDF C-130H in an exercise to rescue Japanese nationals overseas (February 2020)