

Section  
5

## Efforts to Support International Peace Cooperation Activities

The MOD/SDF has been proactively undertaking international peace cooperation activities working in tandem with diplomatic initiatives, including the use of

the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for resolving the fundamental causes of conflicts, terrorism and other problems.

## 1 Frameworks for International Peace Cooperation Activities

## 1 Framework of International Peace Cooperation Activities and Background to Stipulating Such Activities as One of the Primary Missions of the SDF

The international peace cooperation activities undertaken by the MOD/SDF to date are as follows: (1) international peace cooperation assignments such as UN peacekeeping operations (the so-called UN PKO); (2) international disaster relief activities to respond to large-scale natural disasters overseas; (3) activities based on the former Special Measures Act on Humanitarian Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq; and (4) activities based on the former Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Act, and the former Replenishment Support Special Measures Act. In 2007, international peace cooperation activities, which used to be regarded as supplementary activities,<sup>1</sup> were upgraded to become one of the primary missions of the SDF,<sup>2</sup> alongside the defense of Japan and the maintenance of public order. In March 2016, the Legislation for Peace and Security was enforced, which allows cooperation and support operations in response to situations threatening the international peace and security that the international community is collectively addressing based on general laws without establishing a special measures act.

**Q See** Part II, Chapter 5, Section 2 (SDF Activities since Enforcement of Legislation for Peace and Security)  
Fig. III-3-5-1 (International Peace Cooperation Activities Conducted by the SDF)  
Reference 10 (Requirement to Issue an Order (Including Diet Approval) and Authority for the Use of Weapons Concerning Main Operations of the Self-Defense Forces);  
Reference 50 (Summary Comparison of Laws Concerning International Peace Cooperation Activities);  
Reference 51 (The SDF Record in International Peace Cooperation Activities)

## 2 Continuous Initiatives to Promptly and Accurately Carry Out International Peace Cooperation Activities

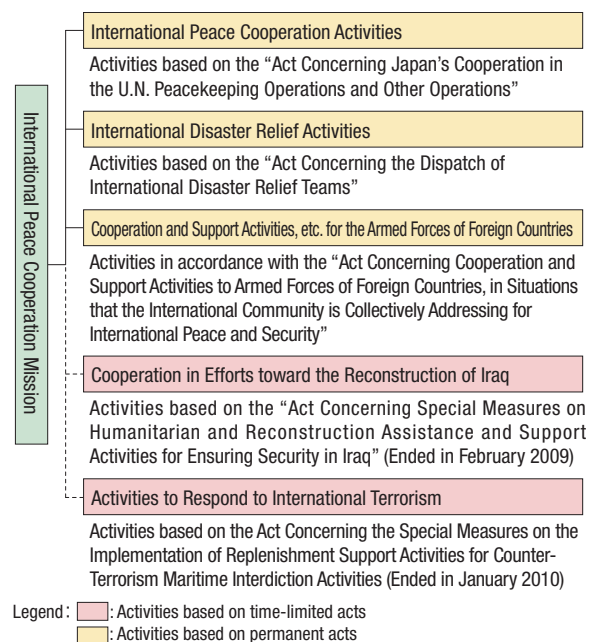
To be a proactive contributor to world peace, it is important for the SDF to be fully prepared for any future operation. For

this reason, all three branches of the SDF, namely the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF, designate dispatch stand-by units, and the designated units are always ready to be deployed.

In September 2015, the UN launched the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) to enable the UN Headquarters to grasp the registered items of each country more specifically in order to ensure the flexibility and readiness of international peacekeeping activities. In light of this change, Japan registered engineering units and staff officers of mission headquarters in March 2016. Additionally, at the Defense Ministers' Meeting on UN PKO held in November 2017, Japan announced that it would make arrangements for additional registration of fixed-wing aircraft for PCRS to enable air transport assistance for rapid PKO deployment.

Meanwhile, the SDF is enhancing information-gathering abilities and protection abilities, which are required for the SDF

Fig. III-3-5-1 International Peace Cooperation Activities Conducted by the SDF



<sup>1</sup> Affairs prescribed in Article 8 of the SDF Law (miscellaneous provision) or supplementary provisions

<sup>2</sup> Missions defined in Article 3 of the SDF Law. The primary mission is to defend Japan. The secondary missions are the preservation of public order, activities in response to situations in areas surrounding Japan (in 2007), and international peace cooperation activities. In accordance with the entry into force of the Legislation for Peace and Security in 2016, "situations in areas surrounding Japan" was revised to "situations that will have an important influence on Japan's peace and security."

units to carry out their missions while ensuring the safety of personnel and units in international peace cooperation activities, etc. In addition, in order to respond to various environments and prolonged missions, the SDF is improving its capabilities for transport, deployment, and information communication, as well as developing a structure of logistic and medical support for conducting smooth and continuous operations.

With regard to the education necessary for engaging in international peace cooperation activities, the GSDF International Peace Cooperation Activities Training Unit, which belongs to the Ground Component Command, provides training for GSDF personnel to be deployed to international peace cooperation activities, as well as supports their training. In addition, the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (JPC) of the Joint Staff College offers not only basic education courses on international peace cooperation activities, but also specialized education to train personnel who can be appointed as contingent commanders of UN PKO missions and staff officers of mission headquarters. These specialized courses are conducted by using UN standard training materials and foreign instructors. Furthermore, since FY2014, the JPC has also provided education for personnel from foreign militaries and other Japanese ministries and agencies. This initiative represents the approach taken by the MOD/ SDF, which emphasizes the necessity of collaboration and cooperation with other related

ministries and foreign countries, based on the current situation of more multi-dimensional and complicated international peace cooperation activities. The initiative aims to contribute to more effective international peace cooperation activities by enhancing collaboration in the field of education.

### 3 Welfare and Mental Health Measures for Dispatched SDF Units

The MOD/SDF has implemented various welfare and mental health support measures for dispatched SDF personnel and their families to reduce their anxiety. Depending on the characteristics of the duties of the dispatched unit, the MOD/ SDF provides dispatched SDF personnel with necessary measures as follows: (1) pre-dispatch training to acquire necessary knowledge on stress reduction; (2) mental health check before, during, and after the dispatch; (3) counseling on anxiety and worries provided by dispatched mental health care personnel; (4) dispatch of a mental health care team with specialized knowledge on dispatched SDF personnel from Japan consisting mainly of medical officers; (5) stress reduction training upon returning to Japan; and (6) ad hoc health checkup after returning to Japan.

**Q See** Part IV, Chapter 1, Section 1-3 (Measures Aimed at Ensuring Effective Use of Human Resources)

## 2 Initiatives to Support UN PKO, etc.

As a means to promote peace and stability in conflict regions around the world, UN PKO have expanded their missions in recent years to include such duties as the Protection of Civilians (POC), the promotion of political processes, providing assistance in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) into society of former soldiers, Security Sector Reform (SSR), the rule of law, elections, human rights, and other fields, in addition to such traditional missions as ceasefire monitoring. To date, there are 13 UN PKO missions ongoing (as of the end of March 2020).

International organizations, such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), respective governments, and NGO conduct relief and restoration activities for the victims of conflicts and large-scale disasters from a humanitarian perspective and from the viewpoint of stabilizing affected countries.

Japan has been promoting international peace cooperation activities in various regions, including Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Timor-Leste, Nepal, and South Sudan for more than 25 years, and the results of these activities have been highly

praised both inside and outside of Japan.

In addition to continuous dispatch of staff officers to UNMISS, Japan is able to participate in Internationally Coordinated Operations for Peace and Security along with enforcement of the Legislation for Peace and Security. In April 2019, Japan started to dispatch staff officers to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

Japan will actively contribute to international peace cooperation activities through such activities as dispatch of personnel to mission headquarters and capacity building in Japan's fields of expertise by using accumulated experience so far and working on human resource development.

### 1 International Conferences Related to UN PKO

In July 2019, the GSDF Chief of Staff participated in the UN PKO Chiefs of Defense Conference held in New York, the United States. At the conference, he shared the GSDF's efforts as the chairman for the revision of the UN Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual and

the dispatch of a delegation of instructors to the UNTPP,<sup>3</sup> while also stating Japan's strong determination to contribute to peace and stability in the international community through highly qualified capacity building programs and intellectual contributions, tapping into Japan's strengths and experience in PKO.

## 2 Dispatch to the MFO

### (1) Significance of Dispatch to the MFO

In August 1981, the MFO was established by the Protocol to the Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty as an organization to undertake the tasks and responsibilities of the UN force and observer mission stipulated in the treaty.

Since 1982, when its activities started, by facilitating dialogue and confidence building between Egypt and Israel, the MFO has contributed to peace and stability in the Middle East, which is a foundation of peace and prosperity for Japan. With rising expectations of Japan's role in the Middle East, Japan has provided financial assistance to the MFO since FY1988.

The MFO has expressed appreciation to Japan's contribution this background, the MFO requested that Japan send staff officers to its headquarters. With a view to making proactive contributions to international peace efforts, the Cabinet decided on the implementation of international peace operations in the Sinai Peninsula on April 2, 2019, and dispatched two staff officers to the MFO as Japan's first activity for the purpose.

**Q See** Part II, Chapter 5, Section 2-2 (Dispatch of Staff Officers to the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO))



GSDF personal engaging in operations in the MFO (April 2020)

### (2) Activities by Staff Officers and Others

The two officers are engaging in liaison and coordination between governments of the two countries or other relevant organizations and the MFO as a Deputy Chief of Liaison and an Assistant Liaison Operation Officer at the MFO Headquarters, which is located in the south camp at Sharm El-Sheikh in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula.

Additionally, in order to help the two officers dispatched to the MFO carry out activities smoothly and effectively, one liaison and coordination personnel is dispatched to Cairo city, Egypt, to liaise and coordinate with the relevant organizations in the dispatched country.

These activities express Japan's commitment to more active involvement in the peace and stability of the Middle East. It is also expected to promote collaboration with the other countries dispatching officers, including the United States, and create new opportunities for human resource development.

**Q See** Fig. III-3-5-2 (Outline of MFO Operations and Relevant Maps)  
Fig. III-3-5-3 (Organizational Chart of MFO)

## 3 UNMISS

### (1) Significance of the Dispatch of Personnel to UNMISS

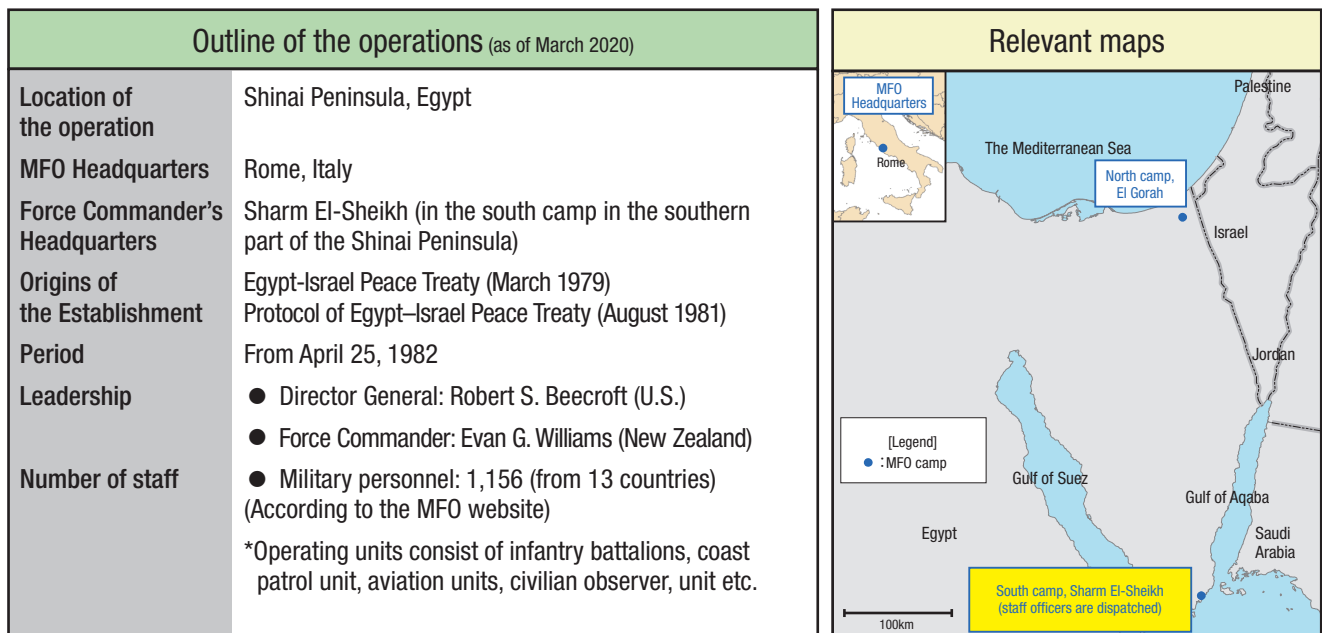
In July 2011 following South Sudan's independence, with the objective of consolidating peace and security as well as helping establish necessary conditions for the development of South Sudan, the UNMISS was established. The Japanese Government was requested by the UN to cooperate with UNMISS, particularly through the dispatch of GSDF engineering units. The Cabinet approved the dispatch of two staff officers (logistics and database officers) to UNMISS in November 2011, and in December it decided to dispatch an SDF engineering unit, Coordination Center, and an additional staff officer (engineering officer). In addition, the Cabinet also approved the dispatch of one staff officer (air operations officer) in October 2014.

South Sudan shares borders with six countries and is positioned in a highly important location, connecting the African continent on all four points of the compass. The peace and stability of South Sudan is not only essential for the country itself; but also for the peace and stability in its neighboring countries, and by extension, Africa as a whole, as well as a crucial issue that should be dealt with by the international community. Based on the accumulated experience through past PKO, the MOD/SDF has contributed to the peace and stability of South Sudan by providing

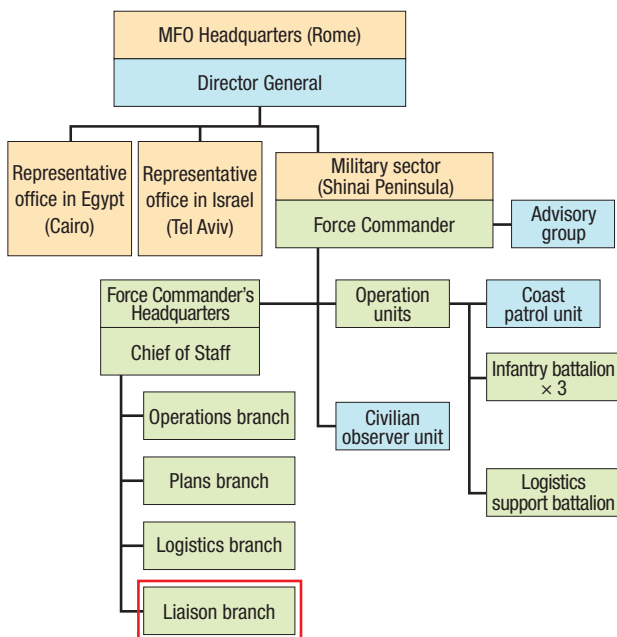
<sup>3</sup> Acronym for the United Nations Triangular Partnership Project. A partnership for supporting the capability building of the personnel from UN PKO troop contributing countries through cooperation among the UN, UN PKO troop contributing countries, and third countries that possess technologies and equipment.

**Fig. III-3-5-2**

Outline of MFO Operations and Relevant Maps

**Fig. III -3-5-3**

Organizational Chart of MFO



Note: Red line indicates a department/division in which Japanese personnel are placed.

personnel-based cooperation in infrastructure development, on which the UN places great expectations.

**See** Part I, Chapter 2, Section 9-9 (Situation in South Sudan)

## (2) Activities by Dispatched Engineering Units

Since the commencement of its engineering activities within UN facilities in Juba in March 2012, the dispatched engineering unit has steadily expanded its activities. The SDF has continued to dispatch over 300 personnel after the second unit took over in June of the same year, and carried



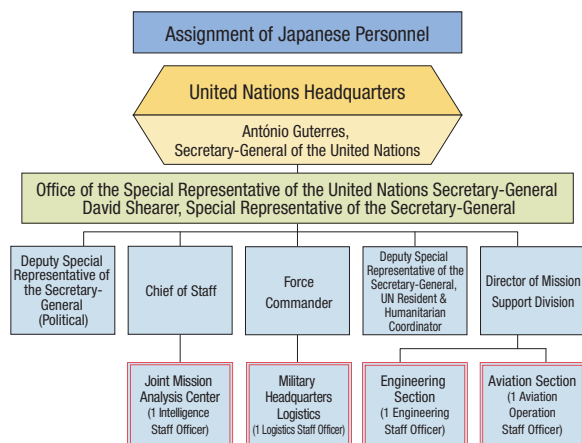
GSDP personal engaging in operations in the UNMISS (December 2019)

out activities with great significance, such as repairing roads and constructing facilities for displaced people while ensuring the safety of the personnel.

The deployment of SDF engineering units marked a milestone of five years in January 2017 since the dispatch of the first engineering rotation. The major achievements include a total of approximately 260 km of road repair and a total of approximately 500,000 m<sup>2</sup> of development. Japan could move on to a new phase regarding engineering activities in Juba that the SDF was in charge of. Considering the above-mentioned issues in a comprehensive manner, on March 10, 2017, the Government of Japan came to the conclusion that the SDF engineering unit would withdraw from Juba around the end of May 2017. SDF personnel engaged in withdrawal work, then sequentially withdrew from South Sudan by the end of May 2017, and terminated the operations by the engineering unit in UNMISS.

Fig. III-3-5-4

Organization of UNMISS



Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Watanabe (right) participating in the departing ceremony for the replacement of personnel joining the International Peace Cooperation Corps in South Sudan (December 2019)

In response to a request from the UN to transfer items possessed by the dispatched engineering unit such as heavy machinery, vehicles, and residence-related containers, Japan transferred these items to UNMISS with no charge, intending to make Japan's cooperation with UNMISS more effective. Prior to this transfer of items, the MOD, responding to a request from UNMISS, provided training on the operation and maintenance of heavy machinery to UNMISS personnel, so that UNMISS would be able to conduct engineering activities in a smooth manner using these heavy machinery and other equipment even after the withdrawal of the Japanese unit.

These dedicated activities by the dispatched engineering unit were highly appreciated and valued by the UN and South Sudan.

### (3) Activities by Command Post Staff Officers and Others

Personnel dispatches to the UNMISS headquarters are continuing. Four GSDF members (logistics officer, intelligence officer, engineering officer, and air operations officer) currently carry out duties at the UNMISS headquarters. Specifically, the logistics officer procures and transports goods needed in UNMISS activities, the database officer collects and compiles information on security conditions, the engineering officer plans and proposes UNMISS engineering activities, and the air operations officer assists in operation of aircraft run by UNMISS.

Additionally, liaison staff members have been dispatched to the liaison office in the Embassy of Japan in South Sudan to support activities of the Japanese staff officers. These people help interactions between the South Sudan government and the International Peace Cooperation Corps in South Sudan with the aim of ensuring smooth and efficient cooperation with UNMISS. They will continue to contribute to activities as UNMISS members.



Part II, Chapter 5, Section 2-5 (Assignment of New Mission for the South Sudan PKO)

Fig. III-3-5-4 (Organization of UNMISS)

## 4 Dispatch of MOD Personnel to the UN Secretariat

The MOD/SDF dispatches personnel to the UN Secretariat for the purpose of actively contributing to the UN efforts to achieve international peace and for the purpose of utilizing experiences of dispatched personnel in Japan's PKO activity. As of March 2020, one SDF personnel (working level) are involved in the formulation of UN PKO policies and plans at the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO). Since December 2002, including personnel currently dispatched, Japan has sent seven SDF members (one director level, six working level) to the UN DPO and two administrative officials (working level) to the UN Department of Operational Support (DOS).



Reference 49 (Dispatch of MOD Personnel to International Organizations)

## 5 Dispatch of Instructors to PKO Training Centers

To support PKO undertaken by African and other countries, the MOD/SDF has dispatched SDF personnel as instructors to PKO training centers in Africa and other countries that provide education and training for UN peacekeepers to contribute to peace and stability by enhancing the capacity of the centers.



Section 1-3-1 of this Chapter (Multilateral Security Framework and Dialogue Initiatives)  
Reference 49 (Dispatch of MOD Personnel to International Organizations)

## 6 Support to the UNTPP

Japan has so far earned unquestionable trust in the areas of engineering and transport that are essential for promoting smooth peacekeeping operations. To continue to support the rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions and implement high quality activities, Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's active support at the PKO Summit in September 2014, and it was embodied by the UNTPP.

The UNTPP was founded using funds from Japan as a project to support training for military engineers and the procurement of heavy equipment by the UN DOS. Japan

has been dispatching SDF personnel to the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi, Kenya, as instructors since the trial training in September 2015. At the IPSTC, the SDF personnel efficiently provided training on facility and equipment operation for trainees from forces of African countries from June to October 2018 according to their level of heavy equipment operation skills. Two training sessions on the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment were provided for the Ugandan Army's engineers from August to November 2019. This was the first training session held at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre. From the start of the project to March 2020, a total of

### VOICE

#### Voice of SDF Personnel Engaging in the United Nations Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities (RDEC) (renamed United Nations Triangular Partnership Project [UNTPP])

**Lieutenant Colonel TOUDOU Kouji,**  
**Vice Commandant, the 12th Engineer Group Headquarters**  
**(Iwamizawa City, Hokkaido)**

In 2019, I was appointed as a leader of an instructor team of the 2nd United Nations Project for RDEC (renamed UNTPP) and sent to the Republic of Uganda for about three months. This was the first training conducted in the Republic of Uganda. We taught military engineers of the republic how to operate construction machinery. We provided two six-week courses and trained 31 operators in total at intermediate level. They were a variety of students, from chief warrant officer to private, aged from 24 to 50, 30 men and one woman. As all

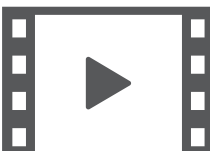
the students very ardently worked on the training and made sincere efforts to improve their skills, we taught them to the best of our ability, which made the training very meaningful and fruitful for both the students and instructors. In a survey of students after the completion of courses, almost all answered, "The Japanese instructors are skillful and the way of teaching was easy to understand, and they treated students friendly and very well." This was a moment when we forgot all difficulties in the past three months: "Not at all. Thank you!" Lastly, it was a great honor to contribute to this UN project. I wish to convey my hope, from Japan, that all the students will be successful in the future.



The author (right) taking about the education procedure with the chief instructor on the site



Author (center) inspected by the head of URDCC (Brigadier General Omola)



Video: SDF personnel engaged in RDEC (current UNTPP)  
URL: <https://youtu.be/TQLxPy4N63Y>

164 GSDF officers have been dispatched to Africa to provide nine training sessions for a total of 277 members from eight African countries.

Considering that 30% or more of PKO personnel are from Asia, Japan decided to implement the project for the first time in Asia and the surrounding regions. The project provides training on heavy engineering equipment operation for engineering personnel. Trial training took place in Vietnam from November to December 2018 for 16 personnel from nine countries in Asia and the surrounding regions, including Vietnam and Indonesia. Following this, from November to December 2019 and from February to March 2020, the GSDF provided heavy equipment operation training for 40 personnel from five countries in Asia and the surrounding region, including Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal.

In addition, the UN decided to extend the scope of support under this project to the field of sanitation, given that strengthening sanitation capacity to ensure the safety of deployed personnel has become an issue in UN peacekeeping operations. In response, the UN Field Medical Assistant Course (UNFMAC), which aims to train personnel who can provide first aid before medics or medical personnel provide specialized treatment in areas of PKO operations, was implemented in October 2019. In the course, eight instructors, including two GSDF officers, trained 29 personnel at the UN Regional Service Centre Entebbe in Uganda.

### 7 Revision of the UN Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual

In order to play a more leading role in international peace cooperation activities, the MOD/SDF served as the chair of



GSDF personnel providing training on the operation of heavy machinery in Vietnam (February 2020)

the working group on the engineer unit manual since 2013 with the aim of supporting the development of UN Military Unit Manuals<sup>4</sup> and contributed to the completion of the manual.

The UN asked Japan to serve as the chair of the working group again for revision of the manual. For the MOD/SDF this is a meaningful opportunity to make contributions by using the experiences and capabilities acquired through the past PKO and other missions. Therefore the MOD/SDF decided to serve as the chair to handle the revision of the manual. The first expert meeting was held in Tokyo in December 2018. Since then, a total of four expert meetings have been held to complete the revision process, and the revised Military Engineer Unit Manual was submitted to the UN in July 2019.

The MOD/SDF will support for the dissemination of the manual.

## 3 International Disaster Relief Activities

In recent years, the role of military affairs has become more diverse, and opportunities for military to use their capabilities in HA/DR are growing. To contribute to the advancement of international cooperation, the SDF has also engaged in international disaster relief activities proactively from the viewpoint of humanitarian contributions and improvement of the global security environment.

To this end, the SDF maintains its readiness to take any necessary action based on prepared disaster relief operation plans. In consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the SDF has been proactively conducting international disaster relief activities, which fully utilize its functions

and capabilities, while taking into consideration specific relief requests by the governments of affected countries and disaster situations in these countries.



Reference 51 (The SDF Record in International Peace Cooperation Activities)

<sup>4</sup> With the aim of defining the capacity expected of PKO units and promoting understanding by the participating states, the UN has arranged manuals that prescribe the purpose, capacity and missions for each of ten fields: engineering, military police, aviation, maritime, riverine, signals, special forces, transport, logistics and Force Headquarters (FHQ) support.

## 1 Outline of the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law

Since the enactment of the Law Concerning the Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief Team (Japan Disaster Relief Team Law) in 1987, Japan has engaged in international disaster relief activities in response to requests from the governments of affected countries and international organizations. In 1992, the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law was partially amended, enabling the SDF to participate in international disaster relief activities and to transport its personnel and equipment for this purpose.

**Q See** Reference 10 (Conditions Required for Main Operations of the Self-Defense Forces (Including Diet Approval) and Authority for the Use of Weapons Concerning Main Operations of the Self-Defense Forces)

## 2 International Disaster Relief Activities by the SDF and SDF's Posture

Responding to specific relief requests by the governments of affected countries and the scale of disaster situations in these countries, the SDF's capabilities in international disaster relief activities encompass (1) medical services, such as first-aid medical treatment and epidemic prevention; (2) transport of relief items, patients and personnel by helicopter and other means; and (3) water supply activities using water-purifying devices. In addition, the SDF uses transport aircraft and ships to carry disaster relief personnel and equipment to the affected area.

The Ground Component Command regional units of the GSDF and other relevant GSDF units maintain their readiness to ensure that they can carry out international disaster relief activities in an independent manner anytime when needed. The Self Defense Fleet of the MSDF and Air Support Command of the ASDF also constantly maintain their readiness to transport personnel and their supplies to disaster affected areas. Furthermore, in April 2015, the MOD/SDF also improved its readiness to be able to swiftly respond to a request for search activities using P-3C patrol aircraft.

## 3 International Disaster Relief Activities for Heavy Rains and Floods in the Republic of Djibouti

Heavy rains in the Republic of Djibouti between November

21 and 23, 2019, caused extensive flood damage.

At the request of the Government of the Republic of Djibouti, on November 26, Japan decided to carry out international disaster relief activities with some of the units dispatched for a counter-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

In addition to drainage using drainage pumps at elementary and junior high schools, emergency relief supplies provided by the Japanese government through JICA were transported to Djibouti.

On December 2, 2019, a termination order was issued by the Minister of Defense, ending international disaster relief activities. A total of approximately 230 personnel were dispatched to the site to drain approximately 1,950 tons of floodwater and transport approximately 4.3 tons of emergency relief supplies (tents, blankets, etc.).

## 4 International Disaster Relief Activities in Response to the Major Bush Fires in Australia

In response to a request from the Australian government to respond to the large-scale bush fires that had been continuing in Australia since September 2019, Japan decided on January 15, 2020, to have the SDF conduct international disaster relief activities, and dispatched two C-130H transport aircraft and about 70 ASDF personnel.

While stationed at Richmond Air Force Base from January 18, the members of the SDF transported personnel and supplies for firefighting and recovery efforts.

On February 7, a termination order was issued by the Minister of Defense, ending the 25-day operation of the international disaster relief activities. A total of



SDF personnel engaging in international emergency relief operations for heavy rains and floods in the Republic of Djibouti (November 2019)



Video: International disaster relief activities for heavy rains and floods in the Republic of Djibouti  
URL: <https://youtu.be/kkWpSS55gfo>

approximately 11 tons of goods (vehicles, firefighting equipment, etc.) and approximately 600 personnel were transported during this dispatch. The Australian ambassador to Japan visited the ASDF Komaki Air Base to greet the international disaster relief units upon their return. This mission was very meaningful also in deepening the Japan-Australia relationship.

## VOICE

### Voice of an SDF Personnel Engaged in International Disaster Relief Activities in Response to a Large-scale Bushfire in Australia

**Colonel OTA Masashi, Flight Group Commander, 1st Tactical Airlift Wing, ASDF (Komaki City, Aichi Prefecture)**

In January 2020, at the request of the government of Australia concerning the bushfire occurred in the country, I was ordered to carry out international disaster relief activities in the country. I visited the site as the commander of the air transport unit of the international disaster relief activities in Australia.

On the day when the order was issued, two C-130Hs departed ASDF Komaki Airbase. On our arrival at RAAF Base Richmond in Australia, we promptly established an operation system and started air transportation. In a low visibility condition due to the fire, we transported Australian military personnel to Kangaroo Island as our first mission, and continued transportation of firefighters who engaged in firefighting and restoration activities, military vehicles and firefighting equipment.

I made it a point to carry out prompt activities in response to the needs, which is important in a large-scale disaster,

ensure operation across a broad area, and demonstrate our organizational capacity by exercising our capabilities cultivated through training at home and abroad. At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Australia dispatched all their operable C-17 transport aircraft including ones engaged in overseas missions, excluding aircraft under maintenance. In order to repay Australia for the warm help, all team members did their best to accomplish the mission with all their hearts day and night, always thinking, "This is for the Australian people and restoration of the earth."

Japan and Australia are special strategic partners combining the will and ability to contribute to the peace and stability of the region. I would be happy if this activity contributes to the deepening of the relationship of the two countries, which has been built at various levels.



Australian military personnel boarding ASDF aircraft at Hobart International Airport of Tasmania on the first day of the air transport mission



Aircraft maintenance from early morning to midnight to support the repeated days of flight



Video: International Disaster Relief Activities in Response to the Major Bush fires in Australia  
URL: <https://youtu.be/wa8lhKNi4oY>