

1 Military Intelligence Collection

For formulating defense policy accurately in response to the changes in the situation and for operating defense capabilities effectively in dealing with various situations, it is necessary to grasp medium- to long-term military trends in the neighboring countries of Japan and to detect the indications of various situations promptly. To this end, the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Self-Defense Forces (SDF) always makes efforts to collect information swiftly and accurately by using various methods.

Examples of intelligence collection means used by the MOD/SDF include: (1) collecting, processing and analyzing military communications and signals emanating from electronic weapons in the air over Japan; (2) collecting, processing, and analyzing data from various imagery satellites (including Information Gathering Satellite (IGS));¹ (3)

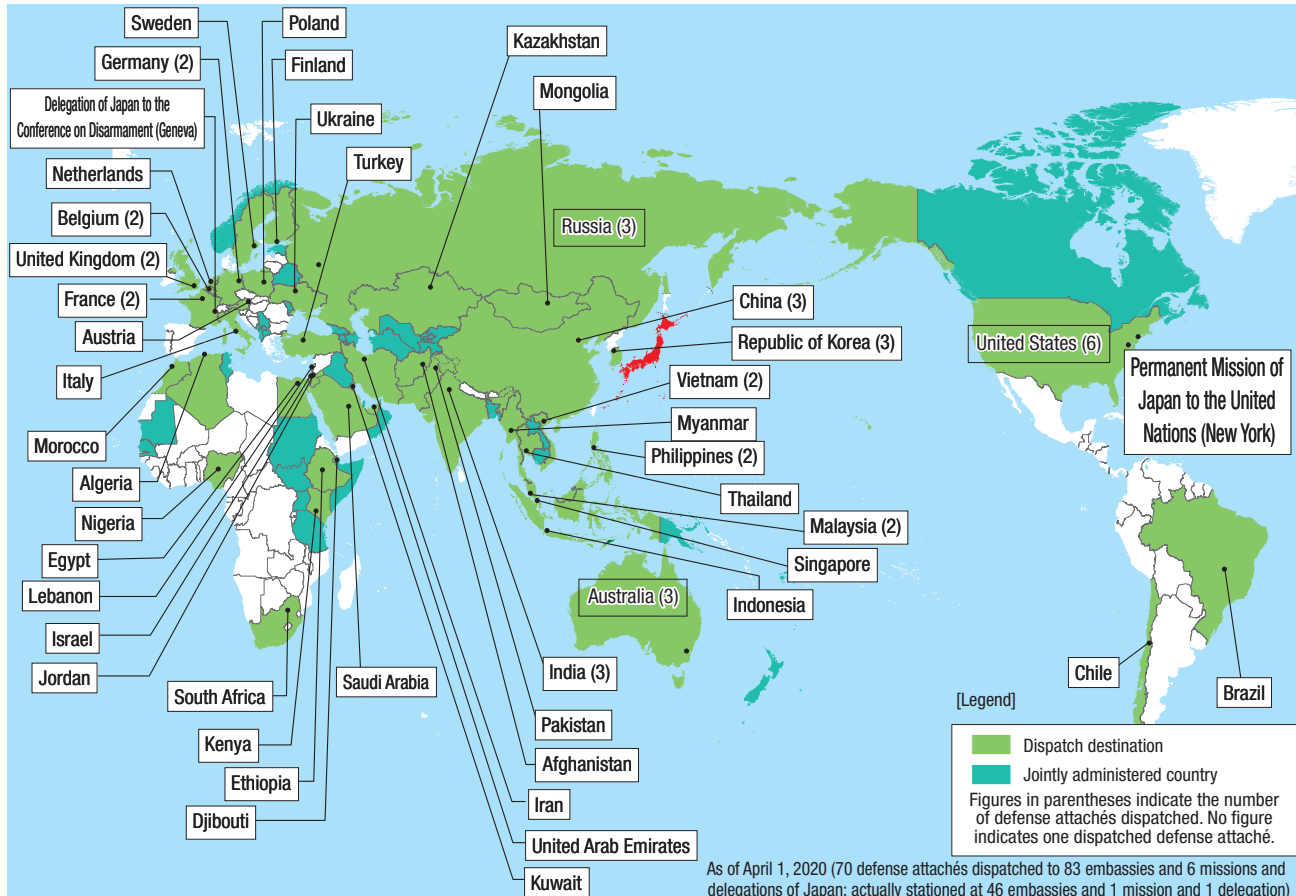
surveillance activities by ships, aircraft and other assets; (4) collecting and organizing a variety of open source information; (5) information exchanges with defense organizations of other nations; and (6) intelligence collection conducted by defense attachés and other officials.

As for defense attachés, the defense attaché assigned to Malaysia took additional responsibility for Brunei in October 2019, and the defense attaché assigned to Belgium additionally for the Mission of Japan to the European Union in February 2020. As of April 2020, 70 defense attachés are dispatched to 83 embassies and 6 missions and delegations (including 46 embassies, 1 mission and 1 delegation where defense attachés are actually stationed).

 See Fig.VI-3-1 (Dispatched Defense Attachés [image])

Fig. IV-3-1

Dispatched Defense Attachés (image)



¹ Information Gathering Satellite (IGS) of the Japanese government is operated by the Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Center. The MOD, along with other ministries and agencies, utilizes the imagery intelligence provided by the IGS.

VOICE

Voice of Defense Attachés

**Colonel KANEKO Hiroyuki,
assigned to Iran**

As the only SDF personnel residing in Iran, a distinctive country that has two armed forces (the regular force and the Revolutionary Guards) and that is a center of situations in the Middle East these days, I feel the security

environment is constantly changing, which makes me feel the weight of responsibility. I also realize that a good relationship between Japan and Iran serves as an important foundation for my job as a defense attaché. Foreign military attachés in Iran have built a solid relationship in their groups. Daily interaction with these military officers, who take it for granted that they devote their lives for their countries in wartime, makes me mentally return to my starting point as a SDF personnel. For the remainder of my term, I continue to strive for the national interest while looking at myself.



Exchange of a group of military officers (party held at home; the author is the eighth from the right)

**Colonel DEGUCHI Arata,
assigned to Kazakhstan**

As a defense attaché to Kazakhstan, which is called a leader of Central Asia, I pay close attention to the military movements of Russia, China, Western and other countries in this region. While it has strong connections with Russia due to its historical background since the Russian Empire, Kazakhstan is driving for omnidirectional diplomacy and is also passionate about promoting defense cooperation with Japan. I feel greatly fulfilled with what I can do for the development of the Japan-Kazakhstan relationship. As Kazakhstan is an army country with a vast extent, it receives many army military attachés from various countries. Representing Japan when interacting with them is a valuable experience which could not be obtained through other opportunities.



Together with Foreign military attachés at a Reception (The author is the second from the left)

**Commander IGARASHI Naomi,
assigned to Malaysia**

Since March 2019, I have been working as the first ever defense attaché from JMSDF in Malaysia, a country situated at a geopolitically important position connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. In order

to facilitate defense cooperation and collect information relevant to national defense, I coordinate and exchange opinions with the Malaysian Ministry of Defence, including the Malaysian Navy and think tanks, as well as military attachés from other countries on a daily basis. I feel deeply moved when I welcome JSDF vessels and aircraft without any mishap after complicated and wide-ranging coordination. In addition, as I realize a feeling of trust in Japan throughout Malaysia, I would like to make greater efforts to bring the two countries even closer in order to move such a good relationship one step forward.



Staff members of the Japanese Embassy in Malaysia and the author (the author is at the center)

**Lieutenant Colonel OCHIAI Takashi,
assigned to Morocco**

In Rabat, I have been serving as a defense attaché at the Japanese Embassy in Morocco since July 2017.

Morocco is a constitutional monarchy state that gained independence from France in 1956. Since its independence, the country has maintained a good relationship with Japan, and received many military attachés from around the world given its geographical characteristic as a military strategic chokepoint, situated at an entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.

The defense cooperation/exchange between Japan and Morocco is limited for the moment. Meanwhile, an SDF workshop for 66 generals and other staff members of the Moroccan armed forces has been realized for the first time in Japan in April 2019.

As a defense attaché at the Japanese Embassy in Morocco, I will continue to do my best for the development of the relationship between the two countries.



The author accompanying the inspection of the memorial ship MIKASA by the Moroccan armed forces (second from the left) [courtesy of MIKASA Preservation Society]

2 Initiatives towards Enhancing Intelligence Capabilities

Under the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG), in order to provide timely and effective intelligence support to policy decision and SDF operations, the MOD/SDF will promote initiatives to comprehensively enhance intelligence capabilities at all stages of intelligence, including gathering, analyzing, sharing and securing of information.

Specifically, the MOD/SDF will strengthen information gathering and analysis capabilities so that the MOD/SDF will be fully capable of meeting various intelligence requirements including those related to new domains. This will be conducted by strengthening gathering postures for SIGINT and IMINT through establishing and enhancing capabilities of information collection facilities, utilizing IGS and commercial satellites, and diversifying means for information collection through new equipment such as long-endurance Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs). Furthermore, the MOD/SDF will also strengthen the gathering posture of HUMINT through enhancing its defense attaché system, reinforce the gathering posture of OSINT and expand its cooperation with allied countries.

In this regard, the MOD/SDF will proactively utilize the

latest information processing technology, promote all-source analysis by fusing a wide variety of information sources together, and successfully develop and connect systems that will promote information sharing.

In order to respond appropriately to increasingly diversified intelligence requirements, the MOD/SDF will promote the securing and training of highly capable personnel handling information collection and analysis. Moreover, the MOD/SDF will take steady measures in various directions including recruitment, education, training, and personnel allocation to strengthen comprehensive information collection and analysis capabilities.

With regard to information security, the MOD/SDF will coordinate with relevant offices to make every effort by such means as education in ensuring information sharing on a need-to-know basis, and in taking preventive measures against information leakage. Also, the MOD/SDF will strengthen counter-intelligence capability within the MOD/SDF by promoting collaboration with relevant organizations.

3 Defense Intelligence Headquarters

1 Mission of the Defense Intelligence Headquarters

The Defense Intelligence Headquarters is the central intelligence agency of the MOD and the largest intelligence agency of Japan. It was established in 1997 in order to develop a framework for sophisticated and comprehensive information gathering and analysis in the increasingly complicated security environment following the cold war. The Headquarters collects SIGINT, IMINT, GEOINT, OSINT, etc. and analyzes international and military situations, and other matters related to Japan's security.

2 Activities of the Defense Intelligence Headquarters

The Defense Intelligence Headquarters is an organization consisting of Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF), Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) and Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) personnel, and administrative and technical officials (specialized in language, technology, administration or general office). SDF personnel use the knowledge based on their experience in their unit, whereas administrative/technical officials use their expert knowledge in language, technology, and other fields. They are working together for their mission.

Specifically, they conduct comprehensive analysis on

international military situations that change day by day from diverse perspectives, including military, political and economic factors, based on information from every possible source, including SIGINT, IMINT, OSINT and opinion exchange with relevant parties.

Results of the Defense Intelligence Headquarters' intelligence service are provided as analysis products to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defense, the National Security Secretariat established within the Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office, as well as GSDF, MSDF and ASDF units in a timely and appropriate manner to support policy decision and unit operation. The Defense Intelligence Headquarters also actively exchanges information with relevant ministries and agencies and foreign counterparts.