

Interaction with Local Communities and Japanese Citizens

Various activities of the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Self-Defense Forces (SDF) are hard to implement without the understanding and cooperation of each and every person

and local governments. Therefore it is necessary to further deepen the trust between local communities and people, and the SDF.

Section 1

Collaboration with Local Communities

The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG) provides that, in recent years, activities, training and exercises of SDF and U.S. forces in Japan (USFJ) are becoming more diverse and defense equipment more sophisticated, and that, as a result, it is becoming all the more important to gain understanding among and secure cooperation from local governments and residents around defense facilities.

Therefore, the NDPG provides that the MOD/SDF will constantly and actively engage in public relations activities regarding defense policies and activities, and that, upon fielding units and equipment of SDF or USFJ and conducting training and exercises, the MOD/SDF will make careful, detailed coordination to meet the desires and conditions of local communities, while sufficiently fulfilling accountability.

1 Supporting Civilian Life

The MOD/SDF conduct activities to support the lives of citizens in a range of fields, in response to requests from local governments and relevant organizations. Such activities contribute to further deepening the trust in the SDF, and provide SDF personnel with pride and confidence.

The GSDF handles the disposal of unexploded ordnance and other dangerous explosives found throughout Japan. In FY2019, there were 1,441 such cases (approx. 33 tons). In particular, cases handled in Okinawa Prefecture accounted for approx. 37% of the total cases. The MSDF clears and disposes of underwater mines and other dangerous explosives, but there was no such removal or disposal in FY2019.

The SDF not only tries to have interactions with local residents by doing things like opening its camps and bases

to the public to the extent that they do not interfere with unit activities, but also provides transportation and other assistance at a variety of athletic events. In addition, it supports regional medical treatment efforts by providing general medical care at some SDF hospitals as well as conducting urgent transport for emergency patients from isolated islands. Furthermore, based on national and other policies,¹ the MOD/SDF ensures opportunities for local small and medium sized enterprises to receive orders, while taking efficiency into account, by such measures as the promotion of separated/divided ordering² and the securing of competition amongst companies within the same qualification and grade divisions.³

 See Reference 59 (Activities in Civic Life)

2 Cooperation from Local Governments and Other Relevant Organizations for the SDF

(1) Recruitment of Uniformed SDF Personnel and Cooperation with Re-employment Support

Amid the harsh recruitment and employment situation, the cooperation from local governments and relevant

organizations is vital to secure highly qualified personnel and to support the re-employment of uniformed SDF personnel who retire at relatively young ages.

¹ "The Contract Basic Policy of the Government regarding Small and Medium Enterprises in FY2018" (Cabinet decision on September 7, 2018)

² For example, this is a method through which grouping of products, etc. takes place when putting up the order for general competitive bidding, and then a successful bidder for the groups is decided.

³ This means that out of the bidding participation eligibility categorized into grade A-D, there is competition between grade C or D only, which comprise mostly small and medium enterprises.

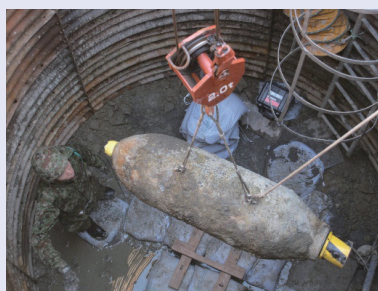
Column**“Disposal of Unexploded Ordnance” Contributing to Safety and Security of People**

Even today, more than 70 years after World War II, unexploded ordnance, mainly dropped before and during the war, are found across Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Every time, the SDF disposes the ordnance at the request of the local authority.

In FY2019, the SDF disposed approximately 33 tons of ordnance in 1,441 operations. The number of ordnance found in Okinawa Prefecture is prominent: approximately 18 tons of ordnance of 529 operations were disposed in the fiscal year. They account for over one third of all ordnance found in Japan.



Removing a fuse by hand



Collecting neutralized ordnance



Bringing to a storage for unexploded ordnance

For this reason, the 101st Ordnance Disposal Unit in the GSDF Camp Naha goes into action day and night, sometimes more than five times a day. The unit removes fuses by hand and collects unexploded ordnance to make them safe, thereby contributing to the safety and security of people.

Ordnance disposal is a precarious mission, but ordnance disposal units across the country will continue to carry out their mission for residents.

(2) Support for and Cooperation with SDF Activities

The SDF camps and bases maintain close relations with local communities, and therefore, various forms of support and cooperation from the local community are indispensable for the SDF to conduct its diverse activities, including education and training, and disaster relief. Moreover, units dispatched

overseas for international peace cooperation operations and other duties receive support and cooperation from the relevant organizations for the procedures involved.

The MOD/SDF are further strengthening cooperation with relevant entities such as local governments, police and fire services in order to ensure immediate and sure activities by the SDF in various contingencies.

3 Activities for Securing Understanding and Cooperation of Municipal Governments and Local Residents.....

Regional Defense Bureaus established in eight locations nationwide make efforts to build cooperative relationships with their respective local communities, through collaboration with SDF units and Provincial Cooperation Offices. In FY2019 the bureaus provided local communities with explanations on a variety of training including Japan-U.S. joint training, development of SDF facilities on Mageshima, and plan to deploy Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) V-22 Ospreys at KYUSHU-SAGA International AIRPORT.

Also, the bureaus conducted liaison and coordination with local governments in response to typhoon, heavy rain and other disasters. They also implemented measures to promote understanding of the defense policy in general by holding 16 seminars on defense issues and providing all prefectures and municipalities with explanations on the defense white paper, for example.

 Fig. IV-5-1-1 (Work to Develop Regional Cooperation)

4 Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas.....**1 Features of Defense Facilities and Projects on Measures Aimed at the Areas Around Defense Facilities**

Defense facilities are diverse in their use, and often require

large volumes of land. In addition, as of January 1, 2020, approx. 28% of the land area of the facilities and areas (for exclusive use) of the USFJ is jointly used by the SDF in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement,

Fig. IV-5-1-1

Work to Develop Regional Cooperation

1 Measures concerning coordination with local governments for smoothly implementing projects

Coordination with local governments regarding the reorganization, etc. of SDF units and training, etc. of the U.S. Forces

2 Measures concerning responses to incidents and accidents wherein the SDF, etc. are involved

Required cooperation in collaboration with the SDF, etc., such as information provision to local governments

3 Measures for the purpose of taking effective actions for various contingencies

Required support for those such as SDF units and local governments under large-scale disasters or other events and participation in training

4 Measures with the aim of obtaining understanding of the defense policy in general

Holding of sessions to explain the content of Defense of Japan and seminars on defense issues, targeting local governments and residents

with the purpose to enhance the diversity and efficiency of Japan-U.S. bilateral training and exercises. Meanwhile, problems related to restricted establishment and operations of defense facilities have emerged due to the urbanization of areas around many of the defense facilities. Also, another problem is that frequent aircraft operations such as takeoffs and landings cause noise and other issues, impacting the living environment of local residential communities.

With that being said, defense facilities, as the foundation that supports the defense capabilities of Japan and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, are indispensable for our country's security. Therefore, in order for the facilities to exert their full function, it is necessary to maintain conditions for constant and stable utilization by ensuring harmony between the defense facilities and the surrounding areas as well as obtaining the understanding and cooperation of the local residents.

For that purpose, the MOD has taken measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate aircraft noise and other impacts caused by activities of the SDF or the U.S. Forces, or by the establishment/operation of airports and other defense facilities in the surrounding areas since 1974 based on the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Act).

Taking into consideration the requests from the relevant local governments, the MOD partially revised the Living Environment Improvement Act in 2011, and conducted a review to enable the Specified Defense Facilities Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants to be applied to so-called soft projects, such as aid for medical expenses. In addition, the MOD added defense facilities to be eligible for these grants. Focused work is also underway to provide sound

insulation at residences.

Regarding the Specified Defense Facilities Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants, the MOD has implemented initiatives such as the PDCA Cycle process since April 2014, aiming to increase the effectiveness of these grants.

In response to the requests by related local governments, the MOD continues to consider practical ways to achieve more effective and efficient measures to harmonize defense facilities and surrounding areas, in light of the severe fiscal situation.



Fig. IV-5-1-2 (Status of SDF Facilities [Land Plots])

Fig. IV-5-1-3 (Status of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan [Exclusively Used Facilities])

Fig. IV-5-1-4 (Costs for Measures in Areas near Bases [Based on Contracts in FY2020])

2 Efforts to Develop Understanding and Cooperation Concerning the Stationing of the USFJ

Amid the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, maintaining the presence of the USFJ and its readiness is vitally important for ensuring the security of Japan. For stable stationing of the USFJ, it is essential to obtain understanding and cooperation of the local governments and residents in the vicinities of U.S. bases. The MOD will work to share this recognition with the United States at various levels including the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting. The ministry will also constantly take various measures, including coordination for unit operation of the USFJ with the local governments and other parties, provision of subsidies pertaining to the USFJ realignment, prompt information provision to the local government in a case of incident or accidents, and exchange promotion between the USFJ and local residents.

Fig. IV-5-1-2 Status of SDF Facilities (Land Plots)

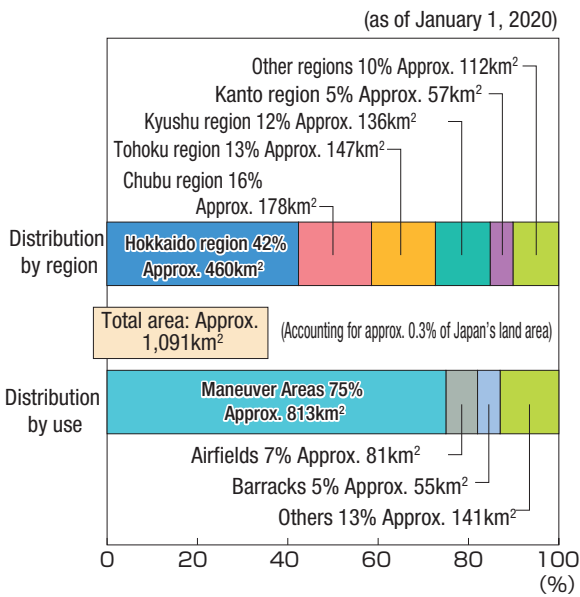
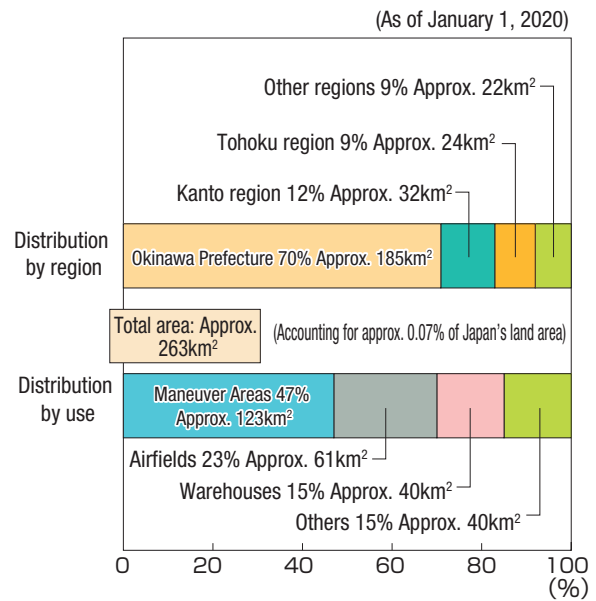


Fig. IV-5-1-3 Status of Facilities and Areas of U.S. Forces in Japan (Exclusively Used Facilities)



(1) Coordination for Unit Operation of the USFJ with the Local Governments, etc.

The MOD is working to promote local understanding of the maintenance of USFJ facilities and unit operations through coordination, including prior explanation to the relevant local municipalities and residents at every occasion of USFJ realignment, training, unit deployment, new equipment deployment, etc.

(2) Subsidy, etc. to Promote the USFJ Realignment

During a period of time before and after the implementation of the USFJ realignment⁴ (10 years in principle), realignment subsidies⁵ will be granted to help to cover the expenses of projects⁶ which contribute to improving the convenience of the lives of residents in local municipalities affected by the realignment, and to stimulating the local industries. For that purpose, they will be granted in accordance with progress made in the steps of the realignment, after the Defense Minister designates the specified defense facilities and neighboring municipalities affected by the realignment. As of April 2020, 14 municipalities for nine defense facilities are eligible to receive the subsidies. In order to promote the realignment, additional measures are taken with budgetary provision.

Q See Reference 60 (Outline of Measures to Promote Harmony between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas)

Fig. IV-5-1-4 Costs for Measures in Areas near Bases (Based on Contracts in FY2020)

(Unit: 100 million yen)

Project	Mainland	Okinawa
Disturbance prevention projects	92	17
Noise prevention projects	565	189
Measures related to relocations	49	1
Subsidized projects for stabilizing people's lives	262	61
Road improvement projects	62	15
Enviroments Improvement Adjustment Grants	194	34
Other projects	14	3

(3) Ensuring Safety of Operations of the USFJ

Ensuring the safety of local residents is of prime importance in USFJ operations, and no accident or incident must occur. In the event of a crash, component fall/loss, precautionary landing on civilian airports,⁷ etc. of U.S. Forces aircraft, the MOD urges the United States to make exhaustive measures for safety management and recurrence prevention as well as prompt information provision. The ministry also requests measures such as suspension of flying according to the individual case. The MOD promptly provides the relevant local governments, etc. with explanation of the obtained information and takes measures to ensure prompt and appropriate compensation for the damage caused by the incident or accident.

⁴ Under the Realignment Special Measures Act, changes in the composition of units of those naval vessels (replacement of the aircraft carrier, at Commander Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, with a nuclear aircraft carrier) that conduct operations integrally with U.S. air wings subject to realignment will be treated in the same way as the realignment of the USFJ.

⁵ Approximately 5.7 billion yen in the FY2020 budget

⁶ The specific scope of projects includes 14 projects identified by Article 2 of the enforcement ordinance of the Act on Special Measures on Smooth Implementation of the Realignment of United States Forces in Japan, including education, sports, and cultural projects.

⁷ Landing when the pilot, etc. detects a sign of abnormality in the aircraft while flying

The MOD not only listens to the results of accident investigation and recurrence prevention measures of the United States but also uses expert knowledge of the SDF to determine their reasonableness. Furthermore, in July 2019, another effort was made by revising the guidelines concerning aircraft accidents in order to further refine the applicable policies and procedures in case of an accident caused by U.S. military aircraft accidents outside of U.S. Forces facilities and areas in Japan.

Considering anxiety and concerns among local residents, Japan has been fully communicating its approach to the U.S. side including at the top and ministerial levels. The two countries closely cooperate to secure safe operation as the top priority. The MOD is also concerned about the increasing trend of accidents/incidents due to drinking caused by U.S. Forces military personnel and others and has requested the U.S. side on multiple occasions to reinforce official discipline and personnel education. The United States has also taken measures for its part, putting in place its guidelines for off-duty action (liberty policy), including measures such as alcohol restrictions at nighttime as well as curfews applying to U.S. Forces personnel ranked below a certain rank. Both the countries will continue cooperation to prevent recurrence of incidents related to drinking.

In addition, the Government of Japan prepared Crime Prevention Measures in Okinawa in June 2016 to deter crime in Okinawa Prefecture and ensure the safety and security of the people of Okinawa. Bolstering crime prevention patrol operations and establishing a safe and secure environment are the pillars of the Measures. The MOD is participating in the Okinawa Local Safety Patrol Corps established in the Okinawa General Bureau and will continue to cooperate with the relevant ministries and agencies to make it an effective crime-prevention effort.

(4) Promoting Exchange between the USFJ and Local Residents

The MOD holds a Japan-U.S. exchange program to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and the United States with the understanding and cooperation of the local governments and USFJ. Under the program, residents living near USFJ facilities and areas together with USFJ personnel enjoy sports, music and cultural exchanges.

The USFJ also has initiatives to deepen mutual understanding with people of the local communities, which include opening up of its bases (Friendship day) and information provision through websites and social media.

(5) Other Measures (Including Measures Pertaining to the SDF)

(1) Compensation for Fisheries

The MOD defines the confined water for training, etc. carried out by the SDF or the USFJ using water surface

based on laws (Article 105-1 of the Self-Defense Forces Law or Article 1 of the Act to Restrict the Operation of Fishing Boats) or a contract and compensates for losses incurred from the restriction.

As an administrative measure to help people who suffered losses in their fishery operation due to the restriction or prohibition based on the provisions of the acts but cannot receive compensation under the provisions of the acts, the MOD provides relief money to people who satisfy certain requirements.

(2) Base Subsidy, etc.

The MOD provides cooperation by doing such things as providing various information also for the subsidy for municipalities where national defense facilities are located (“Base Subsidy”), and the Adjustment Grants for municipalities where defense facilities are located (“Adjustment Grants”), both of which are under the defense facilities-related subsidy system under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The base subsidy has been established considering that, among the facilities of the U.S. forces or the facilities used by the SDF, the land used for airports and maneuvering grounds covers a vast area that is a big part of the municipality area, which has a significant impact on municipal finance. The subsidy has a nature of substituting for fixed property tax and is granted to municipalities where national properties (land, building and structure) provided for use by the USFJ or the SDF are located.

The Adjustment Grants have been established because the Base Subsidy is not granted to municipalities where properties constructed or set up by the U.S. forces (“USFJ properties”) are located despite their exemption from fixed asset tax, and also considering the tax-fiscal impact of the municipal tax exemption for U.S. Force personnel and civilian employees. The grant is provided to municipalities where the U.S. Force property is located.

3 Activities of the MOD for Coexistence with the Environment and Society

A sense of crisis regarding the sustainability of the global environment has been mounting internationally. In 2015 countries around the world advanced initiatives, such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations and the Paris Agreement, which is an international framework concerning climate change. Marine plastic pollution and climate change were important topics at the G20 Summit held in Osaka in June 2019. Just before the

summit, the first Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth was held with the attendance of relevant ministers of the participating countries. Japan also formulated the Fifth Basic Environment Plan at the cabinet in 2018 and has been working to realize a sustainable society. At the SDG Summit in September 2019, Prime Minister Abe expressed the intention to further accelerate initiatives in Japan and abroad by the next SDG Summit. In response to the acceleration of domestic and overseas initiatives, as a member of the government, the MOD also needs to contribute to solving environmental problems, while at the same time implementing measures with more focus on the coexistence of SDF/USFJ facilities and areas with surrounding areas.

(1) Efforts Related to the MOD/SDF Facilities

(1) Banning the Use of Plastic Bags

In order to take the initiative in the environmental measures of the government, the use of plastic bags was banned in Ichigaya District with the cooperation of shops, etc. on January 20, 2020. The MOD/SDF will ban the use of plastic bags also in other bases and camps where cooperation of shops is obtained to extend the ban across the country.

(2) Review of Electric Power Procurement

From the standpoint of the MOD/SDF, which has 250,000 members and operates facilities throughout the country, the problem of climate change is not an affair that concerns only other people. For procurement of electric power in FY2020, the MOD/SDF will review necessary electric power procurement in order to use renewable energy as much as possible after ensuring competitiveness, low price and stable supply, and plans to procure approx. 9,100 kWh electric power from renewable energy sources in the total of 151 facilities, etc. (on a contract basis) across the country.

(2) Efforts on the USFJ Facilities and Areas

(1) Efforts Related to Environmental Conservation

For activities of the U.S. Forces in USFJ facilities and areas, the USFJ developed Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS),⁸ which provides that generally the strictest regulation shall be adopted among environmental preservation regulations of Japan, the United States and international commitment. At the “2+2” Meeting in September 2000, based on the recognition that environmental conservation is important, the governments of both nations agreed to make it a common


objective to ensure the health and safety of residents in the vicinity of USFJ facilities and areas, U.S. Forces personnel, their families and other such parties, and made the “Joint Statement of Environmental Principles.”⁹ To follow up on this announcement, Japan-U.S. consultations have been enhanced. The MOD has been working with relevant ministries and agencies to enhance cooperation for regular reviews of the JEGS compiled by the USFJ, exchange information on the environment, and deal with environmental pollution.

Furthermore, on September 28, 2015, the Governments of Japan and the United States signed and effectuated the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship relating to the USFJ, supplementary to the Status of U.S. Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the aim of strengthening environmental measures pertaining to USFJ facilities and areas. This supplementary agreement represents an international commitment with legal binding force and sets forth provisions concerning information sharing by the two countries, access to USFJ facilities and areas based on the report by the U.S. side at the time of an environmental accident and access to facilities and areas for investigation before their return.

In April 2020, in order to address an aqueous film-forming foam spill incident that occurred at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma, access to MCAS Futenma pursuant to the Supplementary Agreement by the Government of Japan and the relevant local governments has been realized for the first time. The MOD will continue to cooperate closely with the relevant ministries, local governments, and the U.S. Government to address the concerns of local residents.

(2) Efforts to Save Utilities

In USFJ facilities and areas, efforts are made to save utilities, which include changes to energy-efficient heating/ventilation/air-conditioning equipment; installation of motion sensors for lights-out during absence; installation of solar panels; reduction of the period to use cooling/heating equipment and review of the preset temperature; and control of lighting and lights-out for night lighting, for example.

 **Q See** Column (Addressing Issues of the PFOS and other compounds)

⁸ JEGS is the environmental standard compiled by the USFJ. In order to ensure that USFJ activities and installations protect human health and the natural environment and, it stipulates matters such as the handling and storage methods of environmental pollutants within the facilities and areas.

⁹ Consisting of four items: (1) environmental governing standards, (2) information sharing and access, (3) response to environmental contamination, and (4) environmental consultation.

Column

Addressing Issues of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and other organic fluorine compounds

PFOS, an organic fluorine compound, has a property of blending water and oil. In the past, PFOS was widely used for surface treatment agent in the semiconductor industry, aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) and other purposes. However, because it is hardly decomposed, and has a risk of negative effects through accumulation in the human body and environment, it was designated as a substance to be restricted by the POPs Convention (*1) in 2009 and the Chemical Substances Control Law (*2) in 2010. Further, last year, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), another organic fluorine compound, became regulated under the POPs Convention. The regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which is a generic name of organic fluorine compounds, is also under international discussion.

In Japan, a high concentration of PFOS/PFOA is detected in various rivers across the country. In response to increasing public anxiety, the government as a whole is taking measures. Specifically, relevant ministries set provisional target values for tap water and water environments. The MOD formulated a plan to accelerate the replacement and disposal of AFFF containing PFOS in February this year with the aim of promoting understanding and ensuring trust of the local communities, which are essential for the stable operation of the SDF. The plan intends to complete disposal by the end of the next fiscal year for SDF facilities, and by the end of FY2023 for SDF vessels, in principle.

The United States Government is also studying the issue under numerous efforts, such as a report by a task force of the Department of Defense, which was issued in March this year. Under the initiative of Minister of Defense Kono and Secretary of Defense Esper, discussions at various levels are underway on Japan-U.S. cooperation, including actions concerning the

U.S. Forces in Japan.

Under such circumstances, the occurrence of a large-scale aqueous film-forming foam spill incident at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma in April 2020 was deplorable. The MOD conducted cleaning and surveyed the status of contamination at nearby daycare centers and rivers outside the air station, and accessed MCAS Futenma under the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship for the first time upon an environmental accident. Access to MCAS Futenma was conducted five times in total to take samples of water and soil. In this manner, the MOD addressed the incident in collaboration with relevant ministries, local governments, and the U.S. Government. Based on all these initiatives in Japan and abroad, the MOD will continue efforts to eliminate the concerns of local residents over the issues concerning PFOS and other compounds in close coordination with relevant ministries, local governments, and the U.S. Government in order to dispel public anxiety.

*1 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

*2 Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc.



Status of splitting soil samples

5 Participation in National Events

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

At the Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi (Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden [State Hall]), the GSDF fired salutes in the Kita-no-maru area of the Outer Gardens of the Imperial Palace. At the

celebration parade in November of the same year, the GSDF, Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF), Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF), the National Defense Academy and National Defense Medical College conducted guards of honor, playing music and lining up. In addition to the members who were assigned to these duties, many other members participated in the event, including preparation for the implementation by the SDF.

VOICE

Participating in a National Event (Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi, Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden [State Hall])

Captain KODAMA Yoshinobu,
Company Commander, 1st Field Artillery Unit,
GSDF (Oshino Village, Minamitsuru County, Yamanashi Prefecture)
I received an order to participate in the Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi
as the salute company commander from the commander of
the 1st Field Artillery Unit (salute commander) in summer last
year. I felt almost inexpressible elation and a sense of tension
to be involved in the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty
the Emperor.

A gun salute is not a simple firing of blank shots. It is an
extremely difficult mission to synchronize the sound of the
firing of 21 salutes in Kitanomaru park with the banzai (hail)
by the Prime Minister in the Imperial Palace about 850m away
from the park, at five-second intervals and with no misfire. It

is most important to time the firing with consideration of the
sound propagation velocity.

The difficult mission required hard training. However, the
members were enthusiastic about the training and dedicated
all their time for this mission until the actual performance. I
think they were able to maintain this level of concentration,
not because of my leadership, but thanks to their sense of
mission. This was a very significant mission that made me
feel the power of pursuing one goal with a sense of mission. I
deeply appreciate the fact that I belonged to the 1st Field
Artillery Unit with the salute mission in Camp Kitafuji and that
I was assigned to the mission.



The salute company carrying out blank shot firing in Kitanomaru Park



The author commanding the salute company (third from the right)

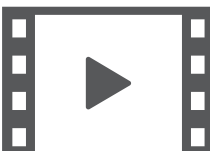
6 Activities for Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

1 Cooperation by the SDF in Past Olympic Games and Performance of SDF Athletes (since the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games)

At the opening ceremony of the 18th Olympic Games held
in Tokyo in 1964, Blue Impulse aircraft drew grand Olympic
rings in the sky of Tokyo, the SDF band played the Olympic
march and a fanfare, while students of the National Defense

Academy held up the placards of the participating countries.
Twenty-one SDF athletes participated in the games. Among
them MIYAKE Yoshinobu won the first place in weight lifting
and TSUBURAYA Kokichi became third in the marathon.

Since then, the SDF has participated in Olympic Games,
with SDF athletes winning eight gold medals, four silver
medals and eight bronze medals in total.



Video : Shukuga-Onretsu-no-gi (Imperial Procession by motorcar after the Enthronement Ceremony)

URL : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQYMP2kll8c>

2 Cooperation in Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

With the aim of strengthening efforts for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games (hereafter referred to as “Tokyo 2020 Games”), the MOD/SDF Special Action Committee on the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and Paralympics led by the Minister of Defense was set up in September 2013. At the first committee meeting, then Defense Minister Onodera explained the significance of the cooperation and participation of the MOD/SDF and stated

that SDF personnel would make full efforts for Japan’s security and work for successful games with the spirit that all SDF members were participants.

At the 12th committee meeting in December 2019, it was decided that the MOD/SDF would take security measures, including warning and surveillance of the sky and sea area of Japan, including the area around the venues, relief provisions for victims in an event of a large-scale terrorist attack, and response to cyber attacks. Regarding cooperation with game operations, including ceremonies, the MOD/SDF had been conducting coordination with the Tokyo Organising

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After the Ceremony to Receive the Olympic Flame

**Lieutenant Colonel FUKUDA Tetsuo,
Commander, 11th Squadron, Flight Group, 4th Air Wing,
ASDF (Higashi Matsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture)**

On March 20, 2020, when the sacred flame of the Tokyo Olympic Games arrived at Matsushima Airbase, Miyagi Prefecture, Blue Impulse, an acrobatic flight team, drew five-colored rings in the sky above Tohoku. The strong wind that forced the Tohoku Shinkansen to suspend service blew away the Olympic symbol we drew, but the people of Tohoku who looked up at the sky could clearly see five rings. As the commander, I am proud that not only pilots but also maintenance crew and others who supported the flight worked together to do the perfect job at the moment when Matsushima Airbase attracted worldwide attention.

Because we could not miss any of the five-colored rings during the ceremony, it was necessary to prepare a stand-by

aircraft and pilot for each color of smoke. We seriously trained pilots gathered from across the country so that all of them could ensure perfect performance.

The pilot who drew the yellow ring was from Yamada Town of Iwate Prefecture, which was badly affected by the tsunami of the Great East Japan Earthquake. With a determination to give a boost to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, a historic event that is a symbol of reconstruction, he flew in hopes that affected people would smile at the sight of the five rings.

The games have been postponed for one year. If I am given an opportunity to fly again, I will demonstrate the regained energy of Tohoku to the world and send the heartiest cheers from the sky so that athletes can exert all their strength.



Squadron Commander Lieutenant Colonel FUKUDA



Prior training (photograph by KUROSAWA Eisuke)



Video : Five-colored rings drawn by Blue Impulse at the Olympic Flame Arrival Ceremony
URL : https://twitter.com/ModJapan_jp/status/1240843368835375104?s=09

Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on cooperation items (Olympic flame arrival ceremony, hoisting of national and other flags, medical services at the venue for shooting sports, marine rescue in sailing, control in and outside of venues, and operation of archery, shooting and modern pentathlon) and decided to implement the items at

the official request of the organizing committee. In March 2020, the Tokyo 2020 Games was decided to be postponed and held in summer of 2021. The MOD/SDF will continue to cooperate with the organizing committee to prepare for the Games.

7 Other Initiatives

1 Response to Cases of Interference against SDF and U.S. Forces Aircraft by Laser Irradiation and Kite Flying

Cases of interference by laser irradiation and kite flying against the SDF and U.S. Forces aircraft in flight have been occurring frequently. These are extremely dangerous and malicious acts that may disrupt a pilot's ability to operate aircraft and result in a catastrophe such as a crash. Therefore, the MOD disseminates information regarding the risks involved in these acts to local residents by putting up posters and requests their cooperation in reporting to the police while closely cooperating with relevant local governments. Additionally, the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act was revised in December 2016, making these interference acts subject to regulation as well as fines and other penalties.

2 Response to Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Mainly Drones Flying over Defense Facilities and Surrounding Airspace

In recent years there have been terror attacks overseas (including attempted ones) using small drones, including commercial drones, some of which are targeted at military facilities. Given such a situation, there is a concern that drone terror attacks on the SDF/USFJ facilities and areas can also happen in Japan, and if these facilities are endangered, the function as foundations to defend our nation can be seriously affected. To address such a concern, the Act on Prohibition of Flight of UASs around and over Key Facilities commonly known as the "Drone Act" was enforced on June 13, 2019, to prohibit small drones from flying over the SDF/USFJ facilities and areas designated by the Minister of Defense. Currently 27 SDF facilities where major SDF Headquarters, etc. are located are designated for the prohibition.



Reference 61 (a list of the defense-related facilities designated under the Drone Act)

Column

The Drone Act

Based on the Drone Act, drone flights are prohibited over and within approximately 300 meters of the premises or areas of the SDF/USFJ facilities and areas that are designated by the Minister of Defense.

See Reference 61 (a list of the defense-related facilities designated under the Drone Act)

However, flights may be permitted when consent has been obtained from the administrator of the defense-related facilities or in other cases cited below (*):

- Flights over the designated defense-related facilities : When consent has been obtained from the administrators of the defense-related facilities.
- Flights over the surrounding areas within approximately 300 meters of the designated defense-related facilities: When consent has been obtained from the administrators of the defense-related facilities, when consent has been obtained from those who own or occupy the areas, or when the flights are operated by the central or local governments for the purpose of performing public services.

* In either of the above cases, a prior notice to the relevant prefectural public safety commissions is also necessary. The details of the procedures are available on the MOD website.

Illegal flights of drones may be subject to the following measures:

- Measures to secure safety, including interfering against flights and destroying devices, may be implemented when an instruction for the discontinuation of the flights issued by police officers has not been followed.
- Offenders may be punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.

The advent of drones has made it possible for anyone to easily enjoy taking aerial video and photographs. However, contrary to their convenience, drones pose various potential risks, and in order to reduce the risks, various rules have been set. Before flying drones, the users should check on the regulations under the Drone Act in addition to the Civil Aeronautics Act.

Scan this to access the website of the MOD. →



ドローンの規制についてのお知らせ

小型無人機等飛行禁止法により指定されている
自衛隊施設／米軍施設その周辺地域（周囲約300m）
の上空におけるドローン等の飛行は、
原則として禁止されています。

これに違反した場合、次のような措置／罰則もあります。

- 警察官等による安全確保措置
- 最大懲役1年／罰金50万円

Drone Regulation Notice

Drone flights are prohibited over and within approx. 300-meter radius of the designated Self-Defense Forces /U.S. Forces facilities under the Act on Prohibition of Flight of sUAS(Drones).

If a person illegally flies drones,

police officers, etc. may take necessary measures for security.

The person may be punished by the Government of Japan by imprisonment of up to one year or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.

周囲おおむね300mの
地域の上空
(イエロー・ゾーン)

自衛隊施設／米軍施設の
敷地・区域の上空
(レッド・ゾーン)



ドローン使用禁止
NO DRONE ZONE

約300m

※ このほか、航空法上の無人航空機の飛行禁止空域においてドローン等を飛行させる場合、夜間にドローン等を飛行させる場合等には、別途、国土交通大臣の許可又は承認を得る必要があります。

対象防衛関係施設および飛行をさせたい場合の手続の詳細については、防衛省HPをご参照ください。
<https://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/chouwa/drone/index.html>



防衛省・警察庁・外務省・国土交通省

A poster intended to raise public awareness about the regulation on drones.