Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center

Joint Staff College, Ministry of Defense
What is the JPC?

In March 2010 the Japan Peacekeeping Training and Research Center (JPC) was established in Meguro under the Japan Joint Staff College, aimed at conducting education, training and research related to international peace cooperation activities. The JPC is the sole institution in the Ministry of Defense (MOD) which accepts officers and civilian personnel from foreign militaries and non-MOD/SDF ministries to its courses.

In September 2016, upon completion of the new office building, the JPC was relocated to Ichigaya, the central office area of the MOD. Under the new work environment, the JPC continues to make efforts to further develop its education and training.

Outline & History of UN Peacekeeping Operations

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) are carried out by the United Nations as a way to maintain peace in the world’s regions of conflicts. Including those already completed, more than fifty PKO missions have been conducted so far, and PKO have become regarded as one of the most important missions of the United Nations in recent years.

A typical UN PKO mission in an early stage, so-called traditional PKO, was that the United Nations dispatched units or ceasefire monitors to the countries directly concerned after a ceasefire agreement had been reached through mediation by the United Nations, etc., for the purpose of maintaining and securing the state.

However, specifically since the end of the Cold War, with ethnic conflicts and domestic problems becoming apparent, most of the conflicts which call for the international community’s response have changed their forms from the inter-state type to the intra-state or the combination of the intra-state and international types. Consequently, the main actors of PKO have shifted from military alone to the complex of military, police and civil/private sectors. In addition to ceasefire monitoring, PKO missions have become more complex and multi-functional in parallel covering more wide-ranging and complicated operations such as providing assistance in development of the political process, protection of civilians, elections, human rights and rule of law.
Japan’s Efforts in UN Peacekeeping Operations

In 1992, the International Peace Cooperation Law, so-called PKO Law, was enacted and Japan subsequently dispatched ceasefire monitors and GSDF engineer units to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as the first participation in PKO. Since then, Japan has sent SDF units and HQ personnel to such operations as the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Currently both SDF personnel to serve in the HQ and engineer units are assigned to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Those SDF units deployed are expected to make contributions to the development on South Sudan’s own initiative, and work in concert with ODA and NGOs on engineering activities such as maintenance on the UN facilities, repair of roads and land clearing for international organizations.

Background of Establishment of the JPC

Compared with the time when a framework for dispatching SDF units to PKO was created in 1992, knowledge and skills required of personnel to be dispatched have become more advanced and professional as PKO missions are getting more complex and wide-ranging.

With international peace cooperation activities having been stipulated as one of the SDF’s primary missions in 2007, the International Peacekeeping and Training Center (JPC) was established in 2010 under the Joint Staff College to provide education and training which meets the increasing need for preparing SDF personnel for more complex PKO.
Training Courses Run by the JPC

The main courses run by the JPC are as follows:

★ Contingent Commanders’ Course / UN Staff Officers’ Course
Such instructors as retired officers from foreign militaries, who have actual experience in joining PKO or working in the UN Department of PKO and are now working actively as experts of PKO training, and those who used to be involved in NGO activities have been invited to provide students with practical training. The language used in the classroom for lectures, discussions and presentations is English to bring the setting and the environment closer to the real world.
Also, education on the knowledge necessary to act in accordance with relevant regulations peculiar to Japan is included in the course curriculum.

★ Basic Course
The course is designed to provide the basic knowledge of international peace cooperation activities with focus on UN PKO and relevant regulations peculiar to Japan for those engaged in education and training on international peace cooperation activities at SDF schools as well as staff members assigned to the HQs at various levels of SDF.

Outline of Training Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Contingent Commanders’ Course</th>
<th>UN Staff Officers’ Course</th>
<th>Basic Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>To acquire knowledge and skills required to assume a leadership position of the contingent commander level in international peace cooperation activities</td>
<td>To acquire knowledge and skills required to function as a staff officer of the Contingent HQ in international peace cooperation activities</td>
<td>To acquire knowledge required to engage in a practical work for international peace cooperation activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>O-6/O-5</td>
<td>O-5/O-4</td>
<td>O-4/O-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>3.5 weeks</td>
<td>1 week (twice a year)</td>
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The Contingent Commanders’ Course and the UN Staff Officers’ Course are open not only to MOD/SDF personnel but also to officials of the related ministries and officers from foreign militaries.

*Records of Participation from External Organizations and Foreign Countries (as of 31 March 2017)
Japan: Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Overseas: Australia, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, New Zealand, ROK, Singapore, Thailand, UK, US, Vietnam
Research Activities
In addition to training activities, the JPC makes efforts in promoting cooperation and interactions extensively with research institutes both inside and outside the country. As a part of such efforts, the JPC holds a symposium once a year, inviting experts in the field within and outside the MOD/SDF. By putting the research outcomes on the JPC’s website, the JPC is actively providing its products.

Participation in International Meetings
The JPC makes continuous efforts in improving its training and research by collecting information and exchanging views through active participation in world-wide annual meetings where representatives of foreign institutions engaged in education and research on peacebuilding discuss how to improve international peace cooperation activities as well as in regional meetings where instructors and researchers from PKO centers in Asia-Pacific countries discuss the measures for capacity building necessary for undertaking PKO.

Development of Human Resources through Education and Training
The JPC includes counter-piracy operations, international disaster relief activities, etc. in the objects of its training and research activities. By providing knowledge on the frameworks, supporting laws, points of concern, and so on for those activities, the JPC aims at developing personnel who can make more substantial international contributions. Also, upon request by SDF units and related organizations, the JPC dispatches research officers as instructors with a view to diffusing knowledge and sharing experience on international peace cooperation activities.
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