



Fukushiro Nukaga

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States demonstrated that, in addition to such traditional problems as interstate military confrontations, nonstate actors, such as international terrorist organizations, have emerged as a dire threat in today's security environment. The international community is facing diverse contingencies and urgent new threats to peace and security, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles as well as international terrorist activities.

News Flashes

Upon the Launch of *Japan Defense Focus*

In this new security environment, Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF), on the basis of the plans articulated in the new National Defense Program Guidelines drawn up at the end of 2004, are putting in place structures to enable them to respond effectively to new threats and diverse contingencies, including ballistic-missile attacks, attacks by guerrillas and special-operation forces, and large-scale and special disasters, while preparing to deal with full-scale invasion. At the same time, from the viewpoint of a peace-supporting nation valuing cooperation with the international community and striving to improve the security environment, the SDF are engaging proactively and on their own initiative in international peace cooperation activities.

Moreover, at the end of March this year the SDF will switch to a new joint operations system in order to respond more swiftly and effectively to the new threats and diverse contingencies mentioned above.

At this time of major change for the SDF, we have decided to publish *Japan Defense Focus* quarterly in order to enhance understanding overseas of Japan's defense policy and of the SDF's diversifying activities both at home and abroad. We also believe that this is highly significant in terms of heightening the transparency of Japan's defense policy and deepening other countries' understanding of and trust in Japan. We hope that *Japan Defense Focus* will enjoy a large and growing readership. ■

Fukushiro Nukaga

Minister of State for Defense

Minister's Visit to UK, Russia, US

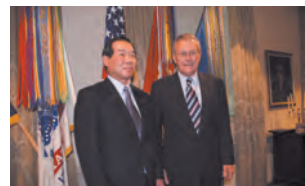
Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited the United Kingdom, Russia, and the United States January 10–19 this year. He conferred with defense ministers and other government figures in each country. ■



UK Defense Secretary John Reid



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov



US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

Topics

Tenth Anniversary of UNDOF Participation

February this year marked the tenth anniversary of SDF participation in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), deployed in the Golan Heights of southwestern Syria. UNDOF was set up on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 350 to observe the cease-fire and disen-



Transport operation in the Golan Heights

gagement of troops along the Israel-Syria border. Since January 1996 Japan has dispatched a total of about 900 SDF personnel to the Golan Heights to provide logistic support to UNDOF. ■



① Chief of Staff Tsutomu Mori in TV conference with locals
② Logistics training
③ Japanese ambassador addressing UNDOF personnel at anniversary ceremony



Two Years of Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq



Interacting with children

Two years have passed since the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) initiated humanitarian and reconstruction assistance

activities in and around Samawah, in southern Iraq, in February 2004.



Bricklaying

So far GSDF personnel have undertaken about 120 projects. At present they are engaged chiefly in improving the water supply network and building up a medical network in the Samawah area. The motto guiding all GSDF recon-

struction assistance activities in Iraq is “View things through the eyes of the Iraqi people.” ■



GSDF group chief chatting with a schoolgirl

Work meeting



Disaster Relief for Snow-Affected Regions of Japan



2nd Regiment at work, Myoko City

This winter, starting in December 2005, parts of northern Japan experienced record-breaking snowfalls. Locally based SDF teams were sent to Hokkaido and the Tohoku and Joetsu regions to



21st Regiment clearing snow, Akita City

provide relief to residents. SDF activities ranged from helping

elderly people living alone remove snow from the roofs



21st Regiment, Akita City

to airlifting supplies to communities cut off by heavy snow. The relief activities covered 20 days altogether and involved a total of about 4,200 personnel. ■

Country Support

Report on the Pakistan International Emergency Relief Unit

The devastating earthquake that shook Pakistan on October 8, 2005, left more than 70,000 people dead and more than 80,000 injured, according to Pakistan government figures. Immediately after the disaster, countries around the world rushed to provide assistance. The government of Japan, too, initiated aid activities, mobilizing supplies, personnel, and funds. The SDF put together the International Relief Airborne Unit for Pakistan. Air Self-Defense Force C-130 transport planes carrying Ground Self-Defense Force UH-1 multiuse helicopters flew to Pakistan and transported emergency relief supplies and relief-activity personnel to the disaster area.

A high-level mission, involving

as it did the use of helicopters in rugged mountains 3,000 meters or so above sea level, was required. Thanks to the advanced skills of the unit



Meeting with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan

members and their collaboration with international organizations and the



SDF personnel helping victims

Pakistan military, the unit accomplished its duties safely. In the course of the mission six UH-1 multiuse helicopters transported about 40 tons of tents, blankets, and other relief supplies

as well as some 720 relief-activity personnel without mishap. ■



SDF personnel unloading relief supplies



JDA Information Data File JDA Information

Fiscal Year 2006 Draft Defense Budget

The draft defense budget for fiscal year 2006 (April 2006 –March 2007) is now under deliberation in the National Diet. Underpinning the draft budget are the basic principles of responding to new threats and diverse contingencies, valuing initiatives in international peace cooperation activities, guaranteeing citizens' safety and peace of mind, and working for the further stabilization of the international security environment.

Defense Budget for Fiscal Year 2006

(¥ billion)

Defense-related expenditures	FY 2006	Change from FY 2005
Personnel and provisions expenses	2,133.7 (44.5%)	-22.5 (-1.0%)
Obligatory outlay expenses	1,743.9 (36.4%)	7.7 (0.4%)
General material expenses	913.1 (19.1%)	-24.6 (-2.6%)
Total	4,790.6 (100.0%)	-39.4 (-0.8%)



Spotlight

Interview with Joint Staff Office Chief of Staff Hajime Massaki

What is the reason for shifting the SDF to a new joint operations system?

Under the present system, basically each service of the SDF carries out operations independently, coordinating operations when necessary. And the chief of staff of each service assists the minister of state for defense separately. There are three reasons for the shift to a new posture for joint operations.

The first reason is swift and effective response through unified operations by the Ground, Maritime, and Air SDF. It is necessary to establish a joint operations system enabling the SDF to collaborate flexibly and perform their duties swiftly and effectively while conditions are normal. We also believe this change is essential in order to maximize utilization of advancing military technology.

Second, unification of assistance to the minister from the viewpoint of military expertise is necessary in order to respond swiftly and effec-

tively to full-spectrum situations. Third, smooth conduct of bilateral actions with the US military based on joint operations are extremely important for Japan, whose security policy is grounded in the Japan-US security arrangements, and improving the efficiency of such actions is required.

What is the concept behind the new joint operations system?

The chief of staff, Joint Staff Office (JSO) who will head the JSO, will draw up a unified operational concept including the Ground, Maritime, and Air SDF and provide unified assistance to the minister of state for defense from the viewpoint of military expertise regarding SDF operations. In addition, the minister will exercise command through the chief of staff, JSO, who will execute the minister's orders regarding SDF operations.

In the future, it is anticipated that the kinds of contingencies to which the SDF have to respond will occur suddenly and may escalate rapidly.



Hajime Massaki

Under the new system we aspire to respond more swiftly and effectively to full-spectrum situations.

What is the resolve behind the initiative to create a new system?

In making the shift to the new joint operations posture, we are going to build a joint operations posture suited to Japan's culture and traditions, and one for which the SDF are uniquely adapted. In undertaking this major reform, we will do our best to create a joint operations posture that will build confidence while making the most of the special qualities of the Ground, Maritime, and Air SDF. As a renewed SDF, we will endeavor to make the new posture an ideal one by constantly refining it. ■

Information

<<< URLs for the Defense Agency and SDF-Related Organizations <<<

- Japan Defense Agency (<http://www.jda.go.jp/>); e-mail: infojda@jda.go.jp
- Defense Facilities Administration Agency (<http://www.dfaa.go.jp/>)
- Ground Self-Defense Force (<http://www.jda.go.jp/jgsdf/>)
- Maritime Self-Defense Force (<http://www.jda.go.jp/JMSDF/>)
- Air Self-Defense Force (<http://www.jda.go.jp/jasdf/>)

- Technical Research and Development Institute (<http://www.jda-trdi.go.jp/>)
- National Institute for Defense Studies (<http://www.nids.go.jp/>)
- Central Contract Office (<http://www.jda-cco.go.jp/>)
- National Defense Academy (<http://www.nda.ac.jp/index-j.html>)
- National Defense Medical College (<http://www.ndmc.ac.jp/>)



Headquarters of the Japan Defense Agency in Ichigaya, Tokyo

5-1, Ichigaya Honmura-cho
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8801, Japan
Tel: 81-3-3268-3111

**Published by the
Public Information
Division, Office of
the Secretary of
the Japan Defense
Agency**