

Section 2. Promotion of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

The new National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) says making independent and proactive efforts to help improve an international security environment should be regarded as a major role to be played by defense capability. Based on the idea, the Ministry of Defense and the SDF have been promoting security dialogue and defense exchanges, including bilateral and multilateral training, in addition to participation in international peace cooperation activities.

This section will describe efforts being made by the Ministry of Defense and the SDF to promote security dialogue and defense exchanges.

1. Significance of Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

After the end of the Cold War, it has become important for countries to curb meaningless arms races and prevent accidental military clashes and their escalation by increasing the transparency of their military capabilities and defense policies, and promoting dialogue and exchanges between defense officials from different countries, and bilateral defense exercises for mutual confidence-building. This idea is now widely shared in the international society.

In areas surrounding Japan, large-scale military forces, including nuclear arms, continue to exist, and a large number of countries have devoted themselves to modernizing their military capabilities. In addition, unclear and uncertain factors have remained over issues related to the Korean Peninsula and the Strait of Taiwan.

Imperative issues to be tackled together by the international community are how to respond to new threats and diverse contingencies, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the spread of ballistic missiles. Against this background, it is widely recognized that the international community should join hands in addressing these issues.

Under these security circumstances, the Government of Japan, in order to solidify peace and stability of the international community and the region, recognizes that it is necessary for countries in the world to build relations of mutual confidence and promote defense cooperation both on bilateral and multilateral bases. The Ministry of Defense and the SDF thus place an importance on bilateral exchanges as well as, multilateral security dialogue such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and joint multilateral defense exercises. The Ministry of Defense and the SDF will redouble their efforts to improve the security environment by deepening and widening these defense relations taking into account the movements of countries concerned.

In recent years, Japan's defense exchanges, in line with changes in the international situations and others, have come to place an emphasis on 1) confidence-building, and the significance of establishing and strengthening cooperative relations with the global community 2) more global exchanges that go beyond Japan's neighboring countries and 3) the importance of promoting not only goodwill exchanges but also practical exchanges, and stepping up not only dialogue-based exchanges but also action-based exchanges.

At a time when Japan's defense exchanges have been expanding both qualitatively and quantitatively, the Defense Ministry formulated a basic policy²¹ for defense exchanges in April this year as a way for all officials at the ministry to get united in implementing such exchanges strategically.

The basic policy features emphasizing exchanges²² aimed at contributing directly to enhanced international defense cooperation in addition to promoting conventional defense exchanges. The basic policy also calls for Japan to build relations of trust and cooperation with other countries by effectively utilizing a variety of defense-exchange means²³ not limited to bilateral dialogue and consultations.

The Ministry of Defense, based on the basic policy, will formulate region and country plans for defense exchanges, expand defense-exchange plans and their implementation, and devise a mid-term defense-exchange

program so that ideas and directions envisaged under the basic policy can become concrete and get realized. (See Fig. III-3-2-1)

Fig. III-3-2-1 Security Dialogue and Defense Exchanges

Classification	Type	Significance	Outline
Bilateral	High-level exchange of defense officials	Improving and reinforcing relations of mutual trust and cooperation through frank exchanges of views on regional situations and national defense policies that are of important concerns to both countries, and subsequently spur exchanges of the countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue and mutual visits between Japan's Defense Minister and defense ministers from other countries • Dialogue and mutual visits between Japan's Senior Vice-Minister for Defense, Parliamentary Secretary for Defense, Vice Minister of Defense, Chief of Staff at Joint Staff Office, GSDF Chief of Staff, MSDF Chief of Staff, ASDF Chief of Staff, and their counterparts in foreign countries
	Regular consultation between defense officials	Paving the basis for high-level dialogue and exchanges through continuous and direct exchanges of views between policy-makers of both countries in charge of national defense policy, and contributing to improvement and enhancement of relations of mutual trust and cooperation between the countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation between Director-General-level officials, Deputy Director-General-level officials, and their counterpart in foreign countries • Dialogue between Japan's Joint Staff Office, GSDF, MSDF, ASDF, and their counterparts in foreign countries
	Exchanges between units	Contributing to improvement and enhancement of relations of mutual trust and cooperation between the countries through joint defense exercises and joint events for exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel exchanges • Mutual visits of MSDF Training Squadrons, aircraft, and joint exercises for search and rescue operations
	Exchange of students	Increasing understanding toward other country's defense policy and the situation of its defense units, and building relations of mutual trust through promotion of personnel exchanges involving relatively long stay in other country in addition to human exchanges for educational purpose, and establishing human networks between both countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual acceptance of students • Dispatch of students to overseas military-related organizations
	Research exchanges	Deepening mutual understanding between researchers of both countries through frank exchanges of views from researchers' viewpoint, and contributing to maintenance and promotion of defense exchanges	Research exchanges between Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies and military-related research organizations in foreign countries
Multi-lateral	Security dialogue	Deepening mutual understanding on recognition of situations and security perceptions among concerned countries and discussing multilateral issues efficiently and effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARF dialogue • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by the Defense Ministry • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by the Japanese Government • Multilateral dialogue sponsored by Japan's private sector
	Joint exercises	Improving defense skills and contributing to improvement and enhancement of relations of mutual trust and cooperation among concerned countries through joint defense exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel exchanges • Joint exercises for minesweeping and submarine-rescue operations

2. Bilateral Defense Relations

Bilateral defense exchanges, involving officials of two countries in charge of defense affairs, are intended to promote building of reliable and cooperative relations between them. The characteristics of bilateral defense relations lies in the fact that they can be tailored to meet special needs in bilateral relations and that bilateral relations of trust and cooperation established through such exchanges can become a basis on which to effectively promote multilateral security dialogue and others.

1. Japan-Republic of Korea Defense Exchanges

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is an important country for Japan's security given its geopolitical location. It is also a friendly country for Japan as both countries respect fundamental values such as freedom and democracy. The ROK has formed an alliance with the United States and let it station its forces in the country from the viewpoint of maintaining security, as Japan has done. Therefore, it is extremely important for Japan and the

ROK to promote mutual understanding and relations of trust, and establish a basis for cooperation and to coordinate and cooperate further effectively in policy-making for the peace and stability of the entire East Asian region.

In their summit meeting in 1998, then Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and then ROK President Kim Dae Jung pledged to work toward building a new partnership between the two countries, and announced a Joint Statement, entitled “A New Japan-ROK Partnership Toward the 21st Century.” The two leaders welcomed bilateral security dialogue and defense exchanges, and agreed to further promote them.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

Almost every year since 1994 (except for 2001, 2004 and 2006), the defense ministers of Japan and the ROK have met alternately in each other’s country.

In February this year, ROK Minister of National Defense Kim Jang-Soo visited Japan and exchanged views with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kyuma over the situation of Northeastern Asia and defense policies of their countries. Kyuma and Kim agreed to set up a new emergency communication system between the director of the Operations Department of Japan’s Joint Staff Office and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff and also agreed to start defense exchanges between defense facility-related sections of the two countries.

In March this year, Chief of Staff Takashi Saito of Japan’s Joint Staff Office visited ROK and held frank discussions with Kim Kwan Jin, Chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In addition to holding military-to-military consultations (bilateral consultations at the Director-General level/the Councilor level) every year since 1994, Japan and the ROK have held bilateral security dialogue with participants that include diplomatic and defense authorities of the two countries since 1998.

In December last year, Japan and the ROK held the 14th military-to-military consultations, and defense officials from the two countries exchanged views over the East Asian situation, defense policies of the two countries, efforts by the two countries on international peace cooperation activities and Japan-ROK defense exchanges. In May this year, Japan and the ROK had the sixth bilateral security dialogue and exchanged views on the security situation surrounding the two countries and their security policies.

Dialogue has also been held between Japan’s Joint Staff Office and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff and between Japan’s GSDF, MSDF and the ASDF, and the ROK Army, Navy and the Air Force respectively. In addition, Japan and the ROK have been promoting mutual exchanges of students and bilateral interchanges on defense research.

(3) Exchanges between Units

Japan’s GSDF and the ROK’s Army have promoted defense exchanges since 2001, including mutual visits by unit commanders between the GSDF’s Western Army and the ROK’s Second Army.

Exchanges between Japan’s MSDF and the ROK Navy, including mutual visits by naval vessels, have been carried out since 1994. In September last year, a vessel of the ROK Navy visited Japan on a training mission. The Japanese MSDF and the ROK Navy conducted their joint search and rescue exercise in June this year, the fifth of its kind between the two countries.

Japan’s ASDF and the ROK Air Force have continued exchanges through mutual visits by aircraft since 2000. The ASDF Central Band participated in an international military band festival held in ROK in October last year. The ASDF’s transport aircraft flew to ROK, marking their third visit to ROK, to transport some members of the ASDF Central Band and their musical instruments as well as making a goodwill visit to ROK.

2. Japan-Russia Defense Exchanges

Russia, also being a neighboring country of Japan, has a great influence on the security of Europe, Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, making it extremely important for Japan to deepen defense exchanges with this country and promote relations of trust and cooperation.

With Japan-Russia relations continuing to develop in wider areas following the 1997 summit between their leaders in Krasnoyarsk, Japan's Ministry of Defense has been steadily promoting defense relations with Russia.

In 1999, Japan and Russia signed a memorandum to confirm the direction of their defense exchanges. In January 2003, then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made an official visit to Russia and signed the Japan-Russia Action Plan²⁴ with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In this Action Plan, the leaders of Japan and Russia confirmed that the two countries would steadily promote their defense relations by continuing programs such as high-level dialogue, consultations between defense officials of both countries, bilateral exercises and goodwill exercises. Moreover, when Russian President Putin visited Japan in November 2005 and held talks with then Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi, the two leaders confirmed that relations between Japan and Russia have advanced steadily in wider fields in line with the Japan-Russia Action Plan.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In 1996, then Minister of State for Defense Hideo Usui visited Russia, becoming the first Japanese defense chief to visit the country since the Soviet era.

When then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited Russia in January of last year, Japan and Russia renewed the 1999 memorandum on defense exchanges between the two countries. Then Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov told his counterpart Nukaga that the Japan-Russia Action Plan has helped pave the foundation for the two countries to deepen cooperation between their high-level defense officials. Minister Ivanov also said defense exchanges have deepened most between MSDF and Russia's Navy but added he wanted to promote exchanges between GSDF and the ASDF, and Russia's Army and the Air Force. Minister Nukaga and Minister Ivanov also agreed that GSDF and Russia's ground troops will mutually visit each other's country to attend defense exercises as observers. They also agreed that representatives and aircraft of the ASDF and Russia's Air Force will be sent to each other's country.

In May last year, then GSDF Chief of Staff Mori visited Russia and held frank talks with Aleksei Maslov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces. In October last year, Yuri Baluyevsky, Chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, visited Japan and exchanged views with Saito, Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff Office.



Saito, Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff Office, meets Baluyevsky, Chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

The Ministry of Defense has continued to hold consultations with Russia, such as Japan-Russia Bilateral Working Group meetings, to discuss how to promote their defense relations in addition to holding regular consultations between Director-General level/Councilor-level defense officials of the two countries. It has also continued to hold an annual conference to review the implementation of the Japan-Russia Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents on and over the High Seas.

Besides, the GSDF and ASDF have actively held dialogue with their respective Russian counterparts, the Russian Ground and Air Forces, including Staff Talks between Japan's Joint Staff Office and the General Staff Office of the Russian Armed Forces. In addition, the National Institute for Defense Studies has continued to conduct joint studies with a research institute²⁵ affiliated with the Russian Defense Ministry.

(3) Exchanges between Units

The GSDF and the Russian Ground Forces have promoted their mutual exchanges since 2003, including a mutual visit to each other's country between the Russian Commander of Far Eastern Military District and the Commanding General of the GSDF's Northern Army. In October last year, the Commanding General of the GSDF's Northern Army visited the Far Eastern Military District of Russia.

The MSDF and the Russian Navy have conducted mutual visits by vessels every year since the MSDF's first port visit on Vladivostok in 1996. Both parties have conducted bilateral exercises for search and rescue operations since 1998. In October last year, the MSDF and the Russian Navy conducted their eighth joint exercise for search and rescue operations when a warship of the Russian Pacific Fleet visited Japan.

3. Japan-China Defense Exchanges

China has great influence on the Asia-Pacific region and its outstanding economic development and the modernization of its military capabilities in recent years have drawn much attention from other countries in the world. Japan's deepening mutual understanding with China on the defense front and promoting relations of trust between them will be meaningful not only for increasing the security of the two countries but also for ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his visit to China in 1998, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fumio Kyuma and his Chinese counterpart reached an agreement on the ways to promote defense relations between Japan and China, including continued dialogue between their chiefs of defense.

In their summit meeting in 1998, then Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and then Chinese President Jiang Zemin released the Japan-China Joint Declaration on Building a Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation for Peace and Development. The two leaders confirmed that defense relations between Japan and China had played an important role in increasing mutual understanding, and agreed to promote defense and security exchanges in a gradual manner.

Furthermore, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made an official visit to Japan in October last year, Japan and China released a Joint Press Statement in which the two countries agreed to deepen mutual trust on the security front through bilateral security dialogue and defense exchanges. In meetings of Japanese and Chinese leaders held in January and April this year, the two countries agreed to upgrade a system of communication between defense authorities of both countries. In the April summit, the Chinese side expressed intention to have National Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan visit Japan in autumn this year.

The Defense Ministry, through meeting with Chinese defense authorities, strove to deepen their understanding of Japan's defense policy while asking Beijing to increase the transparency of its defense capability and defense policy.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In September 2003, then Minister of State for Defense Shigeru Ishiba visited China and met with Chinese Minister of National Defense Cao Gangchuan. At their meeting, Minister Ishiba and Minister Cao agreed that Japan and China would promote defense exchanges, including those between high-level defense officials.

In November last year, Zhang Qinsheng, then Assistant Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, visited Japan and held talks with Japanese Administrative Vice Minister for Defense

Takemasa Moriya over the regional situation, defense policies of Japan and China, and bilateral defense exchanges. Moriya and Zhang agreed on the importance for the two countries to further promote exchanges between defense officials of their countries.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In July of last year, Japan and China held security dialogue between their diplomatic and defense officials. The two countries also have promoted research and educational exchanges, which mainly involve acceptance of Chinese defense officials for the enrolment in a regular course of Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies. The two countries also have continued mutual visits between defense officials taking regular courses at Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies, the Joint Staff College and China's National Defense University.



Zhang Qinsheng, Assistant Chief of General Staff of the General Staff Headquarters of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (then), meets Japanese Administrative Vice Minister for Defense Moriya

(3) Exchange between Units

When Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Japan in April of this year, he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed that the two countries will make efforts to realize mutual port visits by warships at an early date.

4. Defense Exchanges with Australia

Australia, sharing with Japan fundamental values such as respect for freedom, human rights, and democracy, is an important partner for Japan in the Asia-Pacific region. On the security issue, both countries, being allies of the United States, share the same strategic interest, and there are many issues of mutual concern in the area of defense. In this context, it is important for Japan to promote defense relations with Australia, establish a basis for cooperative relationship, and step up cooperation and coordination more effectively, in order to secure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

In recent years, defense exchanges between Japan and Australia have been deepened and expanded with bilateral collaboration²⁶ on the security field advancing steadily, including cooperation in Iraqi reconstruction activities and humanitarian support in the event of disasters.

Based on these circumstances, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Australian counterpart John Howard released the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation²⁷ on March 13 of this year in order for the two countries to further strengthen bilateral security cooperation under a comprehensive framework.

The Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation is intended to devise a framework for the two countries to further strengthen and expand their bilateral cooperation on the security front.

The scope of security cooperation between Japan and Australia will include at least nine items shown below:

- 1) law enforcement on combating transnational crime, including trafficking in illegal narcotics and precursors, people smuggling and trafficking, counterfeiting currency and arms smuggling;
- 2) border security;
- 3) counter-terrorism;
- 4) disarmament and counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- 5) peace operations;

- 6) exchange of strategic assessments and related information;
- 7) maritime and aviation security;
- 8) humanitarian relief operations, including disaster relief;
- 9) contingency planning, including for pandemics.

As part of the above-mentioned cooperation, Japan and Australia will, as appropriate, strengthen practical cooperation, including through:

- 1) exchange of personnel;
- 2) joint exercises and training to further increase effectiveness of cooperation, including in the area of humanitarian relief operations;
- 3) coordinated activities including those in the areas of law enforcement, peace operations, and regional capacity building.

The two countries agreed on four items shown below for implementation in the future.

- Japan and Australia will develop an action plan with specific measures to advance security cooperation in the above areas.
- Japan and Australia will build on their dialogue between Defense Ministers, on an annual basis.
- Japan and Australia will further strengthen the strategic dialogue between their Foreign Ministers on an annual basis.
- Japan and Australia will enhance joint Defense and Foreign Ministry dialogue, including through the establishment of a regular Ministerial dialogue.



Japan-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations (“2-Plus-2”)

Based on this joint declaration, Japanese Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma and his Australian counterpart Brendan Nelson held talks in Tokyo in June this year. During Nelson’s stay in Tokyo, Japan and Australia also held Joint Defense and Foreign Ministerial Consultations (“two-plus-two”) for the first time. During the Kyuma-Nelson meeting, Japan and Australia highly evaluated the advancement of defense exchanges between the two countries and their cooperation in the field of international peace cooperation activities that has been enhanced between them since Japan’s participation in peacekeeping

operations in Cambodia. The defense chiefs of the two countries also agreed to expand bilateral defense exchanges by promoting exchanges between their defense units through mutual visits of aircraft and ships and boosting personnel exchanges. The defense chiefs also agreed to cooperate in contributing to trilateral collaboration between Japan, the United States and Australia and multilateral collaboration by promoting bilateral cooperation between Japan and Australia. Kyuma and Nelson also decided to begin work to update a memorandum on defense exchanges which the defense chiefs of the two countries agreed during their meeting in 2003, as the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation action plan in the field of defense. During their “two-plus-two” security talks, the Defense and Foreign Ministers of the two countries highly evaluated and welcomed these agreements between Kyuma and Nelson, and issued a Joint Statement²⁸ that evaluated and welcomed the accords.

Based on the Kyuma-Nelson meeting and the “two-plus-two” security talks, Japan and Australia have been currently holding consultations in order to expand their defense cooperation.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

Japan and Australia have continuously promoted exchanges between high-level defense officials, including the defense chiefs of their countries. Then Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill visited Japan in September 2003 and met with then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Shigeru Ishiba. During their meeting, Hill and Ishiba signed a memorandum on defense exchanges between Japan and Australia.

In March this year, Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma met with Australian Prime Minister John Howard during the latter's visit to Japan. Kyuma and Howard then confirmed the need for the two countries to advance bilateral defense exchanges in the future. When Japanese Defense Minister Kyuma attended the sixth Asia Security Conference sponsored by the International Institute for Strategic Study (IISS) in June this year, he held talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Australian Defense Minister Brendan Nelson, marking the first trilateral meeting of defense chiefs between Japan, the United States and Australia. The defense chiefs of Japan, the United States and Australia agreed to promote security and defense cooperation among the three countries.

In September last year, Geoff Shepherd, Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force, visited Japan and held talks with then ASDF Chief of Staff Tadashi Yoshida while in March this year, Peter Leahy, Chief of the Australian Army, visited Japan and met with then GSDF Chief of Staff Tsutomu Mori. In February this year, MSDF Chief of Staff Eiji Yoshikawa visited Australia and held discussion with Russ Shalders, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy.



MSDF Chief of Staff Yoshikawa meets Sir Band, U.K. First Sea Lord

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and Australia have held military-to-military talks at the Director-General level/Councilor level as well as security dialogue which include diplomatic officials every year since 1996. The Joint Staff Office, the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective counterparts in the Australian military on a regular basis. Both countries have accepted each other's defense officials in their defense-related educational institutions and promoted research exchanges.

Especially in recent years, the two countries frequently held talks on various topics, reflecting the advancement of bilateral cooperative relations. Last year, the two countries held consultations of defense officials for two times. They held similar consultations in May this year. In April this year, Japan, the United States and Australia held Director-General-level talks for the first time and discussed defense cooperation among the three countries and other issues.

(3) Exchanges between Units

Japan and Australia have promoted defense exchanges, including mutual goodwill visits by vessels and aircraft between the MSDF and the Royal Australian Navy. Most recently, the MSDF's P-3C patrol airplanes made a goodwill visit to Australia for the first time and conducted an exercise in May and June last year.

In addition, Japan and Australia have promoted their defense exchanges in the field of international peace cooperation. The GSDF units dispatched to East Timor and Iraq, for example, had exchanges with units of the Australian Army sent there.

5. Defense Exchanges with U.K.



Sir Torpy, Chief of the Air Staff of U.K. Royal Air Force, meets ASDF Chief of Staff Tamogami

Being a major power having influence not only on the European area but also on the world, the U.K. has maintained close relations with Japan. On the security front, Japan has shared the same strategic interest with the U.K. because both countries are important allies of the United States. Given this relations, it is important for both Japan and the U.K. to promote defense exchanges, build a basis of cooperation and promote cooperation and coordination.

In January 2004, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Shigeru Ishiba and then U.K. Secretary of State for Defense Geoff Hoon signed a memorandum on bilateral defense exchanges, which confirmed the two countries' resolve to promote defense exchanges at all levels and in various fields.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In January last year, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited the U.K. and met with then U.K. Secretary of State for Defense John Reid. During their meeting, Minister Nukaga and Secretary Reid confirmed that high-level and working-level defense exchanges have advanced between Japan and the U.K. They also discussed the progress of Iraqi Security Forces' training and the process of transferring security authorities to Iraq.

When Nukaga attended the fifth IISS Asia Security Conference in June last year, he met with Adam Ingram, U.K. Minister of State for the Armed Forces. During their meeting, Nukaga expressed gratitude to Ingram for cooperation being extended by U.K. armed forces to Japan's SDF troops operating in Iraq. Nukaga and Ingram also exchanged views over issues including the transfer of security authorities to Iraq.

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

Japan and the U.K. frequently hold exchanges of their defense officials. Among such exchanges are Director-General level and councilor-level defense talks and security talks that also include diplomatic officials, including exchanges of views over defense policies of the two countries and Iraqi issues. Japan's Joint Staff Office, the GSDF, the MSDF and the ASDF have also held consultations with their respective U.K. counterparts on a regular basis. Both countries have accepted each other's defense officials in their defense-related educational institutions and promoted research exchanges.

(3) Exchanges between Units

The GSDF²⁹ deployed its troops in Muthanna Province in Iraq in January 2004 following the deployment there of the U.K. forces.

The GSDF troops promoted exchanges with those of the U.K. forces in Samawah in the province.

6. Japan-India Defense Exchanges

Traditionally, India has maintained friendly relations with Japan, with both respecting such fundamental values as democracy and market-oriented economy.

India, with its vast land and its population exceeding 1 billion, has had great influence on the security of the South Asian region. South Asia is an important region for the safety of sea-lane linking Japan and the Middle East, and is also important for operations being conducted by SDF in the Indian Ocean.

Given these relations, it is meaningful for Japan and India to hold consultations to exchange views over defense policies of the two countries and the regional situation, and deepen their mutual understanding as well as to promote relations of mutual trust and cooperation.

In December last year, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Japan and signed a joint statement between Japan and India after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the joint statement, the two countries agreed to upgrade Japan-India relations to “Strategic and Global Partnership³⁰⁾” and specified measures to be taken in political and security fields toward building such partnership.

(1) Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials Including Top Officials

In May last year, then Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited Japan and held talks with then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga over defense policies of the two countries and the international situation. After the meeting, the defense chiefs of the two countries signed a joint statement concerning bilateral cooperation in the field of defense. Last year, then MSDF Chief of Staff Takashi Saito, then GSDF Chief of Staff Tsutomu Mori and then ASDF Chief of Staff Tadashi Yoshida separately visited India, holding frank talks with their respective Indian counterparts.

In January this year, Indian Air Force Chief of Staff S.P. Tyagi visited Japan and exchanged views with then ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida. In April this year, Indian Army Chief of Staff J.J. Singh visited Japan and exchanged views with GSDF Chief of Staff Ryoichi Oriki.

In April this year, Indian Defense Secretary Shekhar Dutt visited Japan and held a Japan-India Defense Policy Dialogue with Japanese Vice Minister of Defense Takemasa Moriya by upgrading the previous Vice Defense Minister-level meeting. Moriya and Dutt exchanged views on how to deepen defense exchanges between the two countries in the future and regional situations.



Chief of Indian Army Staff Singh meets GSDF Chief of Staff Oriki



Indian Air Force Chief Tyagi meets ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida (then)

(2) Regular Consultations between Defense Officials

In February last year, Japan and India held Director-General level/Councilor-level talks of defense officials and exchanged views with each other about defense exchanges between the two countries and the regional situation. Furthermore, Japan and India have promoted research exchanges, including acceptance of each other’s defense officials as students and mutually dispatching their researchers on defense issues.

(3) Exchange between Units

The MSDF and the Indian Navy have frequently visited each other's country in the past with MSDF vessels on overseas training cruises, for example, conducting a goodwill exercise with units of the Indian Navy for the promotion of unit-to-unit exchanges between the two countries. In April of this year, three vessels of the Indian Navy paid a port call in Japan, marking the 15th visit to Japan by an Indian Navy warship. During the Indian vessels' visit, Japan, the United States and India conducted a trilateral joint maritime exercise.

The music band of the Indian Army participated in an SDF Marching Festival held in November last year.

7. Defense Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries

Southeast Asian countries are situated in areas deemed as strategically important for maritime traffic, and they also have close economic relations with Japan. Therefore, promoting dialogue between Japan and these countries on security issues and deepening relations of mutual trust and cooperation are of great importance for both sides.

In August of last year, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga held talks with Indonesian Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono and agreed that Japan and Indonesia will promote dialogue and cooperation in the fields of maritime security and disaster-relief operations.

In January this year, Japanese Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma visited Thailand and held talks with Thai Defense Minister Boonrawd Sontas. During the meeting, the ministers of Japan and Thailand deepened their mutual understanding about defense policies of their countries and the regional situation.

The recent high-level exchanges between Japan and Southeast Asian countries are shown in Fig. III-3-2-2. This shows how defense relations between Japan and these countries have steadily progressed.

Fig. III-3-2-2 Exchanges with Southeast Asian Countries (since last year)

Visit

Date	Visitors	Visited Countries
Aug. 2006	Then Minister of State for Defense Nukaga	Indonesia
Nov. 2006	Saito, Chief of Staff at Joint Staff Office	Malaysia
Jan. 2007	Defense Minister Kyuma	Thailand
Jan. 2007	MSDF Chief of Staff Yoshikawa	Indonesia
Mar. 2007	Then GSDF Chief of Staff Mori	Vietnam

Visit

Date	Visitors
Aug. 2006	Commander-in-Chief of Singapore Armed Forces
Nov. 2006	Indonesian Deputy Defense Minister
Nov. 2006	Commander-in-Chief of Indonesian Armed Forces
Mar. 2007	Malaysian Defense Minister

In addition to exchanges by high-level officials, Japanese defense officials have held consultations with working-level defense officials from Southeast Asian countries on a regular basis to promote discussions on security and defense issues involving both sides and build relations of mutual understanding and confidence. Japan and Southeast Asian countries have also steadily promoted staff talks between defense staff organizations, exchanges of researchers and students as well as units including port visits. Through these defense relations, Japan and Southeast Asian countries have been able to lay the foundation for building a multilateral defense network, which would play an important role for realizing peace and stability in the region.

8. Defense Exchanges with Other Countries

In addition to neighboring countries described above, Japan has promoted defense exchanges with many other countries.

The Defense Ministry has held high-level exchanges, working-level consultations and student exchanges with many other countries around the world. Among them are Pakistan, a country which has played an important role in global efforts to fight against terrorism, Canada, a country with which Japan had undertaken the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Golan Heights, Asia-Pacific countries like Mongolia, and countries related to the SDF's aid mission in Iraq like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), European countries, and international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

On unit-to-unit levels, mutual visits by vessels have been frequent along with mutual exchanges between SDF units and units of foreign militaries belonging to countries where Japan's international peace cooperation operations are underway.

The recent high-level defense exchanges between Japan and other countries are shown in Fig. III-3-2-3. This indicates Japan has endeavored to build close cooperative relations with many foreign countries in defense areas.

In September last year, then Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga visited Mongolia and held talks with Mongolian Defense Minister Mishigiyn Sonompil. Also in September, Nukaga held talks with Canadian Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor. In October last year, Minister of State for Defense Fumio Kyuma held talks with New Zealand Defense Minister Phil Goff, exchanging views with them over the regional situation and international peace cooperation activities. In May this year, Defense Minister Kyuma visited Italy and Belgium, exchanging views with Italian Defense Minister Arturo Parisi, Belgian Defense Minister Andre Flahaut and NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer over the regional situation and international peace cooperation activities.

In January this year, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the NATO headquarters and held talks with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Abe attended a meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC), NATO's decision-making body, and delivered a speech³¹ to the NAC, making him the Japanese Prime Minister to speak before the council.

In February this year, MSDF Chief of Staff Eiji Yoshikawa visited New Zealand and held talks with Chief of the New Zealand Navy David Ledson over the regional situation and defense exchanges between Japan and New Zealand.



Togoo, Chief of the General Staff of Armed Forces of Mongolia, meets GSDF Chief of Staff Mori (then)

Japan held working-level consultations of defense officials with New Zealand in May last year and similar consultations with Pakistan in September last year. In February this year, Japan's Ground Staff Office held talks with the Pakistan Army for the first time.

Japan's defense exchanges with many other countries that share the same principles of freedom and democracy have played an important role for global peace and stability. (See Fig. III-3-2-4)

Fig. III-3-2-3 Exchanges with Other Countries

Date	Visitors	Visited Countries
Jan. 2006	Then Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Aichi	Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic
Feb. 2006	Then MSDF Chief of Staff Saito (Currently Chief of Staff at Joint Staff Office)	Middle East, India
Mar. 2006	Then GSDF Chief of Staff Mori	India, Pakistan
Apr. 2006	Then ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida	India, Pakistan
Jul. 2006	Then Minister of State for Defense Nukaga	Kuwait
	Then Senior Vice Minister for Defense Kimura	Bahrain and UAE
	Then Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Takagi	Turkey, Ukraine
Sept. 2006	Then Minister of State for Defense Nukaga	Mongolia
	Vice Minister for Defense Moriya	France
Nov. 2006	Then ASDF Chief of Staff Yoshida	Canada
Feb. 2007	MSDF Chief of Staff Yoshikawa	Australia, New Zealand
May 2007	Parliamentary Secretary for Defense Kitagawa	Portugal and Spain
	Defense Minister Kyuma	Italy, Belgium and NATO

Date	Visitors
Jan. 2006	OSCE Chairman
Mar. 2006	Chief of Canadian Air Force
Jun. 2006	Chief of Pakistan Armed Forces
Jul. 2006	Chief of Belgian Armed Forces
Aug. 2006	Chief of Qatar Armed Forces
Sept. 2006	Chief of Royal Australian Air Force
Oct. 2006	Chief of Staff, Royal Swedish Navy
	New Zealand Defense Minister
Nov. 2006	Secretary General of French National Defense
Jan. 2007	Chief of Mongolian Armed Forces
Mar. 2007	French Defense Minister
Apr. 2007	German Defense Minister
May 2007	State Secretary Ministry of Defense, Latvia

Fig. III-3-2-4 Japan's Defense Exchanges (latest five years)

Exchanges of High-Level Defense Officials

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		Singapore		
International conferences and others		ROK		Australia ¹
Visits		Mongolia		The Philippines
Acceptance of visits		The Philippines	The Philippines	New Zealand
Singapore		Australia	New Zealand	India
Australia		UK	Mongolia	ROK
France		Australia	Indonesia	Singapore
Russia		Singapore	Australia	NATO
India		Malaysia	Singapore	Belgium
China	The Netherlands	Indonesia	India	Italy
ROK	France	The Philippines	Canada	Thailand
ROK	UK	ROK	New Zealand	Australia ²
Mongolia	UK	Singapore	Mongolia	Germany
Russia	Finland	New Zealand	Indonesia	France
Australia	The Netherlands	Switzerland	Russia	ROK
New Zealand	Kuwait	NATO	UK	Malaysia

Exchanges of Working-Level Officials

Countries	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
ROK	○●●	●	●	●	○●
China		○▲▲	▲	▲○	
Russia	●	●	●	●	
Australia	○●		●	○●●	●
New Zealand			●	●	
Singapore	●	●	●		●
Thailand	○●			○●	
Vietnam	○●		○●		
The Philippines			○●	○●	
Indonesia					●
Malaysia			●		
India		○	○●	○●	△
Pakistan		○●		○●	
UK		●		○●	○●
France	○●	○●	○●	○●	○●
Germany	○●	○	○●	○●	
Canada			○●	●	
NATO	○			○	○

○ Working-level meetings of officials of foreign affairs authorities and defense authorities
 ● Working-level meetings of officials of defense authorities
 ▲ Administrative vice minister-level meetings of defense officials from Japan and China
 △ Defense policy dialogue between vice defense ministers of Japan and India

Notes: 1. A meeting of defense chiefs was held between Japan, the U.S.A. and Australia.
 2. In addition to a meeting of defense chiefs between Japan and Australia, "2+2" security talks were held between the Defense and Foreign Ministers of Japan and Australia.

[COLUMN]

VOICE

Studying at the NATO Defense College

Lieutenant Colonel Taro Omori, ASDF
 NATO Defense College student (currently Air Staff Office)

I studied in the Senior Course 109 at the NATO Defense College in Rome from August 28, 2006 to February 2, 2007. The NATO Defense College accepts 70 to about 80 colonel/lieutenant colonel-class officers or civil officers of equivalent rank from more than 30 friendly countries including the NATO member countries and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries for each Senior Course. The course was held twice a year to provide strategic level education so that the participants can be assigned to NATO-related posts in the future.

The studying environment was superb with prominent professors, ambassadors, soldiers and other experts invited every day from various countries to give a high-quality lecture and to have discussion with

us. In addition, the course offered us an opportunity to visit more than 10 countries in Europe, North America and other regions as field study to check what I had learnt in the class at actual sites. Furthermore, focus was also placed on learning negotiation and decision-making skills in the multinational environment where it is not easy to reach a consensus among people from different political, economical and cultural backgrounds. In this way, the curriculum of this course was well thought out to build a foundation on which NATO can work smoothly.

NATO is often referred to as the most successful military alliance in history. NATO has been actively promoting a reform through careful deliberations since the end of the Cold War—the 9/11 terrorist attacks in particular. The future direction that NATO will take is similar to that of Japan, and the study at the college made me realize that Japan and NATO need to further enhance their mutual cooperation to appropriately deal with new global threats.

I would like to contribute to the development of the Japan-NATO relationships in the future as well by making the most of these precious experiences I had at the college.



Lieutenant Colonel Omori discussing at the NATO Defense College (far left)

3. Multilateral Security Dialogue

1. Significance of Multilateral Security Dialogue

Multilateral security dialogue is extremely significant because participating countries can increase their mutual understanding and relations of mutual trust by exchanging views on security issues of mutual concern. Such security dialogue can also effectively contribute to bringing about regional peace and stability, with concerned countries tackling issues that affect multiple countries while making coordination and cooperation.

2. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

At the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting and ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in 1993, the foreign ministers from these 17 countries and those from the European Community (EC), now the European Union (EU), agreed to create the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as a political and security forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its first ministerial meeting in 1994, the number of members of the ARF has gradually increased as the forum has held its regular meeting annually. At present, the number of members stands at 25 countries and one organization³².

The ARF is not a type of security organization as seen in Europe but the ARF has significance because it provides opportunities for member countries to send both diplomatic and defense officials to various inter-governmental meetings.

The Ministry of Defense believes that it is necessary for defense officials among ARF member countries to enhance mutual confidence during the process of the ARF so that the ARF would become a forum to generate a sense of being part of one community among its members, and thereby stabilize the region's security environment. From this perspective, the Ministry of Defense has been continuing its efforts to deepen mutual understanding within the ARF by continuing to participate in the ARF process, by encouraging ARF members to increase the transparency of their defense policies and by promoting frank discussion among members' defense officials.

In recent years, ARF member countries have been actively exchanging their views on common regional security issues including international disaster-relief activities, maritime security and peacekeeping activities. The Ministry of Defense has been actively taking part in such discussion being made among ARF countries.

The ARF has held the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), the Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (CBM³³/PD) and the ARF Security Policy Conference in addition to the Foreign Ministerial Meeting every year. Aside from the so-called Plenary Meeting, which is composed of foreign and defense ministry officials from the ARF member countries, defense officials have convened their own “Defense Officials Dialogue” in advance of the Plenary Meeting. Since the 2002 Foreign Ministerial Meeting, Japan Defense Ministry has steadily increased its involvement in the ARF, actively participating in these meetings, and frankly exchanging views with defense officials from other ARF member countries.

3. Multilateral Security Dialogue Sponsored or Participated in by the Japan Defense Ministry and the SDF

The Defense Ministry believes that it is important for Japan to take the initiative in multilateral security dialogue in order to promote relations of mutual confidence and cooperation among defense officials of Japan and other countries through information exchanges and discussions. The Defense Ministry also believes that by doing so, Japan can contribute to making the Asia-Pacific region stable. Thus, the Defense Ministry has sponsored various seminars to promote multilateral security dialogue while it has also actively participated in such forums sponsored by foreign countries and other organizations. (See Figs. III-3-2-5 • 6)

In particular, the Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum) has been sponsored by the Ministry of Defense every year since 1996. The Forum is designed to contribute to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region by deepening mutual understanding among participating countries on each other’s defense policy and increasing the transparency of their defense policies. In the forum, defense officials of participating countries have exchanged views on defense policies, and efforts being made by each country to foster mutual trust in the field of defense.

The 11th Tokyo Defense Forum in October last year was participated in by 23 countries, European Union (EU), U.N. OCHA and the ASEAN Secretariat. The participants exchanged views under the agenda of “Efforts to Develop Strategies and Procedures for International Cooperation and Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief Operations”.

The IISS Asia Security Conference is an international conference being held annually in Singapore under the sponsorship of an organization in the private sector and is the only conference being participated in by a large number of defense ministers in the Asia-Pacific region.

As the head of Japanese delegation, Minister of Defense Fumio Kyuma participated in this conference in June this year, delivering a speech³⁴ on “Nuclear Challenges.” In the speech, Kyuma clarified Japan’s basic policy on nuclear issues and emphasized that North Korea issues such as nuclear development were an issue that should be tackled by the international community as a whole. He then explained the Japanese Ministry of Defense’s efforts to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and appealed for international cooperation to tackle this issue.



Parliamentary Secretary of Defense Omae delivering speech at 11th Tokyo Defense Forum

Fig. III-3-2-5 Multilateral Security Dialogues Hosted by the Ministry of Defense

Security Dialogue		Outline	Recent Situations	
Hosted by Ministry of Defense	Internal Bureaus and others	Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo Defense Forum)	Hosted by the Ministry of Defense, this forum has been held annually since 1996 with Director-General-level officials in charge of defense policy and defense exchange, all from the Asia-Pacific region, participating. The forum is designed to provide defense officials with opportunities to exchange views on ways to promote confidence-building in defense areas with major attention paid to each country's national defense.	The 11th Tokyo Defense Forum in October last year was participated in by 23 countries and European Union, UN OCHA and ASEAN Secretariat were also invited. The participants exchanged views under the agenda of "Efforts to Develop Strategies and Procedures for International Cooperation and Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief Operations." Participants agreed that efforts in the area of these issues within the framework of ARF should be further pursued.
		Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (Sub committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum)	Hosted by the Ministry of Defense, this forum has been held annually since 2002 with Director (colonel)-level working officials in charge of defense policy and defense exchange from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The forum is designed to provide defense officials with opportunities to exchange views on defense issues including diversified military roles.	The 6th Sub committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum in January this year was participated in by 21 countries and the EU. The participants exchanged views under the agenda of "National Defense Policies," and "Instances of Civil-Military Cooperation in Peace-Building." Participants agreed that further discussion on efforts to promote international military cooperation and civil-military cooperation in peace-building are necessary.
	GSDF	Multilateral Logistics Staff Talks (MLST)	Hosted by the GSDF, these talks have been held annually since 1997, inviting government officials in charge of logistics support from major countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on logistic systems.	The 10th MLST meeting was held in December last year with working-level officials in charge of logistic support, sent from armies of Australia, the ROK, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States, and from U.S. Marines, participating. Participants exchanged views on logistic support to be extended in international humanitarian support activities and disaster-relief operations.
		Army Command and General Staff College Seminar	Hosted by the GSDF, this seminar has been held annually since 2001 with students of army academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on training of military units.	The sixth seminar was held in August last year with students of army academies from seven Asia-Pacific countries participating. Participants exchanged views on the roles of an army in battle against terrorism and how army training should be.
	MSDF	Seminar of Naval Academies in the Asia-Pacific Region	Hosted by the MSDF, this seminar has been held annually since 1998 with teachers of naval academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on roles of naval capabilities.	The 10th seminar was held in February this year with officials related to naval academies from 14 Asia-Pacific countries being invited. Participants exchanged views on challenges facing navies in multilateral cooperation.
		Navy Command and Staff Course Student Exchange Program (Western Pacific Naval Symposium Seminar for Officers of the Next Generation (WPNS SONG))	Hosted by the MSDF, this seminar has been held annually since 2000 with students of naval academies participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on regional security and naval leadership.	The sixth seminar was held in November last year mainly with students of naval academies from 20 Asia-Pacific countries participating. Participants discussed naval leadership and how to evaluate such leadership, and each country's recognition of situations regarding maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the third seminar, this meeting has been named Seminar for Officers of Next Generation under the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).

Security Dialogue		Outline	Recent Situations	
Hosted by Ministry of Defense	ASDF	International Air Force Education Seminar	Hosted by the ASDF, this seminar has been held annually since 1996 with officials related to air force academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on cadet education.	The 11th seminar was held in December last year with six countries being invited. Participants mainly exchanged views on how cadet education should be at the air force of each country.
		Air Command and Staff Course Students Exchange Program	Hosted by the ASDF, this seminar has been held annually since 2001 with students of air force academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on security issues and the roles of each country.	The sixth seminar was held in October last year with students of air force academies from nine Asia-Pacific countries participating. Participants exchanged views on security in the Asia-Pacific region and efforts by each country to ensure such security.
	National Defense Academy	International Seminar on Defense Science	Hosted by the National Defense Academy, this seminar has been held annually since 1996 with teachers of military academies from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on cadet education.	The 11th seminar was held in July last year with 14 countries being invited. Participants exchanged views on leadership education for the era of integrated and multilateral collaboration.
		International Cadets' Conference	Hosted by the National Defense Academy, this conference has been held annually since 1998 with cadets from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The conference is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on militaries in the 21st century.	The 10th seminar was held in March this year with 13 countries being invited. Participants exchanged views on security in the multi polar era.
	National Institute for Defense Studies	Asia-Pacific Security Seminar	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this seminar has been held annually since 1994 with military officers from the Asia-Pacific region participating. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to exchange views on security order in the region.	The 13th seminar was held in November last year with 21 countries participating. Under the main theme of military changes and security of the Asia-Pacific region, participants analyzed military changes of each country from a multi-angle, examined the impact of such changes on security and exchanged views on issues associated with regional cooperation for the enhancement of regional stability.
		International Security Symposium	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this symposium has been held annually since 1999 with security researchers participating. The symposium is designed to provide them with opportunities to publicly exchange views and release reports on security for the purpose of deepening the general public's understanding on security issues.	This symposium was held in February this year with eminent scholars on security being invited from the United States and Japan. Participants exchanged views on rising China and the limit of the country that stands at the crossroads.
		International Security Colloquium	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this seminar has been held annually since 1999 with people at home and abroad knowledgeable about defense being invited. The seminar is designed to provide them with opportunities to have advanced and professional reports and discussions on security issues.	This forum was held in February this year with researchers from the United States being invited along with Japanese security experts. Participants exchanged views on how to make China a responsible stakeholder.
		Forum on War History Studies	Hosted by the National Institute for Defense Studies, this forum has been held annually since 2002 with military researchers participating. The forum is designed to deepen the mutual understanding of participants by making comparison of war history studies.	This forum was held in September last year with researchers on war history being invited from the United States, U.K., ROK, China and Russia. Participants exchanged views under the title of review of Korean War and its legacy.

Fig. III-3-2-6 Other Multilateral Security Dialogues

Other Multilateral Security Dialogues			Overview	
Hosted by the Government	Internal Bureaus and others	Asia-Pacific Military Operations Research Symposium (AMORS)	ARMORS is a forum held by Asia-Pacific countries on a rotational basis to exchange views on defense operations and research technology. Japan has participated in the forum since the second meeting in 1993.	
	Joint Staff Office	Chief of Defense Conference (CHOD)	CHOD is an annual conference hosted either by the United States or jointly with other participating country on a rotational basis. Senior defense officials and others of Asia-Pacific countries meet to exchange views on security issues. Japan has participated in the conference since the first meeting in 1998.	
		Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS)	PASOLS is a seminar hosted by a Asia-Pacific country on a rotational basis mainly to exchange information on logistic-support activities. Japan's participation in the seminar as an official member started in 1995 when the 24th session was held. The 36th Seminar will be held in Japan with participation nearby 30 countries.	
	GSDF	Pacific Armies Management Seminars (PAMS)	PAMS is a forum held jointly by the U.S and the participating countries in rotation. It provides opportunities for exchanging information about efficient and economical management techniques so that armies in the Asia-Pacific region can develop their ground troops. The GSDF has been participating in PAMS since the 17th meeting in 1993.	
		Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC)	PACC is a conference hosted jointly by the United States and a member country on a rotational basis every other year when PAMS is held. Army chiefs of Asia-Pacific countries and others meet to exchange views. Japan has participated in the conference since the first meeting in 1999.	
	MSDF	International Sea Power Symposium (ISS)	ISS is a symposium hosted by the United States every other year. Navy chiefs of member countries and others meet to exchange views on common issues for their navies. Japan has participated in the symposium since the first meeting in 1969.	
		Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)	WPNS is a symposium hosted by a member country on a rotational basis every other year when ISS is not held. Senior navy officials and others of Western Pacific countries meet to exchange views. Japan has participated in the symposium since the second meeting in 1990.	
		International MCM Seminar	This seminar is hosted by a WPNS member country on a rotational basis to exchange views on minesweeping in a year when a minesweeping exercise is not conducted in the Western Pacific. Japan has participated in the seminar since the first meeting in 2000. Japan's MSDF hosted this seminar in Yokosuka in October 2006.	
	ASDF	Pacific Air Chiefs Conference (PACC)	PACC is a conference hosted by the United States every other year with senior air force officials and others of member countries exchanging views on common issues. Japan has participated in this conference since the first meeting in 1989.	
		PACRIM Airpower Symposium	This symposium is hosted jointly by the United States and a member country on a rotational basis every year. (held twice in 1996 and 1997) Air force strategy-formulation chiefs from Pacific-Rim countries meet to exchange views. Japan has participated in the symposium since the first meeting 1995.	
	Hosted by the Private Sector	Asia Security Conference		Hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in U.K., this conference has been held since 2002 with defense ministers and others of the Asia-Pacific region and other areas participating to exchange views on regional security issues. Japan has participated in the conference since the first meeting in 2002.
		The Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD)		Organized mainly by the Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) of the University of California in San Diego and private-sector research institutes in the United States, Russia, China, the ROK and Japan (among them the Japan Institute of International Affairs), this dialogue is designed for participants—private-sector researchers and government officials from member countries—to freely exchange their views on security situations and confidence-building measures in Northeast Asia. Japan has participated in the dialogue since the first meeting in 1993.

On the occasion of the IISS conference, Defense Minister Kyuma separately met with his counterparts from the ROK, Singapore, India, New Zealand and the Philippines to exchange views on defense issues. His trilateral defense ministerial meeting with the defense chiefs of the United States and Australia was the first of its kind.

4. Multilateral Exercises

1. Significance of Multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Defense Ministry and the SDF consider participating in or hosting multilateral exercises will contribute not only to improving their maneuvering skills but also to helping establish the foundation for building cooperative relationship among participating countries through cooperation and exchange of views.

Since 2000, multilateral exercises involving various elements such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and non-combatant evacuation operations, have been conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to conventional combat exercises.

Specific exercises thus far conducted on a multilateral basis include refugee rescue training held as part of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise in 2000, the “Cobra Gold” Exercise conducted by the United States, Thailand and other countries focusing on humanitarian assistance and peace-enforcement activities, and the exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific, which was hosted by Singapore in 2000, Japan in 2002 and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 2004.

The Defense Ministry and the SDF will continue to participate in these multilateral exercises proactively and on their own initiative.

2. Efforts on multilateral Exercises in the Asia-Pacific Region

(1) Hosting Multilateral Exercises

The MSDF hosted “Pacific Reach 2002” in April 2002, a multilateral exercise for submarine rescue drills in the West Pacific³⁵. This was the first time Japan hosted a multilateral exercise. In October 2002, the MSDF hosted the Multilateral Search and Rescue Exercises³⁶.

The SDF has sent its officers to the annual Cobra Gold exercises since 2005. In May this year, SDF officers participated in a command post exercise for U.N. peacekeeping activities and joined a medical division of humanitarian and civic assistance activities.

Multilateral exercises in which the SDF recently participated are shown in Fig. III-3-2-7.



SDF officers participating in 2007 Cobra Gold exercise

(2) Inviting Observers to Multilateral Exercises

The SDF invited officers from eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan in September 2001 to observe the fourth Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercise. Since then, the SDF has been stepping up efforts to invite observers from foreign countries to multilateral exercises being sponsored by the SDF.

The GSDF has invited working-level officers from countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region to Japan to participate in the Multinational Cooperation Program in the Asia-Pacific (MCAP), which it has hosted annually since 2002 as part of its multilateral cooperation. (See Fig. III-3-2-8)

Fig. III-3-2-7 Participation in Multilateral Joint Exercises (Since Last Year)

Data	Exercises	Hosts	Participating Nations	Participation by Defense Ministry and SDF
May 2006	Cobra Gold 2006	U.S. and Thai militaries	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A., Japan, and others	45 SDF officers
Jun. 2006	Third Western Pacific Mine Countermeasure Exercise	Malaysian Navy	21 countries, including Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, U.S.A., and Japan	One minesweeping mother ship, one minesweeping warship and one minesweeping vessel
Aug. 2006	Khaan Quest 2006	U.S. and Mongolian militaries	About 22 countries, including U.S.A., Mongol, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Thailand, and Tonga	A total of five from the Joint Staff Office, Ground Staff Office and ASDF participating as observers
May 2007	Cobra Gold 2007	U.S. and Thai militaries	14 countries, including Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A., and Japan	48 SDF officers
May 2007	WPNS Multilateral Sea Exercise	Singapore Navy	Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, U.S.A., and Japan	One MSDF destroyer and about 180 personnel including those aboard the destroyer

Fig. III-3-2-8 Dispatch of Observers to Multilateral Joint Exercises (since 2006)

Data	Exercise	Overview
Aug. 2006-Sept. 2006	Fifth Multilateral Cooperation Program in the Asia Pacific (MCAP2006)	This program was hosted by the GSDF with working-level officials from 17 countries, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region, being invited. Under the theme, "importance of military-civilian collaboration in the event of large-scale disasters and their ideal relations to be built in peacetime," participants held a training session and exchange views in order to enhance response ability under diverse contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region, and promote mutual understanding and confidence-building among participating countries.