

Fig. III-4-1-3 Measures for Harmony Between Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

Purpose	Measures	Description of Measures
Preventing Noise Problems	Subsidies to finance sound insulation work	○ Educational facilities such as elementary schools, junior high schools, and kindergartens; medical facilities such as hospitals and clinics; and welfare facilities such as nursery centers, day-service centers for the elderly, and special nursing homes for the elderly ○ Housing
	Compensation for relocations	○ Compensation for relocating buildings ○ Land procurement ○ Improvement of public facilities such as roads, water-supply systems, and sewage facilities in the area where housing, etc., is to be relocated
	Improving green belts	○ Planting trees, installing grass fields
Preventing Nuisances Besides Noise	Subsidies to finance trouble prevention work	○ Canals, reservoirs, roads, river improvement, television broadcast community reception facilities
Reducing Troubles Related to Living and Business	Subsidies for building facilities meant to stabilize people's lives	○ Roads, radio broadcast facilities, nursing homes, fire departments, parks, waste disposal facilities, welfare centers for the elderly, public facilities for learning, etc. ○ Agricultural facilities, fishing facilities
Reducing Impact on Surrounding Areas	Provision of specified defense facilities environs improvement adjustment grants	○ Improving public facilities such as traffic facilities, recreation centers, and welfare facilities ○ Medical expenses, operating costs of community buses, assessment fees for earthquake resistance for school buildings, etc.*

* Newly added due to the partial revision of the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities (effective as of April 27, 2011)

(1) Measures of the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities

Based on the Act on Improvement of Living Environment of Areas Around Defense Facilities, the MOD has implemented various measures to prevent, alleviate, and mitigate impediments such as aircraft noise in the surrounding areas caused by the SDF or U.S. Forces activities, or by establishing and operating defense facilities including airfields. Furthermore, taking into consideration the requests of the relevant municipal governments, the MOD partially revised the Living Environment Improvement Act in 2011, and conducted a review to make it possible for 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 residential sound insulation and efforts are being made to ensure its further progress.

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.

See Reference 75 (Partial Amendment of the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities)

Fig. III-4-1-4

FY2015 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas near Bases (Based on Expenditures)

Project	(100 million yen)	
	Mainland	Okinawa
Projects for preventing disturbances	103	19
Sound insulation projects	423	79
Measures related to relocations	37	3
Subsidies for stabilizing people's livelihoods	212	19
Road improvement projects	67	4
Environs Improvement Adjustment Grants	166	29
Other projects	18	6

(2) Considerations for Future Harmonization of Defense Facilities and Surrounding Areas

In response to the requests by related municipal 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.

See Fig. III-4-1-4 (FY2015 Costs for Countermeasures in Areas Near Bases (Based on Expenditures))

Section 2 Public Relations Activities, Information Disclosure, and Related Activities

1 Various Public Relations Activities

As the activities of the MOD/SDF cannot be carried out without the understanding and support of the Japanese people, it is important to be proactive in undertaking easily comprehensible public relations activities and to gain the trust and cooperation of the public.

According to a "Public Opinion Survey on the Self Defense Forces and Security Issues" conducted by the Cabinet Office (in January 2015), the public expectations and evaluations towards the SDF have been increasing

as the scope of MOD/SDF activities has expanded both domestically and internationally. In light of this result, the MOD/SDF will continue to conduct a variety of PR activities, thereby striving to ensure better understanding of the current status of the MOD/SDF.

See Reference 76 ("Public Opinion Survey on the Self Defense Forces and Defense Issues" (excerpt) (Public Relations Office of Cabinet Office: as of January 2015))



State Minister of Defense Akira Sato exchanging opinions with local residents at a Roundtable Talk (Zentsuji City, Kagawa Prefecture)



The SDF Marching Festival held at the Nippon Budokan in FY2014

1 Website, Brochures, and Other Forms of PR

The MOD/SDF conducts PR activities using the Internet such as official websites, video distribution, and social media.

The MOD has also been making great efforts to provide accurate information in a more extensive and timely fashion, by creating brochures, PR videos, and manga editions of the defense white paper, as well as providing assistance in editing the PR magazine MAMOR and cooperation on media coverage.

Furthermore, based on the increasing interest in MOD/SDF initiatives by the international community, the MOD has been striving to gain the understanding of people in foreign countries by publishing the monthly English magazine, “Japan Defense Focus.” It is proactively transmitting information to the international community through efforts such as providing foreign media with opportunities to cover stories, enhancement of the English section of the MOD website, publishing English versions of the defense white paper and brochures, as well as producing PR videos.

2 Events and PR Facilities

The MOD/SDF conducts activities to widely inform nationals of the current circumstances of the SDF. These activities include the GSDF Fuji Fire Power Exercise, cruises to experience MSDF vessels, and demonstration flights and boarding experiences on aircraft. In addition, at camps and bases throughout the country, events including equipment exhibitions and unit tours are held on occasions such as the anniversary of a unit’s foundation. In some instances, they also hold parades throughout the cities, with cooperation from the local communities. Furthermore, as part of the commemoration of the SDF anniversary, the SDF Marching Festival is held at Nippon Budokan arena every year. The festival attracted approximately 41,000

visitors in total in 2014.

Concerning annual reviews by the SDF, a troop review, a fleet review, and an air review are hosted in rotation by the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF respectively. In 2014, an air review commemorating the 60th anniversary of the MOD/SDF was held at Hyakuri Base, which attracted approximately 15,000 visitors, including visitors who attended the review and the rehearsal. In 2015, a fleet review is planned to take place.

The MOD/SDF also actively opens PR facilities to the public. For instance, the number of visitors on the facility tour at the PR facilities in the MOD at Ichigaya district (Ichigayadai Tour) reached 350,000 as of the end of March 2015. Each SDF service also has a large-scale PR facility in addition to PR facilities and archives at the SDF camps and bases open to the public. Furthermore, the MOD/SDF provides cooperation for shooting films and TV programs.



The Air Review Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the MOD/SDF

3 Trial Enlistment Programs

The MOD/SDF offers SDF Life Experience Tours¹ and Enlistment Experience Programs². These programs are intended to promote participants’ understanding of the SDF by offering the opportunity to experience the daily life and

¹ Information on the Summer Tour/Spring Tour for College Students, Ms. Parsley Tour (trial tour for women in their 20s); and One-Day Visit to SDF for Women etc. is available on the MOD website.

² Tours to experience the daily life of the GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF. They are implemented upon request from private companies and other organizations through the Provincial Cooperation Offices.

training of the SDF, as well as to have direct contact with SDF personnel. In FY2014, approximately 150 persons participated in SDF Life Experience Tours. From the private

sector, the SDF received approximately 1,500 requests for Enlistment Experience Programs, and approximately 24,000 employees experienced SDF life.

2 Initiatives for Information Disclosure

1 Appropriate Operation of the Information Disclosure System and Personal Data Protection System

In accordance with the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs in 2001, the MOD discloses its administrative documents properly. In the light of respecting individual rights in line with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Administrative Organs, the MOD takes measures to ensure the security of the personal information under its jurisdiction, and discloses such information upon due request.

See Reference 77 (Record of Information Disclosure by the Ministry of Defense (FY2014)), Reference 78 (MOD Contacts for Information Disclosure and Personal Information Protection)

2 Appropriate Operation of the Whistleblower Protection System

The MOD set up a system to handle public interest-related information disclosures by its officials, employees and outside workers, establishing an internal contact desk for dealing with information disclosure that is in the public interest and whistleblower protection.

3 Engagement in Policy Evaluation

The MOD has been conducting the evaluation of various policies based on its policy evaluation system. In FY2014, the MOD conducted policy evaluations of R&D programs and the special measures concerning taxation as well as the major policies and programs of the National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) and the Mid Term Defense Program (MTDP).