Annual Report 2017
“Japan's Actions against Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden”
importance of the gulf of aden for japan

Japan depends, 99.6% of its trade volume, on maritime transportation, therefore, the navigational safety is the key for the daily life of its people as well as for its economy. The Gulf of Aden is one of the vital shipping lanes for Japan, since it connects Asia with Europe via the Suez Canal where 18,000 vessels pass annually. Furthermore, since approximately 18% of the world container cargos and 820,000 exported vehicles (approximately 18% of all the exported ones) from Japan were transported through the Gulf of Aden in 2017, the safety of merchant vessels is still one of the urgent and critical issues for Japan.

2017 annual passage of japan-related vessels* through the gulf of aden

*Japanese flag vessels and foreign flag vessels operated by Japanese shipping companies or their wholly own overseas subsidiaries

Approx.1,300 vessels

- Pure Car Carriers: 31%
- Container Carriers: 29%
- Chemical Tankers: 18%
- LNG Tankers: 15%
- Others: 7%

Gulf of Aden ⇔ Japan
Approx.12,000km (Approx. 6,500nm)
According to the ICC-IMB*, nine Somali piracy incidents were reported in 2017.

*International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau

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Japan remains concerned about the continuing threat posed by piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. Although a marked reduction has been seen in the number of attacks and hijackings in 2012, Japan observes that the underlying causes of piracy remain in place, and the current decline is inherently reversible.
In Mar. 2009, after receiving the approval of the Prime Minister based on the Cabinet decision under the provisions of Article 82 of the SDF Act, the Minister of Defense gave the order for Maritime Security Operations in order to protect Japan-related vessels from acts of piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. Following this order, two Japanese destroyers departed from Japan and began escorting Japan-related vessels in the same month. Moreover, to conduct more effective counter-piracy operations over an extensive marine area, the other order was given in May 2009 to dispatch two P-3C patrol aircraft, and these aircraft commenced warning and surveillance activities in the Gulf of Aden in Jun. of the same year.


In Jul. 2013, Japan decided to participate in the CTF151 to commence so-called zone defense* in addition to escort missions as before, while coordinating closely with the units of other countries that are engaged in counter-piracy operations, for the purpose of conducting more flexible and effective operations each others. Following this, the surface force started zone defense in Dec. 2013. In addition, the air force has been participating in the CTF151 since Feb. 2014.

*Stationing in certain waters to protect navigating vessels
Japan decided to scale down deployment of destroyers from two to one in Nov. 2016, because of the recent situation of Japan’s escort activity. The direct escort method firstly places the destroyer and private vessels to be escorted as a convoy at the assembly point, one each designated at the eastern and western ends of the Gulf. When the convoy sails across the Gulf of Aden, the destroyer guards the one. In this way, the ships take around two days to sail the 900km or so distance across the Gulf of Aden, all the while making absolutely certain that the convoy is safe and secure, day and night. Moreover, there are eight JCG officers aboard the destroyers and the JSDF cooperates with the JCG to enable them to conduct judicial law enforcement activities, as required. *(See “Outline” on Page 7)*

In addition, the maritime patrol aircraft (P-3Cs) based in the Republic of Djibouti make use of their excellent cruising capability in conducting warning and surveillance activities in the vast area of the Gulf of Aden. The flight zone is determined, based on coordination with the CTF151 headquarters. Since commencing duties in Jun. 2009, their aircraft have flown 1,951 missions as of Dec. 31 2017, and their flying hours total 14,910 hours. Approximately 162,000 ships have been identified and information has been provided to vessels navigating the area and other countries engaging in counter-piracy operations on around 13,160 occasions.

Moreover, two JSDF officers served as the CTF 151 commander from May to Aug. in 2015 and from Mar. to Jun. in 2017. No other members of the JSDF have ever served as commanders of multinational forces since the foundation of the JSDF. It is believed that this will enable Japan to further contribute to peace and stability in the international community.
Overview of the Counter-Piracy Operation of Japan

Deployed Forces
- DSPE (approx. 200 personnel/1 destroyer)
- DAPE (approx. 60 personnel/2 P-3Cs)
- DGPE (approx. 110 personnel)

International Activities
- Vessels
  - Direct Escort
    - National Tasking (Japan, China, India etc.)
  - Zone Defense
    - CTF151 (Japan, Korea, Turkey etc.)
    - EUNAVFOR (Germany, Spain etc.)
- Aircraft
  - CTF151 (Japan)
  - EUNAVFOR (Germany, Spain)

Warning and surveillance operations and information collection and provision
CTF151

Warning and surveillance activities and information collection and provision

CTF151

Djibouti

Somalia

IRTC
(900~1,100km)

National Tasking

Zone Defense (*)
Deterring acts of piracy by warning and surveillance activities

Direct Escort (*)
Accompanying the convoy

DSPE (approx. 200 personnel/1 destroyer)
DAPE (approx. 60 personnel/2 P-3Cs)
DGPE (approx. 110 personnel)

Since December 2016, Japan has been dispatching one destroyer. JSDF conducts zone defense when it is not engaged in direct escort.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, GeoEye, Getmapping, AeroGRID, IGP, UPR-EGP, and the GIS Community
Outline of the Escorted Vessels and Seafarers

As of Dec. 31 2017, 3,826 vessels have been escorted under the protection of the JSDF’s destroyers. Not a single vessel has come to any harm from pirates and these vessels have all passed safely across the Gulf of Aden. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan provides a sole contact point for coordination with the JSDF’s escort.

Escort Results of 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessels</th>
<th>Japan-Affiliated Vessels</th>
<th>Other Nationality Vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanker</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Cargo Ship</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Cargo Ship</td>
<td>3 2 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Liner</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNG Tanker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPG Tanker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container Carrier</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationality of Vessels

- Panama: 20 vessels
- India: 12 vessels
- Singapore: 8 vessels
- China: 6 vessels
- Marshall Islands: 5 vessels
- Malta: 3 vessels
- Others: 18 vessels

Nationality of Operating Companies

- India: 13 vessels
- China: 11 vessels
- Singapore: 8 vessels
- Japan: 4 vessels
- Italy: 4 vessels
- Greece: 4 vessels
- Turkey: 3 vessels
- Others: 16 vessels

Nationality of Seafarers

- India: 456 seafarers
- Philippines: 293 seafarers
- Indonesia: 450 seafarers
- China: 292 seafarers
- Myanmar: 55 seafarers
- South Korea: 52 seafarers
- Bangladesh: 48 seafarers
- Ukraine: 22 seafarers
- Japan: 49 seafarers
- Others: 155 seafarers

Japan-Affiliated Vessels: Japanese flag vessels, foreign flag vessels operated by Japanese shipping companies, other vessels that any Japanese board or that the MLIT of Japan regards to be related to Japan.
The number of piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden rapidly increased in 2008, and spread to the Indian Ocean later. Under these circumstances, it became common among major maritime countries that Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) were on-board of their flag vessels. These PCASP contributed to decrease of attacks by Somali pirates. However, under Japanese laws, it was prohibited to employ PCASP on Japanese flag vessels.

Therefore, the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Guarding of Japanese Ships in Pirate-Infested Waters was enforced on Nov. 30 2013 to ensure the security of Japanese flag vessels by PCASP.

Under the Act, PCASP that is confirmed by the Minister of the MLIT of Japan can guard Japanese flag vessels in the Pirate-Infested Waters based on the Designated Guarding Plan authorized by the Minister.

**Overview of the Act**

(1) Applicable sea areas
   : Pirate-infested waters as shown in the map
   : High risk Japanese flag vessels prone to piracy

(2) Ship owners, seeking to protect their vessels by PCASP, shall submit, for each vessel, a Designated Guarding Plan (DGP) specifying any Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC), implementation method of guarding, etc., and shall obtain the authorization from the Minister of the MLIT of Japan.

(3) The ship owners, before they implement their DGPs, shall obtain confirmation from the Minister of the MLIT of Japan that both of the PMSC and the PCASP meet all the requirements stipulated by the Act.
In Jan. and Dec. 2017, the JSDF’s counter-piracy units conducted a joint counter-piracy exercise in communication, tactical maneuver and photographing with the German Navy of the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia-Operation Atalanta in the Gulf of Aden.

These joint counter-piracy exercises followed the agreement between EU and Japanese leaders during the 22nd Japan-EU summit in Brussels in May 2014.

**Joint Counter-Piracy Exercises with EU NAVFOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>JSDF</th>
<th>EU NAVFOR</th>
<th>Types of Exercises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>P-3C x 1</td>
<td>P-3M x 1 (Spanish Air Force)</td>
<td>Search, Identification and Photographing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>P-3C x 2</td>
<td>P-3C x 1 (German Navy)</td>
<td>Communication, Tactical Maneuver and Photographing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Joint Counter-Piracy Exercises with Naval Forces to CTF151**

In Jan. and Apr. 2017, the JSDF’s counter-piracy units conducted joint counter-piracy exercises in deck landing of helicopters, tactical maneuver etc. with their counterparts from various countries to the Combined Task Force 151 (CTF151).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>JSDF</th>
<th>CTF151</th>
<th>Types of Exercises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>Destroyer “Kirisame”</td>
<td>“Tariq” (Pakistan Navy)</td>
<td>Communication and Photographing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Japan’s Financial and Technical Cooperation to Tackle Piracy

Assistance to Somalia

Japan considers the stability of Somalia is absolutely critical for ensuring human security as well as for the fundamental solution of terrorism and piracy, which threaten the security of international community. From this point of view, Japan has been providing Somalia, through international organizations, with necessary assistance for responses to the humanitarian crisis and for stability over the medium to long term in such sectors as public security, humanitarian assistance, and infrastructure development since 2007, and Japan will continue to assist Somalia with the three pillars of 1) Recovery of Basic Social Services, 2) Improvement of the Capability of Security Institutions, and 3) Revitalization of Domestic Industries.

1) Recovery of Basic Social Services
- Food aid, Water supplies, Public health, Education, Basic infrastructure development
- Assistance to counter human trafficking and illegal migration

2) Improvement of the Capability of Security Institutions
- Assistance to the Somali Police Force
- Assistance to enhance migration management
- Collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in the Horn of Africa
- Assistance to AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia)

3) Revitalization of Domestic Industries
- Vocational training, Employment generation
- Repair of roads, ports and harbors

Assistance to Improve Capacities for Maritime Security in the Region

- Contributing US$14.60 million to the IMO Djibouti Code Trust Fund (a Japan-initiated multi-donor trust fund) for capacity-building in Somalia and its neighboring countries (including assistance for construction of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre), and US$4.50 million to the Trust Fund to Support Initiative of States countering pirates off the coast of Somalia for the purpose of prosecution of suspected pirates
- Providing patrol vessels and technical assistance to the Djibouti Coast Guard for improvement of its capacities for maritime security