Sendai airport where tsunami surges and light aircraft floats. Although, it is difficult to use early stage, it begins by immediately using the main glide slope on 16th. It is used as the base of the cargo shipment to the stricken area. U.S. There was the cooperation of the U.S. Japan Forces who conducted pebbles removal and repair construction in early stage.

The cargo aircraft arrived at the Sendai airport where the airlift had restarted. It is a rescue supply to the stricken area such as water and food that has been carried. Soldiers of U.S. Forces Japan load unloaded goods into the track of the Self Defense Forces with members of the Self Defense Forces in Japan. The destination of the track is a refuge in the Pacific Ocean coast where damage is large. SDF personnel who transport it speak, "Up to now, turned round KESENNUMA and ISHINOMAKI".

U.S. Forces Japan have tried to use the Sendai airport as a transportation base of the rescue supply immediately after the earthquake. However, the airport was only toles and pebbles. MAMORU OTSUBO (in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Tokyo Civil Aviation Bureau Sendai airport office head) said "The whole area of the airport goes under water, and the prospect of restoration doesn't look up at all".

Therefore, U.S. Forces Japan gathered 214 soldiers from the YOKOTA base (Tokyo) and the KADENA base (Okinawa), etc., and began the pebbles removal of the glide slope with SDF personnel. The heavy equipment such as forklifts is brought in, and the passenger car that has been thrown by tsunami removed. The main glide slope was secured by hard work, and the takeoff and landing became possible on the 16th.
The Japan Self-defense forces (JSDF) and U.S. Forces have dispatched the disaster relief units on an “unprecedented” scale (expression by Official of the Defense Ministry of Japan). Regarding the JSDF, as of March 27, 9:00 am, approximately 106,900 personnel, 539 aircrafts and 53 vessels have been sent to the affected area, and these personnel is nearly half of the total strength of Ground, Maritime and Air self-defense force. Meanwhile, the U.S. Forces’ posture in “the Operation TOMODACHI” (literally means “friends”) is about 16,000 personnel from the Army, Navy, Air force and Marine, 113 aircrafts and 12 warships including USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76). In particular, U.S. Marine helicopter squadron and other units have deployed to transport relief goods, and these units belong to Futenma base in Okinawa which has confronted with base relocation issue.

To control those units, the US Forces established ‘Joint Support Force’ (JSF) at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo. Immediately after the earthquake occurred, the US commanding officer in charge was LTG Field, Commanding General USFJ, but Admiral Walsh, US Pacific Fleet Commander, took command when JSF was established.

“JSDF and the US Forces have been working in close cooperation on the disaster relief as if they were responding to an invasion to Japan. Cooperation experiences with the US Forces that have been accumulated so far through bilateral joint exercises have been put to the test.” an SDF Officer pointed out.
As of 27th of March, US 7th Fleet continued the operation Tomodachi offshore of the affected area. A journalist got off the USS Tortuga to board the USS Essex, the frontline base of the operation. These soldiers say “This operation is a symbol of friendship between Japan and USA.”

The debris of many houses broken by tsunami is still floating on the sea. They say “Japanese people display unbelievable toughness. We are honored to take on this assignment” and believe hard the revival of the affected area.

LT Hiroaki TANAKA, Operational Staff, 1st Escort Flotilla, MSDF, who has embarked on USS Essex for Liaison Officer, said “I have impressed that Operation’s name TOMODACHI instead of FRIEND. And I feel our relationship getting deeper. I’m glad about US’s voluntary supports.”

Mutual cooperation between the JSDF and the JSF has been improving day by day.
GSDF MAJ Yasuhiro Matsuo, Intel Process Div Ground Material Control Center (GMCC) says, “Today’s transportation operation was successful, because the USMC responded to our request flexibly by using LCU. I’m confident that the JSDF and the JSF have been communicating with each other very well.”
JSF has been conducting various support activities, however, all of them share one mind, “friendship between Japan and the United States” which is embroidered on a patch on the right shoulder of U.S. personnel as a kanji letter “Tomo” (Tomo means friend in Japanese).
Ensign Kennedy (U.S. Navy) says impressive statement that “Japan has marvelous resilience to get over adversity”.

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Japanese News Paper Articles

Yomiuri (28 Mar, 2011)
Title : Close coverage of the 7th Fleet Relief Support activities
Yomiuri (29 Mar, 2011)
Title : 4 Teams Established for Nuclear Power Plant Accident
- Cooperation in Radiation Shielding -

It turned out that Japanese and U.S. Governments had set up a liaison and coordination conference and subordinate 4 working teams which deal specific subjects to strengthen cooperation between Japan and U.S. government.

Government officials, nuclear energy experts, The Japan Self-defense forces (JSDF), U.S. Forces, Tokyo Electric Power Co. and private companies associated with nuclear power plant are supposed to take part in the 4 working teams. The purpose of setting up these elements is to organize posture to deal with the incidents at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant with all their might.

The 4 teams are going to operate in 4 subjects respectively. One of the 4 subjects is the radiation shielding. Some urgent countermeasures are needed for the radiation shielding. 2nd one is disposal of nuclear fuel rods to stabilize the power plant in medium range. 3rd one is, long term countermeasure, decommission of the power plant. And last one is medical and life support activity for the people suffered from the earthquake and the tsunami. The 3 teams except medical and life support activity team have been already set up. The team for medical activity and life support would be set up soon. Prime Minister Special Advisor Hosono is going to control the whole 4 activities.

The liaison and coordination conference launched its full-scale activity on March 22 and the conference is held every day since then. Officials from Department of Energy, U.S. military and U.S. Embassy in Tokyo take part in the conference from U.S. side. Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman of Nuclear Regulatory Commission, also attended the conference held at night on March 28th.
In Shichinohe Bikou-en, a children’s home near the Misawa Air Base, lived about 40 children when the earthquake occurred. After the catastrophe, that institution accommodated around 30 children additionally, among of whom lost their parents because of the quake. The increase in the number of children caused the acute shortage of food and clothing.

In a telephone interview with Sankei Newspaper, a male staff member of Biko-en said “U.S. Military staff visited here on both March 26th and 27th. They brought box lunches and had them with kids. The kids all enjoyed time with them. We really appreciate it.”

The relationship of trust that U.S. Forces in Misawa Air Base and Biko-en have built together for over 20 years contributed to the U.S.’ support for disaster-affected Japan.

Donations made by not only from U.S Military families but also Sailors and Marines are increasing. Sailors and Marines aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), which is currently off the Sanriku coast (northeast coast of Japan's Honshu island), collected more than 1,000 blankets and sweaters, and 20 toys. Lieutenant Commander Justine Harts said “Some of them donated dolls that their children had given before embarking. Young children who heard about the disaster were very upset and asked their parents to donate dolls for Japanese children who may have lost all their toys.”
More and more USFJ personnel who are participating in “Operation TOMODACHI” have a badge embroidering with Japanese word “TOMO (or friend)” on their military jackets. The badge is made by a Japanese man who has cherished a long-time friendship with US navy and was motivated by their relief efforts. He has offered the USFJ personnel the badges for free saying, “I hope this will be a bridge between US and Japan.”

Mr. Amamiya who designed the badge said that its basic concept was “TOMODACHI (or friends)” and he put “TOMO” in Chinese character at the center of Hinomaru (or Japanese flag). Then he added the message, ”Don’t give up, Japan” because he believed that this message would inform the affected people that US forces came to help them and also relieve their uneasiness.
Japanese News Paper Articles

Yomiuri (30 Mar, 2011)
Title : US free providing military-use robots for Japan

The US government conveyed to the Japanese side that it had decided to provide Japan with military robots without compensation in order to contribute the efforts to tackle the accident of Fukushima No.1 nuclear plant. The same types of robots have been used in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yomiuri (30 Mar, 2011)
Title : US Carrier Conducting Disaster Relief Activities Opened to the Public

The US Air Force in Japan opened a C-130 carrier to the public on March 29th at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo. C-130s have been deployed for “Operation TOMODACHI” to provide relief support for the area and people affected by the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake.
On March 30th, U.S. military members dispatched from bases in Japan started to remove mud and debris with teachers and students at Ishinomaki Prefectural Technical High School damaged by great Tsunami, in Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture. This cooperation was launched in order to get the school back up for enrollment ceremony and conduct entrance exam rescheduled for April 5th due to Tsunami.

U.S. military responded to the request by Ishinomaki city. The team was joined by around 50 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, as well as about 120 students and teachers. When U.S. service members aligned, baseball and soccer club students shouted, “Cool!”

U.S. Military personnel scooped up mud and removed it from a gym.

1st Lt. Sean McMahon, commander of the team said, “We are glad to work together and excited to help out and get people back on their feet.”
Yomiuri (31 Mar, 2011)
Title: Barge Carrying Cooling Fresh Water Set Off

The Japanese government has borrowed a barge from the U.S. Navy for cooling efforts at Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant. The barge loaded with fresh water left Onahama Port in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture evening March 30th for the Nuclear Power Plant, towed by “Hiuchi”, a multipurpose support ship of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). A JMSDF tugboat is to put the barge around noon March 31st alongside the pier north of the Nuclear Power Plant, and then they are to prepare to inject cooling water into the tank of the Nuclear Power Plant.

Sankei (31 Mar, 2011)
Title: Obama Calls Japanese Prime Minister Kan

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan spoke with U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday by phone about the handling of the crisis at Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant and thanked the president for the extensive U.S. help in the response effort. Prime Minister also asked for the close U.S.-Japanese cooperation and the continuous support from U.S.. The President reiterated that the United States is determined to support the people of Japan in their efforts to deal with the devastating effects of this tragedy, both in the short and the long term. The phone conversation lasted for 25 minutes.

Sankei (31 Mar, 2011)
Title: Coordination for 2+2 meeting on April 29th - Delayed Futenma relocation issue, Surfaced 2+2 meeting put off policy -

It was revealed that Japan and the United States had made final preparation and adjustments to hold the United States-Japan Security Consultative Committee (2+2 meeting) on April 29th on purpose to map out the common strategic objectives to Japan and the United States. But ‘Now, Japan, closely cooperating with the U.S., make great efforts to handle the situation after the disaster. This can have some effect (on the schedule for the 2 + 2 meeting)’, said Minister of Defense Kitazawa on March 30th at the Committee on Foreign Affairs, one of the National Diet’s Committees. Actually, the local coordination of the relocation of the Futenma Air Station (Ginowan city, Okinawa prefecture) has not advanced, so situation cannot allow to hold the 2+2 meeting. A posture to grope for the postponement of the 2+2 meeting using disaster as an excuse is coming to light. It is sure that the U.S. increase distrust of the Japanese put off policy.
Sankei (31 Mar, 2011)
Title : Defense Minister Kitazawa “UAV imagery won’t be released”
- USFJ negative about release -

Defense Minister Kitazawa told Wednesday at the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the House of Councilors that the imagery pictures of the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant taken by US UAV Global Hawk would not be released to the public. He added that the pictures were not aimed at releasing to the public and that USFJ was negative about the release even if they were unclassified.

Tokyo (1 Apr, 2011)
Title : JSDF & U.S. military start massive search for missing

On March 31th, the Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) announced that JSDF and U.S. Forces Japan would conduct 3-day massive joint operation to find those still missing in the coast of Iwate and Fukushima prefecture staring April 1st. JSDF has been continuing searching activities, however more than 16,000 people remain missing. Therefore, JSDF decided to launch intensive search by massive manpower and aircraft, covering pacific coastal areas in northern Iwate and southern Fukushima prefecture out of the radius of 30km of Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant to secure the service members. 9 Divisions and Brigades of the JGSDF are in charge of the ground operation, JSDF and U.S. Military are engaged in the search from the sky and the sea by 65 ships and 120 aircraft including helicopters.
Yomiuri (1 Apr, 2011)
Title : 18,000 U.S. Personnel in Operation Tomodachi
“We’ll spare no effort.”

“We’ll spare no effort in providing support for Japan.” said U.S. President Obama on the day the strong earthquake occurred in Japan. The Japan-U.S. joint disaster relief operation has been record scale, with U.S. forces that have drawn on every resource available from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

According to U.S. Pacific Command, 19 ships, 133 aircraft and over 18,000 personnel are participating in the operation. U.S. Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier ‘Ronald Reagan’ in cooperation with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force’s ships began airlifting by helicopters off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture to which the earthquake caused extensive damage.

Japan-U.S. Combined Coordination Centers have been set up in three places to develop a relief plan; Japanese Ministry of Defense in Camp Ichigaya, Tokyo, Headquarters of the U.S. Forces Japan in Yokota Air Base and the Northeastern Army Headquarters, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

“We are living and working here. We would like to be part of a solution when a disaster happens.” said General Field, Commander of the U.S. Forces Japan.

Yomiuri (1 Apr, 2011)
Title : Barge Carrying Cooling Fresh Water Arrives

One of the barges that the Japanese government has borrowed from the U.S. Navy for cooling efforts at Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant was towed by a JMSDF multipurpose support ship on Thursday afternoon and was brought alongside the pier of nearby the Plant. Another is anchored at Onahama port for the fixing of the equipment and is scheduled to leave as soon as it is ready.

Two barges loaded with approximately 1,140 tons of fresh water will be placed side by side along the pier and are to inject water into the fresh water tank of the plant. TEPCO will take charge of the work such as connecting hoses to the tank.
Yomiuri (2 Apr, 2011)
Title : U.S. Marines Arrives to Clear Debris
- Oh-shima, Kesen-numa City -

About 200 personnel from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31MEU) of the U.S. Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa begun disaster relief activities April 1st in Kesen-numa City, Miyagi Prefecture.

31MEU is responsible for debris cleanup as it has the ability to sealift heavy machineries to clear the huge amount of debris on the roads and in the ports.

U.S. Naval ship Essex, an amphibious assault ship, landed large trucks, bulldozers, etc. U.S. marines who came ashore offered a silent prayer to mourn the victims. They are to work there for about a week staying in tents. “I have been encouraged by U.S. Marines’ presence. The tears rolled from my eyes when they arrived here.” said Mr. SHIRAHATA Mikado who keeps an inn in Oh-shima.

Nikkei (2 Apr, 2011)
Title : 32 remains found on the coast of 3 prefectures

Japan and U.S. together in search for the missing.

The Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF), in collaboration with the U.S. Forces Japan, conducted search for the missing on April 1st on the 600-kilometer coast of 3 prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. According to the JSDF Joint Staff, they had recovered 28 remains by 2230 1st April and were to continue the search operation until April 3rd. The Japan Coast Guard also conducted a search in the same area and had recovered 4 remains as of 1700 1st April.

The search begins at 0800 and continues till sunset. 25,000 personnel from the JSDF and U.S. Forces are participating in the operation. The Japan Coast Guard and Police & Fire authorities are also taking part in the search in cooperation with JSDF.

65 ships and about 120 aircraft from the JSDF and U.S. Forces searched the missing mainly in the coast area.
**Mainichi (2 Apr, 2011)**

**Title : Japan-U.S. United to Fight against Nuclear Crisis**

The Japanese and U.S. Governments have tightened their cooperation to deal with the radioactive leakage from the Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant. 140 members from the U.S. Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) specializing in emergency nuclear response are to visit Japan on April 2nd and make a concerted effort with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) to deal with the problem. In addition, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Committee (NRC), U.S. Forces Japan and Japanese authorities concerned have set up a joint consultation body to discuss concrete measures for radiation shielding. “The earthquake promoted the integration of Japan and U.S.” said a Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

CBIRF members will be standing by at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo to share information with JGSDF and to prepare for any possible nuclear emergencies.

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**Asahi (3 Apr, 2011)**

**Title : The U.S. barges which carried pure water are going to be converted into irradiated water tanks**

The Kan administration has started to consider converting the barges which were offered from U.S forces to carrying cooling water for the reactors of the Fukushima No.1 NPP, into irradiated water tanks.

The Japanese government offered the plan at the nuclear plant accident Council and was agreed by U.S. government.

As the highly irradiated water in the turbine building being a great obstacle for dealing with the problem, the plan raised which is to keep the irradiated water temporarily in the empty barges unloaded with the pure water.

The Kan administration is considering another plan too that use “a very large floating structure made of steel (Mega-Float)” which is offered from Shizuoka City.
Sankei (3 Apr, 2011)
Title : First Party of Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force arrived

Because of Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Incident, the first party of the U.S. Military unit specializing in damage control of nuclear incident arrived at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo on April 2. The unit is supposed to carry out information sharing at the base with Japan Self Defense Force for a while. Japanese government would like to request the employment of the unit in decontamination activity in case of contingency like radiation leak. But the possibility to send the U.S. troop in off-limits area is yet to be discovered. Cooperative activity of Japan and U.S. in nuclear power plant incident would be the first case for them. Repeated trial and error would happen.

The first party of the unit consist of 15 personnel who belong to the CBIRF (Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force) responding to a threat of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high yield explosive incident. Some of them are expected to be sent to the Central Readiness Force headquarters as liaison officers.

Sankei (3 Apr, 2011)
Title : 31bodies were found in the U.S-Japan massive search operation

The massive search operation for the missing on the hard-hit coasts of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima prefecture by the Japanese Self Defense Forces, U.S. Forces, Japanese coast guard found 31body on April 2, ended around 6 pm. According to the Ministry of defense and the Japan Coast Guard, they found 19bodies in the Miyagi prefecture, 8 in the Iwate prefecture, 4 in the Fukushima Prefecture.
US Military is conducting Operation TOMODACHI to help out the people affected by East Japan Great Earthquake. On April 3rd, I (journalist) accompanied Marines and Sailors, who left USS Essex (LHD 2) in support of the operation including cleaning-up debris on the remote island of Oshima, Kesennuma City, which has been isolated since the tsunami.

A harbor area in Oshima suffered catastrophic damage, which hindered ferries to come alongside the pier and greatly delayed the relief and recovery efforts. Support by US Marines capable of moving heavy equipment without a harbor is now contributing to restoring vital lifelines including electricity.
April 3 is the last day of 3-Day massive search operation by JSDF, US Forces and Japan Coast Guard (JCG) which have been searching missing on the coastal areas of Tohoku region starting from April 1. The remains recovered and confirmed in this operation have amounted to 78 in total: JSDF and US Forces have recovered 69, while JCG recovered 9, as of 8 p.m. April 3. However countless number of people still remains missing, so JSDF and JCG are going to continue the efforts to search missing people.

Participating in the joint mission are about 25,000 in total including 18,000 from JSDF, 7,000 from US Military as well as members from JCG, police and fire-fighting personnel. JSDF and US Military have provided about 120 aircraft including rotary wings, 60 ships and so forth, while JCG providing 9 aircraft and 27 ships. This time the operation has covered coastal areas and estuary areas in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures excluding surrounding areas of the quake-damaged Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant.

JSDF, US military and JCG recovered and confirmed 35 remains on April 1, 81 remains on 2nd as well as 12 on 3rd as of 8 p.m. The operations had lasted till sunset of April 3.
“You know that we have dispatched 19 ships to Japan besides operations in Afghanistan and Iraq,” noted Robert Gates, the US Defense Secretary in the testimony before Congress. At the Department of State, Mr. Maher, former Director of the Office of Japan Affairs, who had been dismissed because of discriminatory remarks to Okinawa was engaged in liaison and coordination between US and Japan day and night during March. It is not appropriate that we connect this disaster with Futenma Air Station relocation issue, but we would like to listen to the statements of Mr. Calder, the Director of the Edwin O. Reishauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins University. “I want Japan and US to reset Japan-US alliance, which has been strained since the new government set up, using this opportunity,” he said.

The Japan-US Security Consultative Committee (2+2) by officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense will be held at the end of April, and they will set again US-Japan common strategic objectives in East Asia. In June, at the Japan-US summit meeting, both countries will confirm the importance of the Japan-US Security Treaty which marked 50th anniversary last year. This schedule for 2+2 should not be delayed.
Mainichi (5 Apr, 2011)
Title: Sendai Air Port as a Symbol of U.S. Forces’ Cooperation

Restoration effort by U.S. Forces is now in progress at Sendai Airport which had a devastated damage by tsunami of Great East Japan Earthquake. The airport becomes a strategic hub for delivery of relief supplies. There are many tents put by USMC, U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy, and among 250 personnel in the airport, Sendai Air Port is called “Camp Sendai” which is now a symbol of U.S. Forces’ cooperation for HA/DR operations.

“This is one of the best operations conducted with close cooperation of other military in my career.” said Col Dwain Rot. He commands 353th Special Operations Group in Kadena Air Base. The group will be a maneuvering unit in wartime.

The special operations group aboard the modified transportation plane landed Matsushima Air Base of JASDF from Yokota Air Base in the early morning of March 16, 5 days after the earthquake. It’s been about 3 weeks since 13 personnel in 2 HMMWVs arrived on site.

On Mar. 13, after 2 days of the earthquake, Col Rot was on a scout helicopter for survey. He recognized that Sendai Air Port was covered with a lot of debris, mud and hundreds of crashed cars. He then thought it would be a difficult job. On Mar. 16, about 1,500m out of 3,000m runway was secured to use, and on the same day, a C-130 transportation plane with relief supplies and equipment landed.

About 150 USMC personnel arrived on Mar. 18. Capt John Simpson, combat logistics regiment, USMC, first estimated that it would need 3 weeks for the airport restoration, because debris and hundreds of cars were scattered, and furthermore it was covered with a thick mud, about 60cm maximum. However, the recovery efforts accelerated faster than he thought.

Securing the whole runway was given a first priority and consequently the full length of runway became operational on Mar. 28, 10 days of recovery effort. Even C-17, larger transportation plane, is able to land now. As the emergency air traffic control tower starts operating, the air traffic control service is transferred to the airport authority on Mar. 31.

“It is a miracle.” said Col Makoto Kasamatsu, JGSDF liaison officer in the airport, “Since SDF suits for conducting relief operations close to the affected people, we split our roles. Our close cooperation in a large framework has been working. This operation is a perfect model for our Security Treaty.”

MAJ Neill Fisher, USFJ HQ, emphasized importance of U.S. Forces’ presence in Japan, “It took us 4 days to response to the earthquake in Haiti, but this time, we soon established the posture to meet any requirement.”
Japan Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa visited aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76), deploying off the coast of Sanriku to assist the area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, on April 4. In the presence of about 2,000 soldiers, Kitazawa read the message from Prime Minister Kan, saying “I know that all of the Japanese national were deeply touched and encouraged by US solders’ hard work for relief operation in Japan. This time, I feel strongly more than ever that it is reassuring to have a good friendship with US.”

“Japanese people have been and will be your friends. I am convinced that Joint relief operation between Japan and US will further deepen our alliance”, said Kitazawa in his words. He was accompanied by General Ryoichi Oriki, Japan Chief of Joint Staff, Mr. John Roos, US ambassador in Japan and Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, Commander of US Pacific Fleet and also commander of Operation TOMODACHI. ambassador Roos said, “Please be sure to keep in mind that we have been ready for providing support for Japan at all times.”
Washington informs GOJ of the budget over “Operation Tomodachi” to be a maximum of 80 million dollars. Operation Tomodachi is a HA/DR operation of U.S. Forces deploying to assist the affected area of Great East Japan Earthquake. Both governments have launched the discussion to deal with in case the costs exceed the maximum amount. Subject of discussion also includes the cost to be covered by Japanese side. However, the total amount of the budget is unclear because U.S. government hasn’t decided how to draw up the budget over the response to Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Plant accident, both government sources explain on Tuesday.

US Department of Defense appropriates the budget as a humanitarian assistance expenses. Though, immediately after the earthquake occurred, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced his intention to allot a maximum of $35 million as a humanitarian assistance expenses, the maximum costs was raised at 2.3 times to meet a full-scale operation.

Principally, the budget is an expenditure on relief supplies including food, water and fuel to the affected people. In addition, the expense of a large water lift pump to supply fresh water as coolant for the reactors was added to a humanitarian assistance expenses as an emergency measure for Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant accident.
Mainichi (6 Apr, 2011)
Title: US CBIRF arrived at Yokota AFB - 150-Experts for Nuclear Crisis

On April 5, Ministry of Defense announced that about 150 members of the U.S. Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), which responds to the emergency at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant, had arrived at U.S. Yokota AFB in Tokyo by Tuesday. Four separated groups were transferred by air from April 2, and last fourth group arrived on April 5.

CBIRF is going to discuss joint efforts including decontamination of the radioactive contaminations with the JGSDF’s Central Nuclear Biological Chemical Unit, in order to prepare for nuclear emergency.

Nikkei (6 Apr, 2011)
Title: US Carrier to Leave Affected Areas – US Forces to Shift its Support from Search to Restoration

Government officials have revealed that USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76), deployed on Sanriku offshore to assist devastated areas hit by Great East Japan Earthquake has finished its search and supply-transportation missions, and is leaving there. In turn US Forces will shift its focus of efforts to restoration works such as response to the Fukushima No.1 plant’s issues and removing debris.

The Reagan arrived at Sanriku offshore on March 13 and have conducted search and transportation missions by its helicopters. It also participated in the 3-day intensive search for missing people by SDF, US Military covering the affected 3 prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. Now, more than 3 weeks have passed since the great earthquake, so part of units are returning to its routine. 2 Aegis cruisers which were in support missions have already completed its activities.

US Army and USMC will continue their recovery efforts.
“As the sea-base of the US Operation, USS Ronald Reagan has played the significant role,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano told press conference.
US military has established the 300-strong Joint Support Force, JSF, at Yokota AFB to deal with their responses to relief operations for affected people in the Great East Japan Earthquake and issues of Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant. The JSF includes staff of USFJ HQ as well as a liaison team from JSDF in order to coordinate bilateral missions.

This is the first time that an organization like JSF which functions as a forward command post of US PACOM has been established in Japan. Assets of 4 services, US Army, Navy, Air Force and USMC are commanded and employed by JSF in an integrated and coordinated manner. In case of combat operations, Joint Task Force, JTF is supposed to be established; however, JTF was named Joint Support Force, JSF, this time to clarify the specific meaning to help out disaster victims. A MoD official said the establishment of JSF indicates US regards this disaster as a serious emergency in Japan, even though the name of the unit is specified as Support.

Immediately after the great earthquake, Japan-US bilateral coordination centers were established in not only Ichigaya, Tokyo where MoD of Japan is situated, but also in Yokota and Sendai. At the beginning, US Air Force LtGen Field, CG of USFJ was appointed as the commander of JSF. On March 24, upgraded JSF was established in Yokota, having Admiral Walsh, the commander of the Pacific Fleet as the new commander. The Pacific Fleet is the superior organization of USFJ and its HQ are located in Hawaii.

…….(2/2) next page
Asahi (7 Apr, 2011)
Title : Japan and US Military Maintains Real Emergency Level Bilateral Operational Coordination in an Integrated Manner (2/2)

JSDF has dispatched a liaison team with about 10 members led by MG Bansho, Director of Policy & Programs Department, GSO who was the commander of the 1st dispatched SDF unit for Iraq reconstruction. MG Bansho currently stays at Yokota AFB. It is an unprecedented case that the Director who assumes such an important position leaves MoD for such a long period and stays at a US base. Japan and US Military have exchanged their general-class liaison officers with each other for tasking at Camp Sendai where HQ of JTF-TH is situated as well as Bilateral Crisis Action Team, BCAT, which functions as a coordination center.

The establishment of Japan-US bilateral coordination center has been stipulated in official documents such as the Guidelines for Japan-US Defense Cooperation, and it’s been a long standing challenge to enhance the effectiveness of Japan-US alliance, but this disaster has triggered them to establish the coordination body which has equivalent functions required in case of emergency in Japan. “We have experiences to establish coordination centers in bilateral exercises under scenarios for training; however, this is the first time that we have such a large scale coordination center in the real operation. I realize this is indeed bilateral planning for real operations.” a JGSDF officer said.

Asahi (7 Apr, 2011)
Title : U.S. Forces in Sendai Air Port finishes their mission

U.S. Forces supporting the affected areas of Great East Japan Earthquake finishes their mission today at Sendai Air Port which has been a hub of relief supply delivery.

Sendai AP, 500m ashore from the coastline was not operational because the terminal building and ATC tower were flooded by the tsunami and enormous debris remained on the runway. According to the government sources, U.S. Forces applied to Response Action Team of GOJ for the approval to use Sendai AP on March 13. On March 16, U.S. Forces C-130 with some heavy construction equipment landed at the airport. On 1,500m out of 3,000m-long runway, all mud and debris were cleaned up, which enabled the transportation planes with relief supplies to land at Sendai AP.
**Japanese News Paper Articles**

*Asahi (7 Apr, 2011)*  
**Title :** Tomodachi (Friend) Indeed - U.S.-Japan Alliance in HA/DR Activities

**Nuclear Power Plant Incident** - To Respond to “Unprecedented Experience” Lefts the Discontents of Both Countries and Challenge of Mutual Understanding

Jsdf and U.S. Armed Forces have been making smooth coordination in the relief activities of this devastating earthquake and tsunami. On the other hand, the discontents have been left due to the difficulties of coordination in their efforts to settle down the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant which is “an unprecedented experience” for both countries.

On March 16, 6days after the earthquake, the worsening situation of the plant such as explosions of the reactor’s containers made White House to change their policy without notice to Japan, said the U.S. sources. This new policy had shiftd their passive attitude to wait for the requirement of GOJ to positive one to propose their measures to Japan. This shift indicates that “They don’t trust the measures anymore which GOJ adopts.”

There are 2 points that U.S. doubts of GOJ’s measures for nuclear power plant accident: one is whether Japan has a strategic plan or not, and the other is whether Japan is preparing for the worst case of scenario or not.

Japanese relevant source points out, “This comes from the different forms of our decision-making processes; top-down process in U.S. and bottom-up one in Japan.” It implicates that the root of this challenge extends to the cultural differences.

**Futenma Issue** – GOJ Is Being Gotten into the Corner.

U.S. Pessimistic about Progress in Futenma Issue

In this relief effort, the cooperation of two countries made a certain amount of achievement. “Japanese pros of U.S.-Japan Alliance will get higher than ever now.” said Mr. Green, former NSC, Senior Director for Asian Affair. U.S. recognizes this is the good opportunity to enhance the alliance of U.S. and Japan.

However, the pending issue such as a relocation of Futenma Air Base is unlikely to make progress, and the most think it could be rather difficult in the future.

The expert of security issue in Asian region, Mr. McDavid, the Director of Strategic Studies, Center for Naval Analysis mentions, “Given the costs that GOJ bears for reconstruction, it becomes more difficult to implement the relocation of Futenma AB and transfer of USMC to Guam in terms of the budget. Consequently, it is likely that current posture in Okinawa continues for a whole.” U.S. Congress also shares the same view.

Although both governments are in the same position to promote the U.S. Forces Transformation as schedule including the relocation of Futenma AB, they also share the same understanding of this difficult situation.
Sankei (7 Apr, 2011)
Title: Operation Tomodachi Completes on Oshima, Miyagi

U.S. Commander “Believes Their Rebuilding”
USFJ’s efforts assisting debris-clearing in support of Operation Tomodachi on Oshima island off Kesenuma City, Miyagi prefecture, were just about complete, and Marines and Sailors bid farewell to the residents on April 6.
U.S. Military dispatched approximately 300 Marines and 30 Sailors to Oshima where were cut off by the aftermath of the catastrophe. The service members landed on Oshima island by using Landing Craft Utility (LCU) from USS ESSEX removed rubble and cars from roads with heavy machineries which they had brought. They set up shower facilities at an elementary school, and the residents expressed appreciation for that support.
At a farewell ceremony that the residents held to thank the U.S. service members, “I am proud of working hand in hand with the island's residents. Spring is just around the corner, and I am confident that they will rebuild their home,” said Rear Adm. Jeffrey Jones, chief of the marines assigned to the island.

Mainichi (7 Apr, 2011)
Title: U.S. CBIRF Starts up

150-member of the U.S. Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force , CBIRF, which deals with radiation leaks from Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant crippled by Great East Japan Earthquake, arrived at U.S. Yokota AFB in Fussa City, Tokyo. Members of the CBIRF are going to develop the operation plan including radioactive decontamination with the JGSDF’s Central Nuclear Biological Chemical Unit in order to prepare for nuclear emergency.
“ This time the CBIRF arrives in Japan. Thus, U.S Military has offered continuous aid and support for us.” said Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa at the disaster countermeasure headquarters conference on April 6. He reported that “Operation Tomodachi”, which is the U.S. disaster relief activity, had shifted from search and rescue operation phase to nuclear crisis response and reconstruction phase, and emphasized the close cooperation saying “In the event of catastrophe, Japan-U.S. bilateral cooperation is extremely important.”
About 150 members of the initial response team of U.S. Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, CBIRF, which have arrived in Japan since April 2, are now exchanging the relevant information with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, JGSDF, at their base of operation, US Yokota AFB in Tokyo, where HQs of US Force Japan is located. Up until now, CBIRF has been in a stand-by posture for “emergency.”

Japan called on US for cooperation in responding nuclear crisis, in case that things should get even worse. Regarding the possibility of CBIRF’s deployment in nuclear power plant area, “At the present phase, we have not reached such situation which requires CBIRF’s deployment,” said Japan Joint Chief of Staff General Ryoichi Oriki in a regular press conference on April 7.

Yokota AFB will be open to the public as “Cherry Blossom Day” for strolling under the cherry tree lines on April 10. This event will be held for first time in 9 years, which had been suspended since 2002 due to September 11 attacks. “Although many events have been canceled in Tokyo including this area, we’d like to encourage not only victims of catastrophe but also neighborhoods by having them enjoy this event.” PAO, Yokota AFB explained the reason for its resume.
A circle of sympathy toward U.S. Forces is being expanded even in Okinawa where anti U.S. military base sentiment prevails, because Operation Tomodachi, a large scale relief operation being conducted by U.S. Forces, has revealed that Japan U.S. Security Arrangement plays important roles not only in fulfilling national defense missions but also in ensuring safety of people in Japan.

“I have felt that it is necessary to establish new Japan- U.S. Security Relationship including responses to natural disasters,” said a local resident in Naha, while one in Nago said, “I have felt again that USMC is reliable.” These remarks have been reported by media including Sankei Shinbun. It is thought, especially, frequent coverage of U.S. Marines in Okinawa toiling away for bilateral relief operations with JSDF members have significantly influenced on their emotions. Responses to natural disasters share a lot of factors required for responses to national security emergencies, so it must be said that this operation has shown how important to swiftly deal with the Futenma issue.

In addition to Operation Tomodachi, U.S. has deployed U.S. Marine Corps’ Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, CBIRF, which has capabilities to deal with radioactive materials, and they have arrived in Japan. The unit is preparing to deal with serious issues including radiation leaks.

Kan administration should make utmost efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the alliance by accumulating achievements of Japan-U.S. bilateral support.
U.S.-Japan Security Consultativie Committee, SCC, (2+2) by Secretary of State and Defense and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense to settle “Common Strategic Objectives” for deepening U.S.-Japan Alliance, previously scheduled from the end of April to spring GW vacation, is likely to be postponed, the government officials said on Thursday. Tokyo comes up with an idea to hold the meeting along with Asia Security Summit held in Singapore on June 3 to 5. Japan will start coordinating with U.S. side soon.

The planning of 2+2 meeting was underway to be held in Washington on April 29. However, Japanese side informed in this month that it would be difficult for Defense Minister Kitazawa to visit Washington because SDF is making efforts to deal with the accidents of Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant.

Therefore, both governments start setting the meeting schedule along with Asia Security Summit in which all the defense ministers of Asia-Pacific region gather. Provided that the 2+2 meeting is held in Singapore, it is still in the air whether Secretary of State Clinton will make it or not. There is a possibility that Ambassador Roos as a substitute will participate in the meeting, what is called “2+1.5 meeting.”
Interview U.S. Commander : Satisfied Nuclear Crisis Response

On April 8, Adm. Patrick M. Walsh (56), Commander of Operation Tomodachi by Joint Support Force had press conference with newspaper reporters including Yomiuri Newspaper at Yokota AB in Tokyo and unveiled U.S. plan to continue the operation. But U.S. military is expected to shift its focus to responding to the crisis at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant. As for the U.S. Military’s response to the nuclear crisis, commander said “Operation shows no sign of waning, so I’m not going to tell the completion of the operation, and we continue to help Japan until crisis is over.”

“I talk with GEN Oriki Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, SDF, more than 30 minutes by phone every day. We are working in close cooperation with each other,” said Walsh and referred the relationship with SDF.

Walsh thinks that Operation Tomodachi is a symbol of Japan-U.S. friendship and cooperation. “We will realize in the future that the disaster further strengthened Japan-U.S. alliance through the best reaction to the disaster by Japan and U.S.,” said Walsh and emphasized the significance of the mission.

“Information that Japanese government has provided us is transparent and important,” Walsh evaluated the date on nuclear crisis. “Experts, such as U.S. Navy specialists rushed to Japan. We spare no effort to assist in response to particular requests,” said Walsh about further U.S. military support, showing cooperative posture on various aspects.

USFJ unveiled “Bilateral Joint Operation Coordination Center (BJOCC)” established at U.S. Forces Japan headquarters on Yokota AB, which is one of the headquarters where US Forces and JSDF officers coordinate Operation Tomodachi. 

…..(2/2) next page
The summary of an interview to Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, who is in command of the “Operation Tomodachi” by the U.S. Military is as follows:

**[Survey of the Devastated Area]**

I visited Sendai to find the disaster awful. Everything people had built was swept away to unimaginable locations. Even heavy things had been swept off like toothpicks. However, the power of Sendai people to stand up for reconstruction is also enormous.

**[Accident at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant]**

The first comment when I heard the news was just “Unbelievable.” I couldn’t understand that all the bulky safety devices had been lost all at once by tsunami. I had believed that such a situation as radioactive materials leak could happen only in a facility of a collage or a laboratory.

Relevant information with which Japanese government provides us is highly transparent and helps us understand the actual situation and make a decision. The situation is advancing day by day though it is gradual. What happens in the power plant is getting clear little by little. We should never give up.

**[Meaning of the Operation]**

In the crisis of Japan, we rush to the stricken area with nothing in return. This is the evidence of true friendship. It is important that both Japan and the U.S. do the best in a tragic natural disaster. I want to believe that someday it will exert a positive impact on the Japan-U.S. alliance.
Within minutes of the earthquake on Friday, March 11, III Marine Expeditionary Force stood up its Crisis Action Cell to monitor the situation and initiate planning for a response in the event the Japanese government requested support for this emergency. The movement of equipment and forces northward began next day.

Col. Craig Q. Timberlake, commander, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, was in the air surveying the affected area two days later with his staff, including me as his political adviser, assembled. Upon his return to the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan (Yokota, Tokyo), he, former football player, said to us “We have assembled a great staff. You may not know all of each other yet, but we will win this game.” Crises, especially of this magnitude, are difficult to plan for, and we were not 100 percent sure what we were getting into. Indeed, for the Japanese side, it was their first time to create a Joint Task Force combined of their three services — the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Force.

“Our team will forge new history as we assist the Self-Defense Forces in their support to their people,” Col. Christopher Coke, a pilot who was serving as the chief of staff of the MEB, said before leaving Yokota. Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis said “The Marines are good at this stuff,” showing a confidence.

“This is what I joined the Marine Corps for,” 2nd Lt. Breanne Hapken with Camp Fuji. Her comment made me tear up as we were walking through the debris.

After nearly two weeks in Sendai and Ishinomaki area, I returned to Okinawa. Before leaving for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, I stopped to say goodbye to Col. Dwayne Lott. He was beaming at the progress that had been made to date, and told me, “This may be the greatest experience of my entire military career.”

Japan is in its time of sorrow and need. I am certain his feelings are echoed by many, if not all, the U.S. forces — military and civilian alike from all services — who have been privileged and honored to help our ally Japan in its time of sorrow and need.
Japanese government has established a policy to stipulate the promotion of Japan-U.S. cooperation on the safety of nuclear power use in the new common strategic objectives which will be set up in the next Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (the “2+2” Meeting).

Japanese authority cooperated with the U.S. Marine Corps’ Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in dealing with the accident at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant, and Japan-U.S. cooperation in this field has entered a new stage. In such a circumstance, officials of Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministry are going to visit the U.S. in this month and discuss concrete statement to be specified in the common strategic objectives.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is considering visiting Japan for two days from April 17, Japanese government source said Friday.

She is to coordinate bilateral cooperation in addressing Great East Japan Earthquake and to visit a disaster-hit area.
JSDF and US Military conducting Operation Tomodachi for Great East Japan Earthquake is shifting their operation focus from victim support and rescue to responding to the crisis at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant.

A MoD official said “US Military conducted this mission, regarding this disaster as an emergency. Bilateral training and exercises to improve interoperability that JSDF and US have conducted in the past are now contributing to this time,” and emphasized the achievements of Japan-US close cooperation.

Japan and US has would like to strengthen once strained alliance by responding to this disaster. On April 6, Admiral Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command said at the Congress “Supporting JSDF work is testimony to the maturity and strength of the US-Japan alliance.”
Japanese News Paper Articles

Yomiuri (10 Apr, 2011)
Title : Significant Step for Deepening Japan-US Alliance
- Operation Tomodachi -

The US Forces with unprecedented scale is conducting HA/DR operations with JSDF for Great East Japan Earthquake. We, as Yomiuri Newspaper editors, would like to give high appraisal to the significant step for deepening Japan-US Alliance. The US Forces doesn’t oblige to support Japan in the case of disasters based on the treaty, even though US. situated its forces around Japan, allied country; however, the reason of conducting this large scale support activities should be based on the relationship of trust which has been built with taking a long time. Japan must get over the combined crisis, which is proceeding simultaneously, with continuous close relationship with US. The activities by US has been conducted based on the ongoing close coordination with JSDF staff at MOD, Ichigaya; USFJ, Yokota; JTF-TH, Sendai. The experiences of combined training and activities in foreign counties have enabled the current smooth Japan-US cooperation. We would like to debate how the experiences should be reflected to Japan-US cooperation for our future. This will lead the alliance to new phase.

Yomiuri (10 Apr, 2011)
Title : SDF, U.S. Forces conducting Second Massive Search Operation

The Self-Defense Forces announced April 9th it will conduct the second massive search operation for Great East Japan Earthquake at Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures on April 10. About 22,000 personnel from Japanese troops will participate in the operation, along with some 110 U.S. Army soldiers. The Operation will be launched at 8:00 a.m., and end at sunset.
USFJ and JSDF conducted the first bilateral exercise in the scenario of the emergency at the crippled Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant at the Yokota AFB (in Fussa, Tokyo) on Saturday. 145-member of the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), dispatched from State of Maryland, and 6-member of the JGSDF’s Central Nuclear Biological Chemical Weapon (CNBC) demonstrated a radioactive decontamination exercise to the media.

The exercise was conducted under the assumption that one area of the AFB was contaminated. CBIRF members in protective body suits rescued “civilian victims” mocked by US soldiers, extracting them from a contaminated car and a building as they checked the dosimeter. Then they wrapped victims’ body in a special sheet, whisking them to a decontamination tent. Many hoses were hung down from the ceiling of the tent and servicemembers sprayed water from the both side off the radiation-exposed personnel and scrubbed others down with sponges.

CNBC demonstrated drills, spraying down a vehicle to clean it of imaginary nuclear contamination. US military displayed unmanned vehicle with high-tech remote controlled camera which is used for Explosive Ordnance Disposal in the theater. It is helpful to know the situation where the contamination is severe and difficult to get in.
Because the shower service by the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan heals fatigue of long time evacuation life, US shower service become very important for victims.
U.S. Armed Forces set up shower tents outside at two evacuation places in that city, and provide shower service every day from last month 28.
The United States Armed Forces prepare fuel and the water.
And U.S. soldiers could temperature adjustment of the hot water through a volunteer interpreter.