

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON COORDINATION FOR  
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND  
DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS  
BETWEEN  
U.S. NAVAL FORCES JAPAN  
AND  
JAPAN MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE**

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Memorandum establishes areas for coordination of Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Disaster Relief Operations (DRO) for mutual support and assistance between U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

Disasters can occur with little or no warning. Personnel and facilities of both U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force are susceptible to a variety of natural and man-made disasters. Disasters cause extensive property damage, personnel casualties or mission degradation and can result from:

- Natural causes such as earthquakes, typhoons, tsunamis or volcanic eruptions.
- Accidents involving aircraft, weapons, explosives or hazardous materials.

Close cooperation and coordination for Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Disaster Relief Operations (DRO) between U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force can both minimize the chance that a human error induced disaster will occur and, should a disaster occur, maximize the ability to restore mission capability, assist the stricken and minimize loss of life, suffering and property damage.

DEFINITIONS

Disaster Preparedness includes preparation and coordination to minimize the degradation of mission capabilities, loss of life and damage to property.

Disaster Relief Operations are authorized responses to a disaster of aid which can be used to immediately alleviate the suffering of disaster victims but does not constitute a permanent contribution to the economy. Normally, they include humanitarian services, and transportation of victims, the provision of food, clothing, medicine, beds and bedding, temporary shelter and housing, emergency medical treatment, furnishing of hospital equipment and medical and technical personnel.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

When authorized, U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force may mutually assist each other in disaster relief operations. Such assistance will be provided for a limited period using resources not necessary for essential military operations. Aid rendered will be of an emergency nature and will not involve general rehabilitation work.

The costs of conducting disaster relief operations will be in accordance with the laws and regulations of the party offering assistance.

This Memorandum applies only to facilities under the control of the parties to the agreement and does not obligate U.S. Naval Forces Japan or Japan Maritime Self Defense Force to provide any assistance.

## AREAS FOR COORDINATION

Understanding that the establishment of the above mentioned framework will promote more efficient performance of the respective roles of the parties to the memorandum, U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force

Have agreed as follows:

1. Establish a point of contact to exchange information on DP/DRO.
2. Provide timely notification of any natural or man-made disaster for which assistance may be requested.
3. Provide notification of establishing an emergency operations center.
4. Provide periodic damage assessments and response measures in effect.
5. When authorized by their respective governments, conduct disaster relief operations in accordance with applicable national laws, rules and regulations.
6. Promote disaster preparedness coordination between U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force subordinate commands and foster professional development through continued exchanges, seminars, conferences, site visits and capabilities demonstrations insofar as practical.

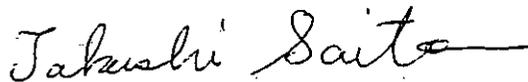
## IMPLEMENTATION

This memorandum becomes effective upon signature of both parties and will remain in effect until terminated. It is written in four originals, two English and two Japanese, each text being equally authentic.

This memorandum may be amended or revised at any time by mutual written consent of both parties and may be terminated by mutual consent of both parties or by written notification received 90 days prior to termination from either party.

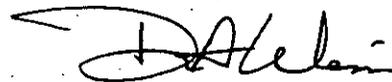
U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force agree to develop a Coordination Manual for Disaster Relief Operations to provide basic coordination procedures between subordinate shore commands to be used in the event of a disaster. U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force shore installations enjoy close working relationships particularly in Yokosuka, Atsugi and Sasebo where both have extensive forces assigned. In the event of a disaster, U.S. Naval Forces Japan and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force subordinate shore commanders may coordinate disaster relief operations using this manual.

21 December 1999



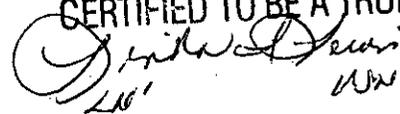
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21 December 1999



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RADM, USN  
COMMANDER,  
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JAPAN

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY



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