

H. The Japanese Communist Party

The Japanese Communist Party (JCP), the largest revolutionary organization in Japan, continues to adhere to its aim of realizing a communist revolution based on scientific socialism, Marxism-Leninism.

The JCP engaged in subversive activities in the early 1950s. The JCP describes the current situation as a preparatory stage for revolution, and has recently put more emphasis on increasing its membership and organ subscribers, and gaining public support.

Latest membership totals approximately 300,000, including 26 members of the National Diet.

The JCP still upholds a policy that it does not deny the possibility of resorting to violence in the course of revolution, depending on the type of actions taken by the police and the other authorities concerned.

I. Radical Environment Protection Groups

Some radical overseas environment protection groups and animal rights protection groups aggressively take part in protests.

The Japanese police have interest in their activities and influence upon Japan.

J. Threats in Cyberspace

There have been many cases of cyber-attacks targeting Japanese governmental agencies. In addition, it has become clear that private companies with advanced technology have suffered cyber-attacks which were probably intended to steal information. The threats of cyber terrorism and cyber espionage have become apparent.

To prevent cyber-attacks and mitigate damages, the police are promoting various measures in cooperation with the private sector, such as critical infrastructure operators and private companies with advanced technology, and will continue to work with the relevant agencies to investigate cyber-attacks and crack down on any illegal cyber offenses.

As cyber-attacks can easily be carried out across borders, the police have been coping with cyber-threats by concluding treaties which cover mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and cooperating with INTERPOL participants to investigate such cases.

2. Various Activities

A. Imperial Protection



Imperial protection is operated for the security of the Imperial Family. To fulfill the duties of imperial protection, the NPA coordinates the operations with the prefectural police forces within Japan, and with the relevant organizations abroad.

In 2018, operations for imperial protection were carried out 13 times overseas, such as the visit of the then Crown Prince (current His Majesty the Emperor) to France in September.

B. Dignitary Protection



Dignitary Protection is the police activity aiming at maintaining the security of domestic VIPs (e.g., the Prime Minister and other ministers) and foreign VIPs who visit Japan.

In 2018, the police provided protection for domestic dignitaries, as well as many foreign VIPs visiting Japan as state guests, such as the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

C. Disaster Relief Operations



Japan is subject to the risk of natural disasters. The NPA promotes various measures to respond to all types of natural disasters and accidents. In the event of a disaster, the NPA instructs and coordinates relevant police headquarters on victim rescue, search for missing persons, traffic control, and other relief measures.

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the police have established special units around the nation that will be dispatched to affected areas in the event of a major disaster.

In 2018, damages from natural disasters such as the Heavy Rain Event in July 2018 and the 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake accounted for many fatalities, missing persons and injuries. In the wake of these disasters, some units such as the Inter-Prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit (IERU), units specializing in disaster relief operations, and other units were swiftly deployed for rescue of survivors and search for the missing.

D. The Riot Police Unit Operations

(1) Activities of the Riot Police Unit



The Riot Police Unit is the core of security forces for crisis management. They carry out activities such as maintenance of public order against illegal mass activities, protection of critical public facilities and crowd control at large events or festivals.

(2) Functions of the Riot Police Unit and Other Units

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and each prefectural police force have their own Riot Police Unit for quick response to emergency situations. The Riot Police Unit includes various specialized squads such as the anti-firearms squad, counter-NBC terrorism squad, explosive ordnance disposal squad, nuclear special guard unit, rescue squad and water rescue squad. Eight prefectural police headquarters have their respective Special Assault Teams (SAT) specially trained to deal with hijackings and hostage crises.