

Topic V: The Threat of International Terrorism and Police Counter

Terrorism Initiatives

(1) The Threat of International Terrorism Reaching Japan

The recent trend of international terrorism is greatly changing with the rise of ISIL, which operates in the region of Iraq and Syria. ISIL is attracting many foreign fighters from around the world, by a great amount of revenue from oil fields they occupy and other financial resources, and by spreading ideological propaganda. There is a concern that these foreign fighters might carry out terror attacks when they return to their home countries. In Japan, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department is investigating a person who is suspected of attempting to travel to Syria to join ISIL and become a combatant as a case of preparation or plot for private war. Japan is thus not exempt from the threats of foreign terrorist fighters.

There are terrorist attacks conducted by radicalized individuals who have no connection with terrorist organizations (lone-wolf terrorists) in Western countries. Among them are the serial terror attacks that occurred in Denmark in February 2015. Propaganda disseminated by terrorist organizations like ISIL and Al Qaeda-related organizations through media and the Internet has radicalizing effects on these lone actors who are inclined to carry out attacks.



ISIL Combatants (Afro)

Under these circumstances, two Japanese nationals were killed in Syria in January and February 2015, which deeply shocked Japan and the world. On February 1, 2015, a video featuring these murders was released allegedly by ISIL on the Internet. This video, addressed to the Japanese government, contains messages which suggest that ISIL would continue to target Japanese nationals. Considering the current situation, terrorist threats against Japan have become reality.



An ISIL combatant, warning of the Japanese nationals' execution (Kyodo)

(2) Terrorist Attacks Targeting Large-Scale Events

Japan will be hosting the G7 Summit in 2016 and the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. These high-profile, large-scale international events can be targeted by terrorists, as they attract world attention. The Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular, attract extremely high attention, since a number of high-level officials, athletic teams, and spectators will be gathering from all over the world. On these occasions, there is no denying the possibility of Japan becoming a target of terrorists.

Indeed, during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany, Israeli Olympic team

members were assaulted. Also, during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, U.S., a terrorist bombing occurred at the Central Olympic Park. Additionally, in recent years, a terrorist bombing attack targeting London's subway system took place in July 2005 during the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, the United Kingdom, killing 56 people. Also, in April 2013, a terrorist bombing attack took place a short distance from the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three people. Furthermore, in Volgograd, a city located about 680 kilometers northeast of Sochi, Russia, which was preparing for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, three suicide bombings took place between October and December 2013, in which a total of 40 people were killed. Terrorist attacks targeting large-scale events have claimed the lives of many people in various parts of the world in recent years.



The trolleybus wreckage caused by the suicide bombing in Volgograd, Russia (Jiji)

(3) Police Counter Terrorism Initiatives

As Japan will be hosting large-scale events in the near future, the police are promoting



Security at airports

various counterterrorism measures and expending all possible means to prevent acts of terrorism.

I. Enhancing the Ability of Intelligence Collection and Analysis

In order to prevent terrorist attacks, it is necessary to collect a wide range of information and accurately analyze it. As terrorism is an extremely highly-secretive activity and the majority of relevant information gathered is fragmentary, the accumulation and comprehensive analysis of such information is necessary. The police are enhancing their ability to gather and analyze intelligence by working more closely with the security intelligence agencies and other institutions of other countries. The NPA Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Department are playing a key role in this initiative.

II. Rigorous Crackdowns on Illegal Activities

In the event that the police recognize any illegal activity and possible terrorist attack plots through intelligence collection and analysis, strict measures will be taken in accordance with law and evidence.

III. Enhancing Vigilance and Security Activities

With the recent difficult situation caused by international terrorism in mind, the police are boosting their vigilance and security activities for important facilities, including the office of the Prime Minister, airports, nuclear facilities, and facilities related to the U.S. and for public transportation such as railways.



Security at the Diet Building

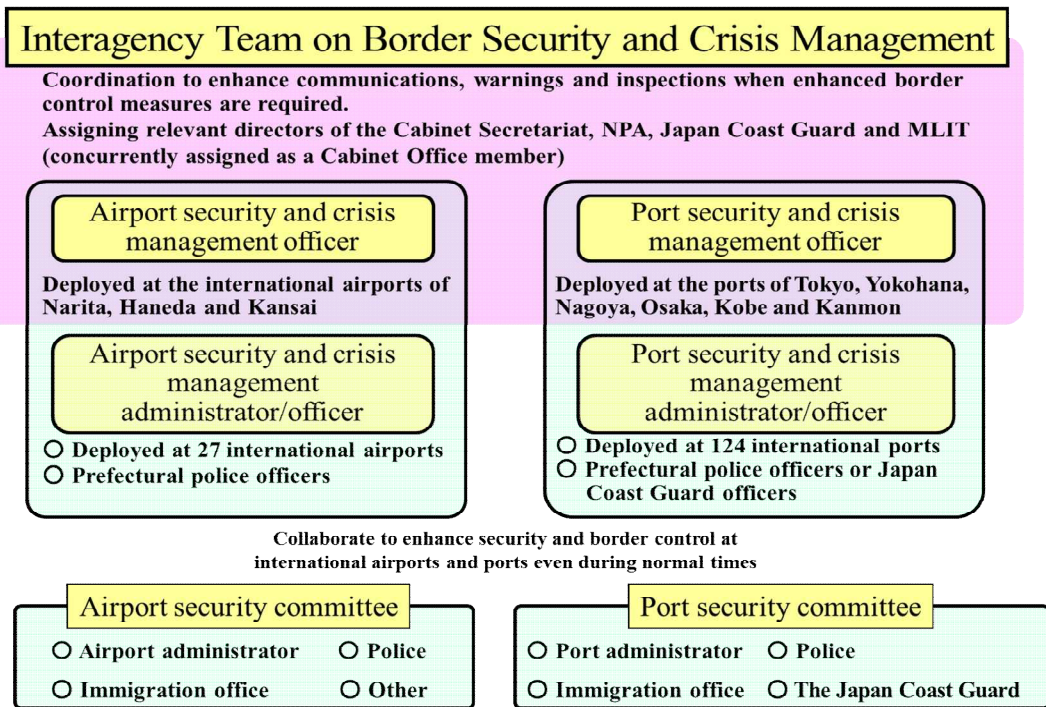
IV. Enhancing Border Controls

In order to prevent terrorists from entering the country, it is important for Japan as a country surrounded by the ocean to effectively promote border controls by conducting immigration examinations, export and import cargo inspections and other measures at international airports and seaports. The government has established the Interagency Team on Border Security and Crisis Management within the Cabinet Secretariat, and coordinating to enhance border control measures carried out by the relevant organizations. In addition, airport/seaport security and crisis management administrators/officers placed at international

airports and seaports, are taking the lead in conducting drills simulating specific cases and in improving the protection of important facilities in cooperation with related organizations.



Joint training for airport counterterrorism measures



System for border control and crisis-management at airports and seaports