

# Chapter 1 Police Organization and Public Safety Commission System

## Section 1: Police Organization

### 1. Public Safety Commission System

The Public Safety Commission is an administrative committee of the council system introduced for the purpose of the democratic operation and political neutrality of the police. The National Public Safety Commission (NPSC) was set up on a national level to supervise the National Police Agency (NPA), while the Prefectural Public Safety Commissions (PPSCs) were set up at prefectural levels to supervise prefectural police. The Minister of State is appointed as Chairperson of the NPSC in order to clarify the administrative responsibilities of the Cabinet in relation to public safety.

### 2. National and Prefectural Police Organization

In contrast to the prefectural police that assume centralized enforcement duties, the NPA, as a national agency, formulates police systems, conducts police operations regarding cases involving national public safety and undertakes the administration of matters that form the foundation of police activities, such as police education and training, police communications, criminal identification as well as the development of police administration. As of April 1, 2017, along with police headquarters, police academies and other facilities, there are 1,163 police stations in the 47 prefectures.

## Section 2: Public Safety Commission Activities

### 1. National Public Safety Commission (NPSC)

In accordance with the Police Act and other laws, the NPSC supervises the NPA by undertaking administrative tasks that fall within the scope of its authority, such as the establishment of the NPSC Regulations, appointment of the Commissioner General of the NPA and local senior police officers (officers among prefectural police organizations ranked Assistant Commissioner and higher) and instructions for inspections and development of

the traffic safety work plan and disaster prevention work plan.

Also, authority extends to indicating all-encompassing policies for administrative tasks assumed by the NPA, such as the

planning and budget of the police administration taken by the NPA, cases related to the public security of the nation, training of police officers and adjustments on police administrations.

The NPSC usually convenes regular meetings once a week. In addition, the NPSC strives to maintain an understanding of the state of public safety and policy operations through the mutual exchange of views between members of the commission, and by listening to reports from the NPA, exchanging views with the PPSC members and conducting on-site inspections of police activities. The situation of such activities is introduced on the website.



Regular Meeting of the National Public Safety Commission

**[Case] In September 2016, the Chairperson of the NPSC visited Chiba Prefecture and inspected the security situation at the Narita International Airport.**



Chairperson of the NPSC Inspecting the Security Situation of the Narita International Airport

## 2. Prefectural Public Safety Commissions (PPSCs)

The PPSCs supervise the prefectural police by undertaking many administrative tasks in relation to people's lives, including issuing driver's licenses, regulating traffic, awarding benefit payments to victims of crime, supervising various types of business, such as antique dealing, and by receiving reports from chiefs of prefectural police at regular meetings and other assemblies and giving guidance on the police efforts based on incidents, accidents and disasters within the jurisdiction, organizational status, personnel management and other matters.

The PPSCs generally convene three to four regular meetings a month and also strive to maintain an understanding of the state of public safety and police operations through participation in Police Station Councils, discussions with relevant organizations, such as the board of education and also on-site inspections of police activities. The situation of such activities is introduced on the website.

**[Case] In May 2016, the Kumamoto PPSC visited the area significantly damaged by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and gave encouragement to the "Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Kizuna-tai (bond building group)" that was actively working in the evacuation shelter.**



Member of the Kumamoto PPSC  
Giving Encouragement to the  
MPD Kizuna-tai

## 3. Handling Complaints and Giving Instructions for Inspections

A system for filing complaints has been stipulated in the Police Act. Any person who has a complaint about the duties executed by the personnel of the prefectural police may file it in writing to the PPSCs. The PPSCs will generally notify the complainant of its decision in writing. In 2016, the PPSCs nationwide received 965 complaints.

In addition, in accordance with provisions in the Police Act, if inspection is found to be necessary, the NPSC and PPSCs may give specific instructions for it to the NPA and prefectural police, respectively.

## 4. Mutual Communication between Public Safety Commissions

The NPSC and all PPSCs hold various liaison conferences in order to maintain constantly close communication. In 2016, two liaison meetings between the NPSC and all PPSCs nationwide were held. At these meetings, views were exchanged concerning the status of activities by the Police Station Councils.

In 2016, in each Regional Police Bureau and in Hokkaido, a total of thirteen liaison meetings were held between jurisdictional public safety commissions and between the Hokkaido Public Safety Commission and the Area Public Safety Commission in Hokkaido. Members of the NPSC also attended these meetings that involved reports concerning the state of public safety and the efforts of each prefecture as well as an exchange of views.

Furthermore, views were exchanged among the PPSCs.

**[Case] In February 2016, the members of the Saitama, Tokyo, Chiba and Kanagawa PPSCs exchanged their views and shared information on the efforts toward enhancing and strengthening the administrative functions of the Public Safety Commission in each prefecture at the liaison meeting held in Chiba Prefecture.**



Members of the Four PPSCs  
Exchanging their Views