

Efforts by the Police against International Terrorism

I. Establishment of "Action Plan on Counter Terrorism"

The NPA established the "Emergency Plan for Security" in August of 2003 and is aiming to secure a safe society in which citizens can live with peace of mind. With the recognition that the threat of terrorism against Japan is growing rapidly, the

Overview of Action Plan on Counter Terrorism

I. Strengthening Measures for the Prevention of Terrorism

- (1) Strengthening border control measures**
 - (i) Border crisis management measures through close cooperation with relevant institutions
 - (ii) Utilization of biometrics in immigration
 - (iii) Introduction of sky marshals
 - (iv) Work to halve the number of illegal residents
 - (v) Strengthening coastal security
- (2) Gathering and analyzing information related to terrorism and increasing the discovery of and crackdown on terrorist suspects**
 - (i) Strengthening stance on information gathering and pursuit for the sake of uncovering and arresting international terrorists
 - (ii) Information gathering in cooperation with foreign security intelligence agencies
 - (iii) Responding to the issue of North Korea, which is a crucial issue in terms of security
 - (iv) Promoting measures against violent ultra-leftist groups
 - (v) Promoting measures against rightists
 - (vi) Promoting measures against Aum Shinrikyo
 - (vii) Strengthening measures against cyber terrorism
- (3) Thorough security at important facilities**
 - (i) Strengthening airport protection and security measures in cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) and airport administrators
 - (ii) Preventing terrorist attacks on trains
 - (iii) Thorough policing and security at nuclear power related facilities and other important facilities
- (4) Strengthening crisis management planning functions and development of legislation necessary to and effective for preventing terrorism**
 - (i) Strengthening crisis management planning functions
 - (ii) Development of legislation necessary to and effective for preventing terrorism

II. Strengthening Capacity to Respond to Emergency Situations When They Occur

- (1) Coping with major terrorist attacks swiftly and effectively**
 - (i) Coping with NBC terrorist attacks
 - (ii) Expansion of special assault teams (SAT)
 - (iii) Promotion of cooperation with the Self-Defense Forces, Japan Coast Guard
- (2) Implementation of accurate evacuation and rescue procedures in order to protect and minimize damage to citizens**

NPA compiled the "Action Plan on Counter Terrorism" in August of 2004 based on the aforementioned program as initial countermeasures for preventing and dealing with the occurrence of terrorism.

It is necessary for the police, related institutions, and citizens to cooperate in order to ensure that all possible counterterrorism measures are being taken. Therefore, the action plan include not only measures to be carried out by the police alone, but also measures in a wide range of sectors.

II. Formulation of Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism

In December of 2004 the Government of Japan formulated the "Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism" at the meeting of the "Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and Other Relative Issues and International Terrorism," which was headed by the Chief Cabinet Secretary. Related ministries and government offices are to cooperate and implement each of the measures for the prevention of terrorism by the deadlines. The action plan includes 16 "Urgently Needed Terrorism Prevention Measures," and eight of the measures, such as the introduction of sky marshals, have already been implemented. Furthermore, it was determined at the meeting in November 2005 that the NPA would create a bill for the implementation of the FATF recommendation. The police continue to inquire about implementation of the measures through cooperating with related ministries and government offices.

III. Promotion of Measures for the Prevention of Terrorism

1. Information Gathering and Analysis and Thorough Investigation

In order to prevent terrorism, gathering and accurately analyzing a wide-range of information is essential. Furthermore, terrorism is an extremely highly-confidential activity and the majority of relevant information gathered is fragmentary. Therefore, the accumulation and comprehensive analysis of such information is necessary.

Since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the police have boosted their activities for gathering and analyzing information related to terrorism. This includes working more closely with foreign security intelligence agencies and other institutions. In April 2004, the Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Department was established in the Security Bureau of the NPA, and the International Counter Terrorism Office, which was previously located in the Foreign Affairs Division, was gradually reorganized into the Counter International Terrorism Division. Furthermore, in April 2005 the post of Director, Counter Terrorism Intelligence Office was established in this division. As such, the police are working toward strengthening the framework against terrorism.

Utilizing the results from comprehensive analyses of the information obtained, the police are moving forward with such activities as thoroughly clarifying suspicions and uncovering and clearing concealed information related to terrorism.

2. Strengthening Border Control Measures

In order to prevent terrorists from entering Japan, it is of the utmost importance to accurately promote border control measures at international airports and seaports, including immigration and the inspection of imported and exported goods. For this reason, efforts are being made to strengthen on-site cooperation among related institutions. In order to realize crisis management, that is to be implemented by the Government of Japan as a whole, the Interagency Team on Border Security and Crisis Management was set up in the Government in January 2004, and by March 2004 airport/seaport security and crisis management officers were placed at international airports and seaports. Prefectural police officers are being deployed to these airports and seaports as airport/seaport security and crisis management officers and deputy management officers. Centered on them, the police is working to strengthen border control measures, including the improvement of security and the implementation of training for terrorist incidents.

Working teams which aimed at promoting immigration control utilizing biometrics, and which aimed at deliberating on measures related to controlling the foreign residents were established in June 2004 and July 2005, under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime, respectively. The NPA is energetically discussing systematic and technical subjects with the team.

3. Security at Important Facilities

The police are drawing upon the collective strength of their organization and taking all possible measures to prevent terrorism. This includes gathering and analyzing information related to terrorism, as well as establishing security plans tailored to each situation and providing effective and efficient security.

Urgently Needed Terrorism Prevention Measures, etc. Outline of Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism

Measures for implementation in FY2004

Introduction of Sky Marshal program
Thorough identification of foreign guests by hotels and inns
Tightened control over explosive-related material potentially used for bomb attacks
Reinforced terrorism-related intelligence gathering through integrated efforts of relevant organizations

Measures for implementation in FY2005

Denial of entry of terrorists by using Interpol's database on lost and stolen passports
Mandatory check of passengers' passports by air and sea carriers
Dispatch of document examination advisors
Tightened import control through designation of explosives as prohibited goods for import
Stronger protection over nuclear material

Measures for implementation by FY2006

Tightened immigration control by taking fingerprints at landing examination and visa application
Entry restriction to terrorists
Mandatory advanced Submission of crew and passenger list by airplane/vessel captain
Establishment of system to control pathogenic microorganisms potentially used for bioterrorism
Measures to fully implement FATF recommendations
Tightening of security measures for important facilities in emergency situations
Strict eligibility check on those who will be given access to restricted area in airports and nuclear facilities

Measures Requiring Continued Study

Legislation on basic policy for terrorism prevention measures
System to designate terrorists and terrorist organizations
Further measures to freeze terrorist assets

Measures thought to accompany the development of laws
Measures already implemented



Patrol at Narita Airport (Chiba)



Security at the Prime Minister's Official Residence

Since the terrorist attacks on the United States demonstrated the harsh nature of international terrorism, the police has tightened security at important facilities around Japan, including the Prime Minister's Official Residence, nuclear power plants, airports, and facilities related to the United States. In the wake of the terrorist bomb attacks in London, United Kingdom in July 2005, the police has implemented reliable security tailored to each situation. This includes working toward implementing thorough security in regard to public transportation, such as trains.

IV. Improvement of On-Site Response Capability

1. Improving and Strengthening Various Forces

In addition to measures designed to prevent terrorism, in preparing for the possible occurrence of emergency situations such as terrorist attacks, the police are improving and strengthening their structures and equipment. They are also improving the materials of groups such as the Counter-NBC Terrorism Squads who respond to terrorism such as biochemical terrorist attacks, the Anti-Firearms Squads who provide security at important facilities and for handling incidents involving firearms, and the Special Assault Teams (SAT) who handle serious terrorist attacks such as hijackings and incidents in which important facilities are occupied. (In September 2005, SAT was newly deployed for Okinawa Prefectural Police, in addition to the seven Prefectural Police.) The police are also implementing thorough on-site response drills and are working to improve their ability to cope with terrorist attacks and other situations.



SAT training

2. Introduction of Sky Marshals

Since the terrorist attacks on the United States in September 2001, foreign countries have been introducing flight security measures on the ground, as well as systems in which police officers and other personnel ride as guards on airplanes in order to eliminate the use of hijacked airplanes in suicide attacks.

Based on these circumstances, the police have proceeded to make arrangements with the relevant ministries, agencies, and airlines in order to allow for the swift introduction of the use of sky marshals, which are police officers on board aircraft as guards, on Japanese commercial aircraft. The sky marshal system was implemented in December 2004.

3. Establishment of Terrorism Response Team-Tactical Wing for Overseas (TRT-2)

Based on the lessons learned from the incident in which the Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Peru was captured in 1996, the NPA established a Terrorism Response Team (TRT). This team has been dispatched when serious terrorist incidents related to Japanese nationals and Japan's interests have occurred overseas, and the team has carried out information gathering and support for investigative activities, such as hostage negotiation, in close cooperation with local law enforcement institutions.

Following the terrorist bomb attacks in Bali, Indonesia in October 2002, law enforcement institutions in the country made a request to Japan for support regarding identification activities, including DNA analysis, and experts were dispatched to Bali as members of TRT. Japan may receive various similar requests for support, and so in August 2004 the existing TRT was developmentally reorganized and re-launched as the Terrorism Response Team-Tactical Wing for Overseas (TRT-2), which has the capability of carrying out a wider range of support activities for local law enforcement institutions.

Thus far, TRT-2 has been dispatched following the terrorist bomb attack in front of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia in September 2004, the hostage and murder incident of a Japanese national in Iraq in October 2004, and the simultaneous terrorist bomb attacks in Bali, Indonesia in October 2005.

4. Countermeasures against Cyber Terrorism

Information systems and telecommunication networks are deeply rooted in daily life and socio-economic activities, and against this background incidents such as large-scale cyber attacks against central government web servers occurred in August 2004 and from February through April 2005. If these cyber attacks were to be carried out on the mission-critical systems in critical infrastructure operators, the damage would be extensive, and the impact to daily life and socio-economic activities would be enormous.



Cyber Force

For this reason, the police are promoting countermeasures against cyber terrorism, including establishing a Cyber Terrorism Countermeasure Promotion Office at the NPA, Cyber Terrorism Countermeasure Project Team at each Prefectural Police Headquarters (PPH) and Cyber Force at the NPA and each Regional Police Bureau (RPB) for the purpose of preventing cyber terrorism, as well as preventing the spread of troubles and cracking down on cases in the event that something should happen.

5. Efforts to Promote International Cooperation

To take measures against international terrorism is a pressing issue that must be addressed by the international community together, and active discussions are taking place on various occasions, including summit meetings among major countries.

The NPA is proactive in having personnel participate in these international conferences, and is currently examining measures that must be addressed in cooperation with various countries. The Deputy Commissioner General of the NPA attended the Meeting of G8 Justice and Interior Ministers Meeting held in June 2005 where the NPA reported the status of Japan's efforts on measures to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as participated in the drafting of joint statements and action plans.

Furthermore, in order to actively provide investigative techniques on terrorist incidents, since FY1995 the NPA has been inviting working-level officers in charge of investigating terrorism from developing countries and hosting the Seminar on International Terrorism Investigation under the joint auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Besides this, the NPA has invited officers in charge of investigating terrorism from Southeast Asian countries and other countries, and has held the Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference since FY1996 under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was done in order to promote regional cooperation with regard to measures against terrorism.

Furthermore, in order to eradicate funding for terrorism Japan is implementing measures which have been called for in a United Nations Security Council Resolution for freezing the assets of terrorists. The NPA is proactively taking part in measures to combat the funding of terrorism. This includes participating in the "Liaison Conference for Ministries and Agencies involved in Freezing Terrorists' Assets," which has been established in order to carry out the swift freezing of assets.



The NPA Deputy Commissioner General (far right) participates in the Meeting of G8 Justice and Interior Ministers Meeting (United Kingdom, June 2005)