The JCP engaged in subversive activities in the early 1950s. The JCP defines 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 overseas radical environment protection groups and animal rights protection groups aggressively take part in protests.

The Japanese police are interested in their activities and influence upon Japan.

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

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

As cyber attacks can easily be carried out from overseas, the police have been coping with them by concluding treaties covering mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and cooperating with the INTERPOL participants to investigate such cases.

2. Various Activities
A. Imperial Protection

Imperial protection ensures the security of the Emperor and the Imperial Family. To fulfill the duties of imperial protection, the NPA coordinates the operations with the prefectural police forces domestically, and with foreign counterparts internationally.

In 2017, imperial protection operations were carried out 13 times overseas, such as their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visit to Viet Nam (Visit to Thailand).
B. Dignitary Protection

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

In 2017, the police provided protection for domestic dignitaries, as well as many foreign VIPs visiting Japan as state guests, such as the President of the United States of America.

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 the missing, 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 sent to affected areas in the event of a major disaster.

In 2017, many people were killed or went missing due to natural disasters, such as the torrential rain disaster in northern Kyushu (July). In the wake of this disaster, the Inter-Prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit (IERU), the units specializing in disaster relief operations, and other units were swiftly sent for the rescue of survivors and the 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 mass illegal 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 have their own Riot Police Unit for quick response to emergency situations. A Riot Police Unit includes various specialized squads, such as an anti-firearms squad, a counter-NBC terrorism squad, an explosive ordnance disposal squad, a water rescue squad and others. Eight prefectural police headquarters have a Special Assault Team (SAT) specially trained to deal with hijacks and hostage-takings.