

## Feature 1: 10 Years since the Great East Japan Earthquake (pp. 3–14)

### 1. Police Activities after the Great East Japan Earthquake

#### (1) Overview

The Great East Japan Earthquake, with a moment magnitude of 9.0, occurred off the coast of Sanriku at 2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011, and resulted in 15,900 deaths and 2,525 missing persons identified as of June 10, 2021.

Ever since, the police have dispatched up to approximately 4,800 staff per day, totaling approximately 1,420,000 staff including the Interprefectural Emergency Rescue Units (IERU) from all over Japan to the disaster-hit area. These staff continue to conduct crime prevention in temporary housing neighborhoods, carry out search and rescue for missing persons, and do vigilance and patrol activities in the evacuation zone 10 years after the accident.

#### (2) Police Activities

Police officers dispatched from across the nation have rescued victims, searched for missing people, identified deceased persons, ensured traffic flow, and maintained security of the disaster-affected area together with the local police.



Searching for missing persons (Miyagi, 2020)



Search operations around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant



Forensics for identification



Manual traffic control in place of damaged traffic lights



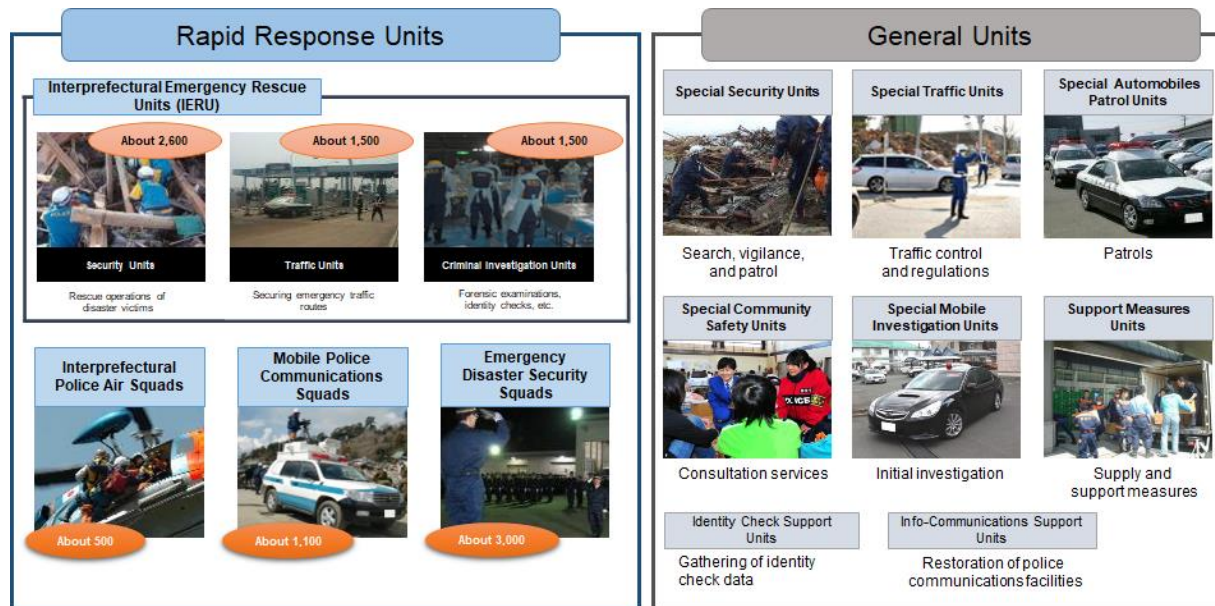
Police officers providing consultations at temporary housings

## 2. Improving Capacities for Handling Large-Scale Disasters

### (1) Quick Response Capacities

#### ○ Organization of units for quick dispatched to affected areas

In May 2012, the size of the Rapid Response Units, which are dispatched from across Japan to the affected areas in cases of large-scale disasters, were expanded to a maximum of ten thousand personnel. In addition, the General Units, which are dispatched to complement the Rapid Response Units in cases of prolonged disasters, and the Disaster Response Units, which consist of both of the above units, were established. Further in March 2017, the Police Team of Rescue Experts (P-REX), which provide an extremely high level of rescue capability, were established in 4 prefectural police forces and are currently operated by approximately 240 personnel from 16 prefectural police forces.



#### Disaster Response Units

#### ○ Equipment and Training for Rescue Capability Improvement

The police have been working to improve their rescue capabilities to prepare for operations in diverse disaster circumstances, such as in collapsed houses and submerged areas, and by establishing a special training facility for police activities in disaster situations. The police also prepare equipment to protect their officers and ensure effective rescue operations in the case of landslides and floods.

#### ○ Collaboration with Municipal, Private and Professional Sectors for Quick Implementation of Police Activities

Since 2011, each prefectural police and municipality has jointly designated multiple autopsy and morgue facilities in each municipality to prepare for disasters. The police have also signed agreements and conduct joint training with professional associations for physicians, dentists and forensic experts in order that they can be promptly dispatched in cases of disaster.



Joint training with dentists (using a manikin)

## (2) Improving Information-gathering Capabilities

As an immediate assessment of the scale of damage is crucial for an appropriate response to large-scale disasters, the police have been enhancing their information-gathering capabilities through performance upgrade of the police aircraft, which are indispensable for disaster response, equipment such as small underwater ROVs and telescopic image searchers for examining hard-to-reach disaster areas, the utilization of ICT, and collaboration with private companies.

### ○ Early Assessment of the Damage Scale by Police Aircraft

The police have been enhancing their night flight training, while installing one after another night-vision systems to assist the pilots, and portable ultra-high-resolution cameras for the crewmembers in the rear.

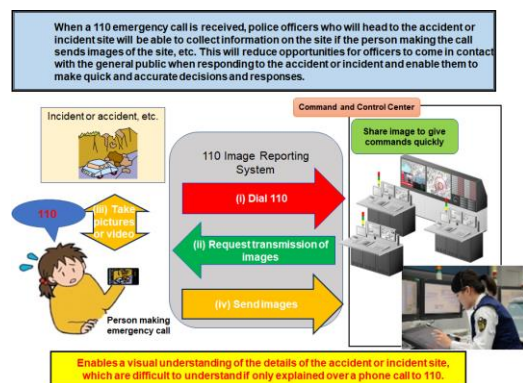


Training for a portable high sensitivity camera

### ○ Utilizing Information Provided by Citizens and Private Companies

The police are working to effectively utilize the information sent by citizens and private companies for rescue operations.

The plan includes the launch of a nationwide system which enables people calling 110 in an emergency to send visual images of disaster areas.



110 Image Reporting System

## (3) Securing Disaster-resistant Infrastructures for Police Activities

Learning from the Great East Japan Earthquake, where police activities were hindered by the interruption of lifelines and damage to police facilities, and by 30 police officers being killed in the line of duty by tsunamis, the police have been working to enhance the disaster resistance of their facilities to ensure safety during disaster response.



A floor higher than the surrounding streets and office space on the second floor or higher (measures against flooding of the Kanie police station of the Aichi Prefectural Police)

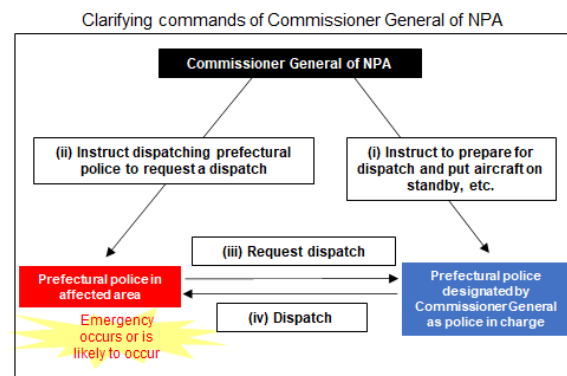
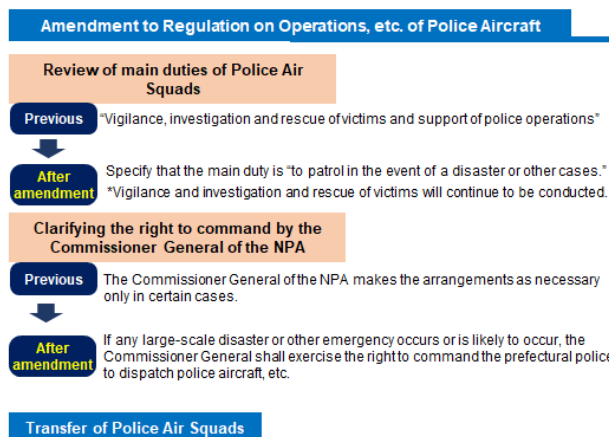


Carrying out rescue boat operations (measures against flooding of the Kanie police station of the Aichi Prefectural Police)

### 3. Additional Efforts for Managing Large-Scale Disasters in the Future

#### (1) Improving the Rapid Deployment Capabilities of the Police Nationwide

In order to promptly deploy police forces from all over Japan to disaster areas to enhance efforts for rescue operations, the regulations concerning the operations of police aircraft were amended in February 2021 for the purpose of designating police aircraft as the core element of police mobility during disaster response and utilizing their capabilities to the greatest extent in collaboration with the rescue units led by the mobile police. In addition, the police decided to further promote the enhancement of collaboration with the rescue units and to enhance the disaster response training programs by transferring the air squads of the nationwide police forces to the security departments to integrate the chains of command during disaster response.



○ In 2021, the Police Air Squads will be transferred from the local area department to the patrol department in each prefectural police force.

#### Amendments to the Regulations concerning Police Aircraft

#### (2) Improving Capabilities to Direct and Operate Units by Using ICT and Other Advanced Technologies

The police have been working to direct and operate the units efficiently by fully utilizing ICT and other advanced technologies. These efforts include the installation of the JAXA-developed Disaster Relief Aircraft Management Network System (D-NET) onto police aircraft, which enables command transmissions to be made instantaneously to the aircraft to optimize the task assignment to each unit in cases of disaster.



Training using the D-NET system (provided by JAXA)

#### (3) Constant Review of the Crisis Management System

The police not only enhance the existing disaster prevention measures, but also constantly review their former efforts based on new knowledge on disasters and their prevention. In addition, the police will further improve their disaster response capabilities through the constant enhancement of inspections and the establishment of a risk management system for disasters to prepare for any large-scale disasters that may occur in the future.