

## Chapter 6 Maintaining Public Safety and Disaster Countermeasures

### Section 1 International Terrorism and Countermeasures

#### 1 International Terrorism

##### (1) The Threat of Terrorism to Japan

After the death of the leader of Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, in May 2011, the new leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, asserted the continuation of jihad against the United States, Europe, and other nations. In addition, Al Qaeda-related organizations are expanding their power mainly in the Middle East and North African regions. Furthermore, incidents of terrorism are occurring that target Japanese nationals and interests, such as the terrorist attack in Amenas, Algeria in January 2013 that killed 40 people, including 10 Japanese nationals. It can be said that Japan is facing threats of large-scale, indiscriminate terrorism at home and abroad.

##### (2) North Korea

As of April 1, 2014, the police have determined thirteen suspected cases of abduction by North Korea involving 19 victims, and are acting on international arrest warrants issued against eleven North Korean operatives involved in eight abduction cases.

In addition, in order to respond to cases for which the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out, the Special Supervision Team, established in the Foreign Affairs Division of the NPA Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Department in March 2013, is implementing guidance for prefectural police, and the police are promoting initiatives of strengthening cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard in terms of investigation and research and active extraction of DNA profiling materials, taking the necessities of the investigations and the intentions of families into consideration.

#### 2 International Terrorism Countermeasures

In an effort to prevent acts of terrorism, the police are taking measures such as gathering and analyzing information through coordination with overseas security intelligence agencies, implementing administrative measures towards distributors of chemical substances that can be used as materials for explosives, implementing

border controls at international ports and airports and promoting vigilance and security at important facilities. In addition, the police are working to improve their response capability in the event of a terrorist attack by implementing daily training for units such as the Special Assault Team (SAT), the Anti-Firearms Squad and the Counter-NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) Terrorism Squad.

Additionally, with regard to terrorist threats against nuclear facilities, the Anti-Firearms Squads are stationed at those facilities and engage in vigilance and security activities on a round-the-clock basis, and the police are implementing other initiatives such as joint training exercises with the Self-Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard.



**Joint training exercises  
with the Japan Coast Guard**

### Section 2 Foreign Affairs and Countermeasures

#### 1 Trends in Harmful Activities against Japan and Countermeasures

North Korea developed propaganda and agitation to heighten the cohesive power of the First Chairman of the National Defense Commission, Kim Jong-un. North Korea has developed hard-and-soft tactics for eliminating sanctions on North Korea through actions such as having repeatedly demanded “reparations for the past” of atonement and apology from Japan for war “crimes” through means such as state-run media, and reopening Japan-North Korea government talks between top-ranking officials.

## 2 Cracking Down on Illegal Exports of Materials Related to Weapons of Mass Destruction

The police are actively developing enforcement against the illegal export from Japan of materials related to weapons of mass destruction and illegal actions related to sanctions on North Korea. By December 2013, arrests had been made for 30 illegal actions related to each instance.

## Section 3 Public Safety and Countermeasures

### 1 Trends in Aum Shinrikyo and Countermeasures

To prevent the recurrence of Aum's indiscriminate mass murder, the police are working with related agencies to reveal and investigate its illegal activities. In addition the police are also promoting public relations campaigns in order to prevent the memories of the series of heinous incidents perpetrated by the Aum Shinrikyo, such as the Sarin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway, from fading, and to maintain an accurate understanding of its current situation.

### 2 Trends in Extreme Leftist Groups and Countermeasures

In 2013, extreme leftist groups concealed their violent and political leanings and engaged in popular movements and labor movements such as anti-nuclear power demonstrations. The police are pressing ahead with criminal investigations related to extreme leftist groups, sweeping searches to uncover apartments and other places used as underground strongholds, and public relations campaigns using posters and other materials.



**An antinuclear power movement by an extreme leftist group (June, Tokyo)**

## 3 Right Wing Movements and Countermeasures

In 2013, the rightist groups persistently conducted propaganda against relevant countries and the Japanese government, seizing on issues that include Chinese naval vessels exposing Maritime Self-Defense Force frigates to fire control radar and comments on the issues involving the Takeshima Islands and the recognition of historic events raised by South Korea's president, Park Geun-hye. In addition, so-called right leaning citizens' groups have held gatherings and demonstrations, etc. throughout the country, and there were various types of trouble with opposing groups. The police are striving to prevent serious incidents such as terrorism acts by rightist groups, and are engaged in a thorough crackdown on illegal activities.

## Section 4 Dealing with Disasters and Security Measures

### 1 Dealing with Natural Disasters

During 2013, earthquakes, heavy rains, typhoons, gales and storm surges resulted in 76 fatalities/missing persons and 666 injuries. In response, police dispatched units such as the Riot Police Units and engaged in activities such as rescue and search for missing persons.

The police are implementing initiatives to rebuild the crisis management system to deal with disasters, based on reflections and lessons from the response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.



**Rescue operation (Oshima, Tokyo)**

## 2 Imperial/Dignitary Protection

With due consideration to the affinity between the imperial family and citizens, the police implement security measures to ensure the safety of the imperial family, and to manage the crowd and prevent accidents among well-wishers.

In addition, under the current severe situation surrounding important officials, with concerns of terrorist attacks and other illegal attacks, the police are implementing appropriate security measures to ensure their safety.



**Escorts for the Emperor and Empress’  
attendance at the 64<sup>th</sup> National Arbor Day  
(May, Tottori)**