

Cooperation Concerning Environmental Matters

In view of growing awareness of environmental problems, and recognizing the joint Government of Japan (GOJ) and United States Government (USG) responsibilities, it is to the mutual benefit of both Governments to pay due attention and work out a mutually satisfactory solution to pollution which might be caused by the U.S. Forces use of facilities and areas furnished by the GOJ under the Status of Forces Agreement. It is the intent of the U.S. Forces to become members of pollution free communities. In this connection, it is proposed that as a principle, pollution problems be solved through local initiative, in accordance with the following procedures:

a. Procedures for Local Municipalities and Prefectural Governments:

(1) When there is a reasonable ground to believe that pollution is being caused by water, oils, chemicals and other substances, originating from U.S. facilities and areas and thus affecting the welfare of the local community, prefectural government or local municipalities or both, in coordination with the local DFAB, may request the local base commander to make an investigation, the results of which should be made known to the prefectural government or local municipalities or both as promptly as possible.

(2) In case prefectural government or local municipalities or both, in coordination with the local DFAB, consider it necessary to conduct on-the-spot observations of the alleged site and to obtain samples therefrom of water or soil or both, or soot, smoke and fuel for stationary installations and equipment, the local base commander will be the contact point and may authorize such observations and the obtaining of such samples.

b. Procedure for Government of Japan:

In case the Government of Japan considers it necessary to conduct on-the-spot observations of an alleged pollution site and to obtain samples therefrom of soil, water or both, or soot, smoke and fuel for stationary installations and equipment, the method and procedures for execution of such observations and for obtaining such samples will be handled by the pertinent authorities of the two governments through Joint Committee channels. The prefectural government or local municipalities, or both, may participate in these observations upon approval of the Joint Committee.

c. In those cases where prefectural, municipal or GOJ organizations desire to conduct on-site observations as described in subparagraphs a.(2) and b., they will meet with appropriate U.S. authorities to review the environmental standards which would be applicable and utilized while conducting the on-site observations and in determining the results of these observations.

d. The U.S. Forces, Japan will take whatever measures they deem necessary in connection with the investigation mentioned in subparagraph a.(1), or the observations mentioned in subparagraphs a.(2) or b. and inform the Government of Japan of the measures taken.