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## Notification Procedures In Case of Unusual Occurrences Affecting U.S. Forces in Japan

### 1. Purpose:

(1) The representatives of Japan and the U.S. to the Joint Committee share the view that it is important to provide the U.S. Embassy; Headquarters, U.S. Forces in Japan; and local base/facility commanders with accurate and expeditious information on unusual occurrences affecting U.S. Forces in Japan (hereinafter referred to as "information in case of unusual occurrences") in order to ensure swift response by the U.S. side, thereby minimizing the impact of these occurrences on the U.S. Forces in Japan. Based on the above recognition, these procedures provide for the standards, channels and format with regard to notification procedures in case of unusual occurrences affecting the U.S. Forces in Japan.

(2) These procedures are intended to supplement existing communications channels between U.S. Forces and Japanese authorities, and do not supersede, cancel, or replace any other communications procedures.

### 2. Notification Standards of Information in Case of Unusual Occurrences:

(1) As to the notification to the U.S. side in case of unusual occurrences which may have an impact on the U.S. Forces in Japan, such notification must meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 3.e of the terms of reference of the "Ad Hoc Working Group on Procedures for Unusual Occurrence Notification" (AWGON). MOFA or DFAA will make expeditious notification of unusual occurrences as soon as information on such occurrences becomes available from the relevant authorities. MOFA will make every effort practical to collect information on such occurrences from relevant sources. The examples of unusual occurrences subject to notification are listed below, but note that the list is not exhaustive.

- (a) impending or already occurred hazards or disasters (including explosive ammunition cases) which may cause substantial injury or damage to U.S. Forces personnel or property, or which may disrupt U.S. training or operations;
- (b) significant probability of substantial pollution/contamination resulting from misuse,

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abandonment, outflow, or leakage of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive substances;

(c) accidents or incidents (including aircraft and vessel related cases, and alleged criminal acts) which may cause substantial injury or damage to U.S. Forces personnel or property, or which may disrupt U.S. training or operations;

(d) incidents related to JSDF training which may cause substantial injury or damage to U.S. Forces personnel or property, or which may disrupt U.S. training or operations;

(e) impending or already occurred terrorist acts which may impact U.S. force protection;

(2) The two sides agree that when the unusual occurrences referred to in 2(1) above pose imminent danger to U.S. Forces personnel, facilities and areas, the local base commander concerned will be notified expeditiously by appropriate Japanese authorities, as has been done in the past. The two sides pledge to review, and if necessary improve, the notification procedures through the AWGON process.

### 3. Notification Channels for Information in Case of Unusual Occurrences:

The notification channels for information in case of unusual occurrences affecting U.S. Forces will be specified by attachment 1. Attachment 1 will be determined by the AWGON.

### 4. Notification Format for Information in Case of Unusual Occurrences:

The notification format for unusual occurrences will include the following:

(1) date and time of unusual occurrences

(2) location of unusual occurrences

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(3) summary of unusual occurrences

- a. particulars
- b. damage
- c. measures taken so far
- d. possibility of remaining danger
- e. environmental destruction

(4) need for U.S. assistance

(5) incident number

(6) person sending report

(7) person receiving report

(8) local notification completed and base/facility notified

5. Points to be Noted:

- (1) The Japanese and U.S. sides will make unusual occurrence notifications expeditiously without regard to the hour, day, or date.
- (2) The Joint Committee Secretariat of both sides will make efforts to ensure the effectiveness of notification channels by compiling and periodically updating the names and telephone numbers of the personnel concerned.
- (3) The Joint Committee Secretariat of both sides will make efforts in improving communication hardware by securing direct faxing devices, mobile phones for the use of personnel in charge of notification, voice mail, and other devices.
- (4) The notification procedures will be reviewed as necessary at AWGON, as stipulated in the AWGON Terms of Reference.