

ORGANIZATION & RESOURCES

1. Responsibilities



Police responsibilities under the Police Act include “protecting life, person, and property; preventing, suppressing, and investigating crimes; apprehending suspects; traffic enforcement; and, maintaining public safety and order.”

The Code of Criminal Procedure states that “when a judicial police official deems an offense has been committed, he shall investigate the offender and evidence thereof.” Accordingly, the police are empowered to investigate not only penal code offenses but also all illegal acts punishable under Japan’s judicial system. Most cases are investigated by the police and referred to the public prosecutor’s office for prosecution. While public prosecutors are also empowered to conduct investigations, their investigations are generally supplementary. The primary duty of the public prosecutor is to determine case dispositions and prosecute suspects.

Several other authorities such as the Japan Coast Guard and the Narcotics Control Department possess investigative powers, which are authorized by law. Their investigations are generally limited in scope and number.

In addition to criminal investigations, the police perform a wide range of administrative activities to maintain public safety and order applying various acts such as the Road Traffic Act and the Anti-Boryokudan Act.

The police also maintain close contact with local communities to:

- Prevent crimes;
- Handle lost and found articles;
- Give guidance to juveniles;
- Help people in times of disaster;
- Provide care for lost children and runaways; and,
- Offer counseling services to help citizens solve their problems.

2. History



Superintendent General
Toshiyoshi KAWAJI

In 1872, the government sent the first Superintendent General Toshiyoshi KAWAJI to Europe to study the police system. He returned the following year and in 1874 established the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department in the Ministry of Interior. This was the first modern police organization in Japan. Police power, at that time, was held by the national government.

In the process of the democratization of Japan after World War II, under the former Police Act enforced in 1948, the Public Safety

Commission system was established. This created a structure consisting of national and municipal police with the aim of ensuring democratic management and decentralization of police power.

The former Police Act had an epochal significance in that it aimed at democratizing the police. However, it had institutional shortcomings such as the existence of a multitude of municipal police forces in parallel with the National Rural Police. This caused several problems such as the inefficiency of police force operations and low cost effectiveness due to the geographical segmentation of police units and the unclear distinction of responsibilities between the municipal police forces and the national government in terms of maintaining public peace and order.

Retaining the good features of the former act and remedying its institutional shortcomings, the former Police Act was amended in its entirety into the present act in 1954. The National Police Agency was established and the present police system was formed.

3. Organization

The Police Act empowers the national government to establish a central police organization to control and supervise prefectural police forces on matters of national concern. The act also gives each prefecture the authority to carry out police duties to “protect life, person, and property” and “maintain public safety and order” within its jurisdiction. At both the national and prefectural levels, Public Safety Commissions have administrative supervision powers over the police.



A. National Police Organization

The National Public Safety Commission and the National Police Agency (NPA) constitute Japan's national police organization.

(1) National Public Safety Commission

After World War II, the Public Safety Commission system was established through the reform of the police. The main object of the establishment of this system was to ensure democratic administration and political neutrality of the police under the administrative supervision by the Commission which consists of members representing good sense of the public.

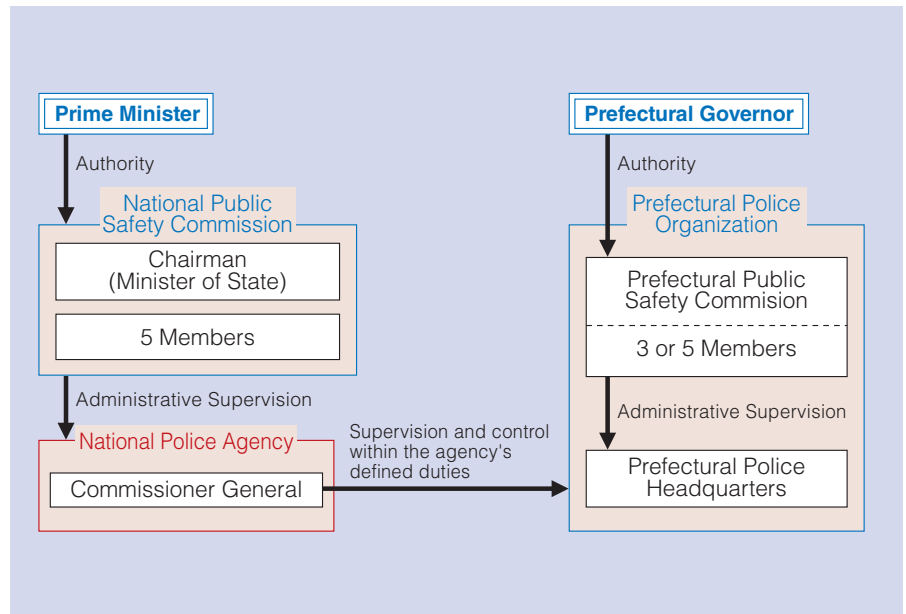
The National Public Safety Commission supervises the NPA. The Prime Minister is not empowered to exercise direct command or control toward the Commission. This ensures the political neutrality of the Commission.

The Commission draws out basic policies and regulations, coordinates police administration on matters of national concern and sets general standards for training, communication, criminal identification, criminal statistics and equipment.

The Commission appoints the Commissioner General of the NPA and Chiefs of prefectural police organizations. The Commission indirectly supervises prefectural police organizations through the NPA.

The Commission is composed of a Chairman and five members. To make it clear that the responsibility for public safety lies with the cabinet, a state minister is assigned as the chairman, who presides over Commission meetings. Members are appointed by the Prime Minister

System of Public Safety Commissions



with the consent of both houses of the Diet and serve a five-year term. Persons who served as professional public servants in police or prosecution in the last five years may not be appointed. To ensure political neutrality, no more than two members may belong to the same political party.

To fulfill its duty, the Commission holds a regular meeting once every week, and if necessary, holds additional meetings.

(2) National Police Agency

(a) Organization and Authority

The Commissioner General, leading the NPA, is appointed by the National Public Safety Commission with the approval of the Prime Minister. The Commissioner General, under the supervision of the Commission, oversees the agency's operations, appoints agency employees, and manages prefectural police organizations. The NPA, as a national agency, formulates police systems and also conducts police operations regarding cases involving national public safety, under-

takes the administration of matters which form the foundation of police activities such as police education and training, police communications, criminal identification as well as the development of police administration.

(b) Organizations Attached to the National Police Agency

NPA-attached organizations include the National Police Academy, the National Research Institute of Police Science and the Imperial Guard Headquarters.

The National Police Academy provides training to senior police officers and carries out academic research. It has nine training departments, including Community Safety, Criminal Investigation, Traffic, and Security Training Departments. Experts in each department serve as instructors or researchers. Academy sub-units that provide advanced and expert training and conduct research are: the Highest Training Institute for Investigation Leaders, the Research and Training Center for International Criminal

Investigation and Police Cooperation, the Police Policy Research Center, the Police Info-Communications Research Center, the Police Info-Communication Academy, the Research and Training Center for Financial Crime Investigation and the Research and Training Center for Interview and Introduction Technics.

The National Research Institute of Police Science conducts research in forensic science and applies the results of such research in the examination and identification of evidence collected during police investigations.

It also conducts research on juvenile crime prevention and traffic accidents. The Institute's seven departments are: General Affairs; First, Second, Third and Fourth Forensic Science; Criminology and Behavioral Sciences; and, Traffic.

The Imperial Guard Headquarters provides escorts for the Emperor, Empress, Crown Prince and other Imperial Family members. It is also responsible for the security of the Imperial Palace and other Imperial facilities. It consists of the Imperial Police Administration, the Imperial

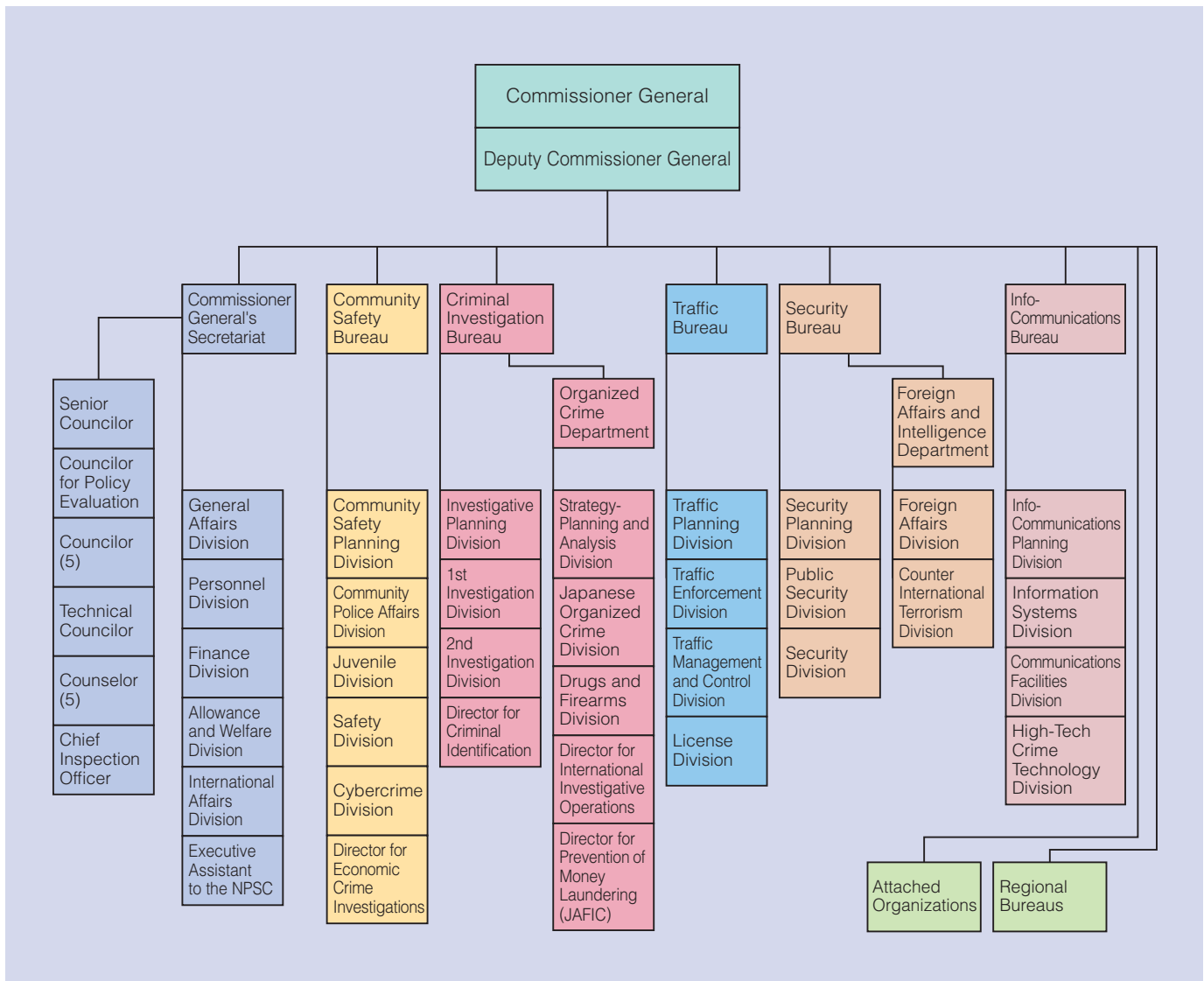
Security and the Imperial Escort departments.

(c) Regional Police Bureaus

Regional Police Bureaus (RPB) are subordinate to the NPA. There are seven RPBs nationwide. They are located in major cities of each geographic region. Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and Hokkaido Prefectural Police Headquarters are excluded from the jurisdiction of RPBs.

Headed by a Director General, each RPB exercises necessary

Organization of NPA (2013)





control and supervision over and provides support services to prefectural police within its jurisdiction, under the authority and orders of NPA's Commissioner General.

Attached to each RPB is a Regional Police School that provides police personnel with education and training required for staff officers as well as other necessary education and training.

B. Prefectural Police Organizations

The Police Act requires that each prefectural government has its own police organization to carry out police duties within its jurisdiction.

(1) Prefectural Public Safety Commissions

Prefectural Public Safety Commissions (PPSCs) are under the authority of elected prefectural governors. PPSCs supervise the prefectural police by drawing out basic policies for police operations and establishing regulations in regard to the safety of the public. They are also authorized to issue licenses for adult amusement businesses, firearm possession, and driving. However, neither PPSCs nor prefectural governors have powers to intervene in individual investigations or specific law enforcement activities of the prefectural police.

Some PPSCs consist of five members, while others consist of three. Persons who served as professional public servants in police or prosecution in the last five years may not be appointed as members. Members are appointed by prefectural governors with the consent of prefectural assemblies and serve a three-year term. The members then elect their chairman among themselves. In PPSCs, a majority of the



National Police Academy

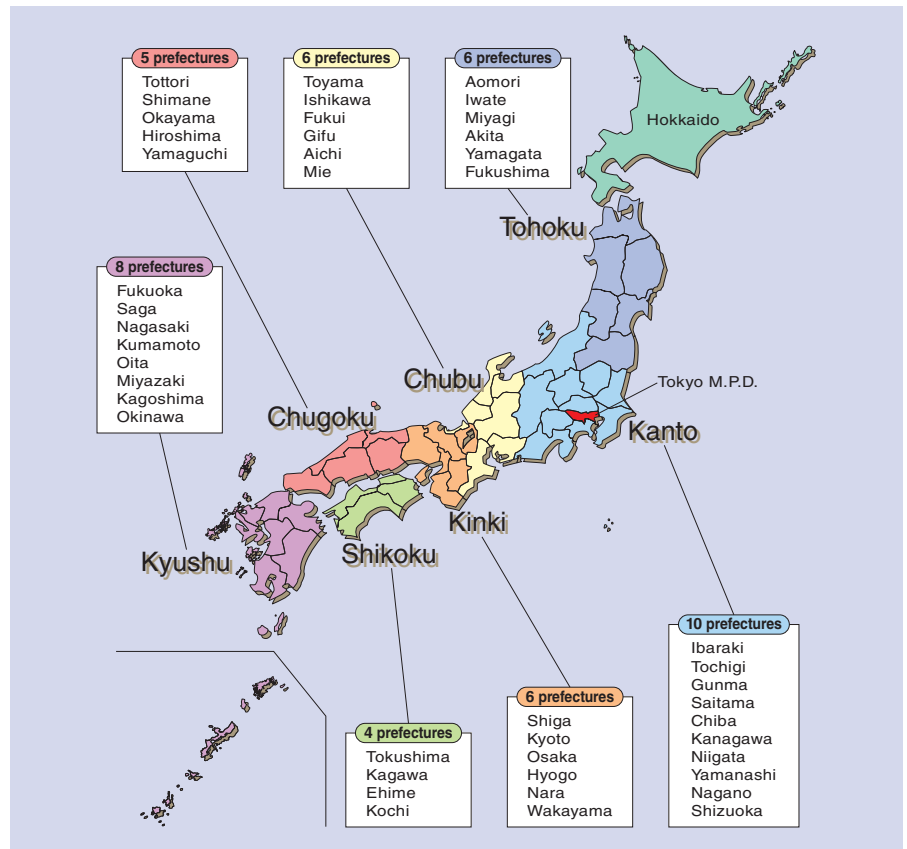


National Research Institute of Police Science



Imperial Guard Headquarters

Regional Police Bureaus



members may not belong to the same political party.

(2) Metropolitan Police Department and Prefectural Police

(a) Organization and Authority

The local police force of Tokyo is the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), while all other prefectures have their own prefectural police. The MPD and prefectural police have identical functions and authorities within their jurisdictions.

Obtaining the consent of the Tokyo Metropolitan Department, the National Public Safety Commission appoints the Superintendent General, the chief of the MPD, with the approval of the Prime Minister. The National Public Safety Commission appoints prefectural police chiefs with the consent of the respective PPSCs.

(b) Police Stations, Police Boxes, and Residential Police Boxes

The MPD and the prefectural police divide their jurisdiction into districts and place a police station in each of them. As operational units at the front line, police stations perform their duties in close contact with the local community.

Police boxes (Koban) and residential police boxes (Chuzai-sho) are subordinate units of police stations and are located throughout their jurisdiction. They are the focal points of community police activities and play a leading role in the maintenance of the safety of local communities.

(c) Relations Among Prefectural Police Organizations

When large-scale incidents and crimes across prefectural borders occur, other prefectural police forces and the NPA render assistance. Each prefectural police can also exercise its authority in other prefectures for protecting the life and property of its residents and maintaining the public safety of its prefecture.

4. Human Resources

A. Authorized Strength

As of 2013, the total strength of the police reached approximately 293,100 personnel. The total strength of the NPA total is approximately 7,700: 2,100 police officers, 900 Imperial guards, and 4,700 civilian employees. The total strength of the prefectural police is approximately 285,400: 257,100 police officers and 28,300 civilian employees. Nationwide, there are approximately 18,700 female police officers and 12,100 female civilian employees.

Authorized Strength of Prefectural Police (2013)

