

Japan as state guests, including the President of the United States.

C. Disaster Relief Operations

Japan is subject to the risk of natural disasters. The NPA promotes various measures to respond to all types of natural disasters and accidents. In the event of a disaster, the NPA instructs and coordinates relevant police headquarters on victim rescue, search for the missing, traffic control and other relief measures.



Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the police have established special units around the nation that will be sent to affected areas in the event of a major disaster.

In 2014, many people were killed or went missing due to natural disasters, including landslides caused by torrential rains in Hiroshima and the Mt. Ontake eruption. In the wake of these disasters, the Inter-Prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit (IERU), the units specializing in disaster relief operations, and other units were swiftly sent for the rescue of survivors and the search for the missing.

D. The Riot Police Unit Operations

(1) Activities of the Riot Police Unit

The Riot Police Unit is the core of security forces for crisis manage-

ment. They carry out activities such as maintenance of public order against mass illegal activities, protection of critical public facilities and crowd control at large events or festivals. In addition to these activities, the Riot Police Unit is deployed to control Boryokudan (Japanese organized crime groups) and motorcycle gangsters.



(2) Functions of the Riot Police Unit and other units

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and each prefectural police have their own Riot Police Unit for quick response to emergency situations. A Riot Police Unit includes various specialized squads, such as an anti-firearms squad, a counter-NBC terrorism squad, an explosive ordnance disposal squad, a water rescue squad and others. Eight prefectural police headquarters have a Special Assault Team (SAT) specially trained to deal with hijacks and hostage-takings.



3. The Crisis Management System after the Great East Japan Earthquake

A. Disaster Countermeasures

The NPA, along with the MPD and prefectural police, have been reexamining and reinforcing its disaster countermeasures by making business continuity plans, conducting practical disaster security drills, and concluding agreements on human resources and equipment with relevant organizations and private sector.



B. Tightened Security of Nuclear Power Stations

At the nuclear power stations around the nation, Anti-Firearms Squads, special units established against incidents in which firearms are used, are placed on the alert around the clock. As the vulnerabilities of nuclear power stations were revealed after the accident of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, in order to prevent terrorists from exploiting the vulnerabilities, counterterrorism measures have been strengthened.

