

## 4. The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)

The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) also has substantial responsibilities and capabilities for coastal surveillance and coastal defence, especially with respect to northern Hokkaido. These responsibilities have been maintained through adroit bureaucratic–political manoeuvring, but their origins go back to the early part of the 20th century when, in 1907, two years after the Imperial Japanese Navy’s decisive defeat of the Russian Baltic Fleet in the Battle of Tsushima, the army ‘reasserted its control over the determination of the nation’s strategic priorities’, with Russia being formally identified as ‘Japan’s prime hypothetical enemy’ and the army’s forward position on the Asian continent being Japan’s ‘basic strategy’.<sup>1</sup> Through the 1920s and 1930s, while the navy looked eastwards towards the United States and southwards with respect to operational planning, the army remained focused westwards. During the Cold War, the conventional defence of Hokkaido against a Soviet invasion became the JGSDF’s primary mission. Surveillance of the straits used by the Soviet Pacific Fleet based in Vladivostok to access the Pacific Ocean, along with coastal surveillance in northern Hokkaido, became part of this mission. The JGSDF’s role was substantially enhanced when closure of these straits in wartime was incorporated into national strategic policy in the early 1980s. It was codified in the JGSDF’s operational concept of ‘Sea Shore Strike’, based on ‘a scenario for a Soviet landing in Hokkaido’, adopted to ‘orient its doctrine and procurement strategy’.<sup>2</sup>

The JGSDF has the leading role in coastal surveillance and coastal defence across Hokkaido’s northern coastline, from Wakkanai and Cape Soya in the north-west to Nemuro in the north-east, and hosts the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force’s (JMSDF) shore-based facilities for monitoring submarine passage through the Soya and Nemuro straits. The JGSDF’s 301st Coastal Surveillance Unit, based at Wakkanai, has detachments at Maruyama, a hill about 3 kilometres inland from the tip of Cape Soya, and on Rebun Island, about 40 kilometres

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1 David C. Evans & Mark R. Peattie, *Kaigun: Strategy, Tactics and Technology in the Imperial Japanese Navy, 1887–1941* (Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland, 1977), p. 149.

2 Euan Graham, *Japan’s Sea Lane Security, 1940–2004*, p. 145.

west of Wakkanai, in the north-east part of the Sea of Japan. The 302nd Coastal Surveillance Unit is located at Shibetsu, near Nemuro.<sup>3</sup> These units report to the HQ of the Northern Army at Sapporo in Hokkaido.<sup>4</sup>

The JGSDF has also long maintained Coastal Surveillance Training Centres at Mitsushima and at Kami-tsushima on Tsushima Island in the Korea Strait, at the southern end of the Sea of Japan.<sup>5</sup> These have operational as well as training functions. For example, they were ‘mobilised’ on 18 December 1998 when South Korean naval forces sunk a North Korean submarine in international waters off northern Kyushu.<sup>6</sup>

The JGSDF’s role in coastal defence and control of certain straits was manifested in the decision in the early 1980s to develop a surface-to-surface anti-ship missile, designated the SSM-1 Type-88 and also called the Shibasuta, specifically for the JGSDF. The new system was developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries from 1982 to 1987 ‘to destroy invading ships at landing shore’.<sup>7</sup> The FY 1986–90 Mid-Term Defense Program (MTDP), approved by the Cabinet on 18 September 1985, stated that 54 surface-to-ship guided missiles would be procured ‘in order to strengthen the capability to destroy invading forces in the outer seas and coastal waters’; they were to be deployed with three operational units and one training unit.<sup>8</sup> The acquisition of the missiles effectively gave the JGSDF ‘an integral role in the defence of the Soya and Tsugaru Straits’.<sup>9</sup>

The FY 1991–95 MTDP, approved by the Cabinet on 20 December 1990, stated that procurement of the SSM-1 would ‘be continued’ beyond the 54 already authorised, and included funds for another 40 Shibasuta.<sup>10</sup> The JGSDF now has 100 Type-88s. Deployment of the Type-88 began in 1989–90; 16 were operational

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3 「警戒監視情報の収集態勢(1):陸上及び海上自衛隊」, アジア太平洋地域の安全保障環境と地域的な安全保障のための取組, 第5回「安全保障と防衛力に関する懇談会」資料, 平成16年6月29日, [‘Maritime Surveillance and Intelligence Collection (1) JGSDF and JMSDF’, *Asia-Pacific Security Environment and Measures for Regional Security*, Council on Security and Defense Capabilities, 29 June 2004], at [www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/ampobouei/dai5/siryuu.pdf](http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/ampobouei/dai5/siryuu.pdf)

4 「第301沿岸監視隊」, [‘301 Coastal Surveillance Unit’], Wikipedia – Japanese, at [ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%AC%AC301%E6%B2%BF%E5%B2%B8%E7%9B%A3%E8%A6%96%E9%9A%8A](http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%AC%AC301%E6%B2%BF%E5%B2%B8%E7%9B%A3%E8%A6%96%E9%9A%8A); ‘沿岸監視隊(陸上自衛隊) [‘Coastal Monitoring Teams (GSDF)’], Wikipedia – Japanese, at [ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B2%BF%E5%B2%B8%E7%9B%A3%E8%A6%96%E9%9A%8A\\_\(%E9%99%B8%E4%B8%8A%E8%87%AA%E8%A1%9B%E9%9A%8A\)](http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B2%BF%E5%B2%B8%E7%9B%A3%E8%A6%96%E9%9A%8A_(%E9%99%B8%E4%B8%8A%E8%87%AA%E8%A1%9B%E9%9A%8A))

5 「県内自衛隊施設数量の詳細」、長崎平和委員会 [‘Details of SDF Facilities in the Nagasaki Prefecture’], *Nagasaki Peace Committee News*, 31 March 2001, at [www7b.biglobe.ne.jp/~chi-tan/nsdf002.html](http://www7b.biglobe.ne.jp/~chi-tan/nsdf002.html)

6 *Tokyo Shimbun*, 9 January 1999, in American Embassy, Tokyo, ‘Daily Summary of Japanese Press’, 13 January 1999.

7 Japan Defense Agency (JDA), *Defense of Japan 1991 (The Japan Times, Tokyo, 1991)*, p. 250; and ‘SSM-1: Shibasuta SSM-1B Type 88, Type 90’, at [www.deagel.com/Anti-Ship-Missiles/SSM-1\\_a001943001.aspx](http://www.deagel.com/Anti-Ship-Missiles/SSM-1_a001943001.aspx).

8 JDA, *Defense of Japan 1987 (The Japan Times, Tokyo, 1987)*, pp. 109, 298, 301; and JDA, *Defense of Japan 1988 (The Japan Times, Tokyo, 1988)*, pp. 101–02, 307.

9 Graham, *Japan’s Sea Lane Security*, p. 145.

10 JDA, *Defense of Japan 1993 (The Japan Times, Tokyo, 1993)*, pp. 270, 273, 276.

in 1992, 24 in 1993, and about 50 in 1995–96. It had 60 Type-88s operational in 1996, 80 in 1998, and 100 by 2000–01.<sup>11</sup> The Type-88 missile is 5.1 metres long, 0.35 metres in diameter, weighs 660 kilograms, and carries a 225 kilogram AP-HE warhead. It has a maximum effective range of 180 kilometres, has both an inertial guidance system and an active radar seeker for the terminal phase, and integral electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCM) capability provided by a ‘home on jamming’ capability.<sup>12</sup> Six missiles are carried on a truck/launcher vehicle.

The JGSDF has six Surface-to-Ship Missile Regiments, each of which has two or three trucks, or 12–18 Type-88 missiles. Three of the regiments are elements of the Northern Army in Hokkaido – the 1st Regiment at Kita-Chitose, the 2nd at Bibai in Surachi Sub-Prefecture, and the 3rd at Kami-Furano in Kamikawa Sub-Prefecture; the 4th is based at Hachinohe with the North-East Army; the 5th is at Kengun in Kumamoto Prefecture in Kyushu, the HQ of the Western Army; and the 6th is at Utsunomiya, in Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, with the Eastern Army. A detachment of the 301st Communications Company is based with the 3rd Regiment at Kami-Furano to provide direct communications with the JGSDF’s 301st Coastal Surveillance Unit at Wakkanai. With units of the 5th Regiment based in Tsushima, the JGSDF is now able to effectively control the Soya, Tsugaru and Tsushima straits.<sup>13</sup>

On 6–7 November 2013, as noted in chapter 2, four Type-88 missiles were deployed to Naha air base in Okinawa and two to Miyako-jima during a large-scale exercise to test Japan’s capacity to block foreign vessels from transiting between the East China Sea and the western Pacific through the gap between Okinawa and Miyako-jima. The missiles and two launchers were from the 3rd Regiment at Kami-Furana in Hokkaido.<sup>14</sup>

A successor to the Type-88, initially called the Improved Type-88 or Type-88 (Kai), but now designated the Type-12, has been developed by the Technical Research and Development Institute (TRDI).<sup>15</sup> Funding for procurement of 24

11 International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), *The Military Balance* (London), various annual editions.

12 ‘Military Photos and Videos: Japan – Type-88 Surface-to-Ship Missile (SSM-1)’, at [www.militaryspot.com/gallery/showphoto.php?photo=433&cat=527&page=1](http://www.militaryspot.com/gallery/showphoto.php?photo=433&cat=527&page=1)

13 John O’Connell, ‘Strategic Implications of the Japanese SSM-1 Cruise Missile’, *Journal of Northeast Asian Studies* (Vol. 6, No. 2), Summer 1987, pp. 53–66.

14 ‘Japan Installing Missiles on Pacific Gateway Islands’, at [www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2013/11/08/2003576391](http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2013/11/08/2003576391); David C. Isby, ‘JGSDF Type 88 Missile Launchers Deployed for Exercise’, *IHS Jane’s*, 5 November 2013, at [www.janes.com/article/29573/jgsdf-type-88-missile-launchers-deployed-for-exercise](http://www.janes.com/article/29573/jgsdf-type-88-missile-launchers-deployed-for-exercise)

15 Department of Guided Weapon Systems, Technical Research and Development Institute (TRDI), at [www.mod.go.jp/trdi/en/programs/gm/gm.html](http://www.mod.go.jp/trdi/en/programs/gm/gm.html)

Type-12s was included in the FY 2012 defence budget, with a further 48 in the FY 2013 budget. The first batch is to be deployed with the 5th Regiment at Kumamoto.<sup>16</sup>

On 26 March 2008, the JGSDF's Central Army, headquartered at Itami in Osaka, officially established two coastal surveillance units, focused on the south-western part of the Japan Sea separating North Korea from Honshu. One, named the 13th Reconnaissance Squadron, is located at Izumo, in the northern part of Honshu's Shimane Prefecture, just inland from the Japan Sea and around the closest point to North Korea. It has 130 personnel, as well as 10 light armoured vehicles for scout purposes.<sup>17</sup> The other, called a Mobile Coastal Surveillance Unit, has 50 personnel and is based at Imazu in Shiga Prefecture, north-east of Kyoto.<sup>18</sup> Some of the unit's vehicles were displayed in September 2008, one of which carried a 'wide-range monitoring system' called *Senrigan (Clairvoyant)*, another contained an 'all-weather surveillance room', and a third carried a new JTPS-P23 'ground radar' system. The vehicles provide high mobility and, when they are positioned for their coastal surveillance mission, the 'sophisticated radar', optical devices and various antenna systems are quickly extendable.<sup>19</sup>

At the beginning of July 2009, it was reported that the JGSDF's Western Army planned to establish a coastal surveillance unit and associated radar facility on Yonaguni Island, the westernmost point of Japan and part of the Sakishima Island group; it is about 110 kilometres from the east coast of Taiwan, and about 170 kilometres south-west of the disputed Senkaku Islands. Its purpose is to monitor the movement of vessels in the area, and, more specifically, to 'clarify the intentions' of Chinese naval deployments in the area. The planned unit consists of 300 personnel, drawn from the augmented 1st Combined Brigade based in Naha, Okinawa, and was to have been deployed at Yonaguni by the end of 2009; the plan was expected to be confirmed in the Mid-Term Defense Build-up Plan for FY 2010–14, then being formulated for approval by the Cabinet later

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16 「12式地对艦誘導弾」 ['Type-12 Surface-to-Ship Missile'], Wikipedia – Japanese, at [ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/12%E5%BC%8F%E5%9C%B0%E5%AF%BE%E8%89%A6%E8%AA%98%E5%B0%8E%E5%BC%BE](http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/12%E5%BC%8F%E5%9C%B0%E5%AF%BE%E8%89%A6%E8%AA%98%E5%B0%8E%E5%BC%BE); Gordon Arthur, 'New Anti-Ship Missile for Japan's Self Defence Force', 2 September 2013, at [www.shephardmedia.com/news/landwarfareintl/new-anti-ship-missile-japans-self-defence-force/](http://www.shephardmedia.com/news/landwarfareintl/new-anti-ship-missile-japans-self-defence-force/)

17 沿岸監視隊(陸上自衛隊) ['Coastal Monitoring Teams (GSDF)'], at [ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B2%BF%E5%B2%B8%E7%9B%A3%E8%A6%96%E9%9A%8A\\_\(%E9%99%B8%E4%B8%8A%E8%87%AA%E8%A1%9B%E9%9A%8A\)](http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B2%BF%E5%B2%B8%E7%9B%A3%E8%A6%96%E9%9A%8A_(%E9%99%B8%E4%B8%8A%E8%87%AA%E8%A1%9B%E9%9A%8A)); 「出雲駐屯地」 ['Izumo Garrison'], Wikipedia – Japanese, at [ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%87%BA%E9%9B%B2%E9%A7%90%E5%B1%AF%E5%9C%B0](http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%87%BA%E9%9B%B2%E9%A7%90%E5%B1%AF%E5%9C%B0); 'Detailed Report of New Units as at End FY 2007', *Asagumo News*, 3 April 2008, at [www.asagumo-news.com/news/200804/080403/08040303.html](http://www.asagumo-news.com/news/200804/080403/08040303.html)

18 「今津駐屯地」 ['Imazu Garrison'], Wikipedia – Japanese, at [ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E4%BB%8A%E6%B4%A5%E9%A7%90%E5%B1%AF%E5%9C%B0](http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E4%BB%8A%E6%B4%A5%E9%A7%90%E5%B1%AF%E5%9C%B0)

19 「陸上自衛隊 今津駐屯地創立56周年記念行事(今津駐屯地祭2008)」, 北大路機関 ['56th Anniversary of JGSDF Imazu Detachment', Kitaoji Agency], 24 September 2008, at [harunakurama.blog.ocn.ne.jp/kitaoji/2008/09/post\\_919e.html](http://harunakurama.blog.ocn.ne.jp/kitaoji/2008/09/post_919e.html)

in 2009.<sup>20</sup> The Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada visited Yonaguni on 8 July, the first time a defence chief had visited the island. He said in Yonaguni that: 'I am well aware of the need for defence of the Sakeshima island chain and I plan to consider the matter [of establishing a JGSDF Coastal Surveillance Unit] in the future'.<sup>21</sup>

Although some of the island's 1,600 residents were reportedly opposed to the JGSDF presence, it was welcomed by the majority. Indeed Shukichi Hokama, the mayor of Yonaguni, had visited Hamada in Tokyo on 30 June and requested a JGSDF presence on the island 'to provide defence for the offshore islands, assistance during natural disasters, and help promote the local economy'.<sup>22</sup> In August, the mayor was re-elected against an opponent who was opposed to the JGSDF plan.<sup>23</sup>

The reports about the plan raised concerns in both China and Taiwan. Chinese 'experts' reportedly insisted that China has sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands and that Japan did not appreciate China's security interests; they said that a military presence on Yonaguni could provoke an 'inappropriate chain reaction', and that Japan 'should think twice' about the issue.<sup>24</sup> In Taipei, it was argued that 'Taiwan shields Yonaguni from China', and hence that the planned move was 'aimed at Taiwan rather than China'.<sup>25</sup>

In September 2009, following the election of the Democratic Party government, the new Defense Minister, Toshimi Kitazawa, said that he was 'cautious' about the Yonaguni proposal. He said that 'from the viewpoint of national defense, sending troops to Yonaguni is basically important', but that 'I doubt whether

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20 'The GSDF Deployment to Yonaguni: Making Border Defence Explicit', *Sankei News*, 5 July 2009, at [sankei.jp.msn.com/politics/policy/090705/plc0907050128000-n1.htm](http://sankei.jp.msn.com/politics/policy/090705/plc0907050128000-n1.htm); 'Japan May Deploy Troops Near Disputed Islands', *China Post*, 3 July 2009, at [www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/japan/2009/07/03/214750/Japan-may.htm](http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/japan/2009/07/03/214750/Japan-may.htm); Hisashi Ishimatsu, 'Far Western Isle a Defence Outpost?', *Asahi Shimbun*, 10 July 2009, at [www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200907100075.html](http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200907100075.html)

21 Hisashi Ishimatsu, 'Far Western Isle a Defence Outpost?', at [www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200907100075.html](http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200907100075.html)

22 *ibid*; 'Japan Beefs Up Defense Forces in Yonaguni', *The View from Taiwan*, 6 July 2009, at [michaelturton.blogspot.com/2009/07/japan-beefs-up-defense-forces-in.html](http://michaelturton.blogspot.com/2009/07/japan-beefs-up-defense-forces-in.html); 'Yonaguni Asks Self Defense Forces for Troop Deployment', *Weekly Japan Update*, 9 July 2009, at [two--plus--two.blogspot.com/2009/07/yonaguni-asks-self-defense-forces-for.html](http://two--plus--two.blogspot.com/2009/07/yonaguni-asks-self-defense-forces-for.html)

23 'Pro-JGSDF Mayor Wins Reelection', *Weekly Japan Update*, 6 August 2009, at [two--plus--two.blogspot.com/2009/08/pro-jsdf-mayor-wins-reelection.html](http://two--plus--two.blogspot.com/2009/08/pro-jsdf-mayor-wins-reelection.html)

24 'Chinese Experts Say the Japanese Military Deployment is Close to Sensitive Areas of China', *China Military Report*, 4 July 2009, at [wuxinghongqi.blogspot.com/2009/07/chinese-experts-said-deployment-of.html](http://wuxinghongqi.blogspot.com/2009/07/chinese-experts-said-deployment-of.html)

25 Lai I-chung, 'Yonaguni Plans Raise Questions of Taiwan', *Taipei Times*, 6 July 2009, at [www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2009/07/06/2003447948](http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2009/07/06/2003447948)

the matter requires urgency'. He said that it was important 'not to raise security concerns among neighbouring countries', and that 'the plan would be reassessed'.<sup>26</sup>

In July 2010, however, 'senior' Ministry of Defense (MoD) officials said the ministry was still considering the plan, and that it 'envisioned' that 'the coastal monitoring unit to be sent to Yonaguni Island' would 'be modelled' on the JGSDF's No. 301 Coastal Surveillance Unit at Wakkanai and the No. 302 Coastal Surveillance Unit at Shibetsu/Nemuro.<sup>27</sup>

On 11 November 2010, Kitazawa announced that the government had decided to proceed with the proposal, and that 100 troops would initially be stationed on the island to conduct 'surveillance of Chinese naval vessels'. He said that the MoD had requested that 30 million yen (about US\$365,000) be included in the FY 2011 budget for 'preparatory research', including site selection. Reports stated that the MoD planned to eventually deploy some 200 personnel to the station.<sup>28</sup>

The MoD's MTDP (FY2011–FY2015), approved by the Cabinet on 17 December 2010, officially endorsed the project. It stated that:

The GSDF will establish a new coastal surveillance unit, and will begin to form a first-response unit to station in the island areas of southwestern Japan, to gather intelligence, monitor situations, and respond swiftly when incidents occur.<sup>29</sup>

In July 2011, MoD officials gave a presentation to Yonaguni residents concerning the scale, general purpose and construction schedule for the project, as well as the site selection process, which was then nearing finalisation. The residents were still sharply divided.<sup>30</sup> Mayor Hokama said in early 2011 that he hoped the new garrison would bring 'an influx of badly needed jobs and youthful residents, especially if the soldiers come with their families'. Opponents feared that the soldiers would bring 'noise and crime'. They also feared that the project would harm ties between the island and Taiwan. Hokama said that he 'used to

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26 'Defense Minister Cautious About Deploying GSDF on Westernmost Island', *Kyodo*, 25 September 2009, at [www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9AU3VE80&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9AU3VE80&show_article=1); 'Japan to Reassess Plan to Deploy Troops on Yonaguni', *NHK News*, 26 September 2009, at [www.nhk.or.jp/news/t10015700241000.html#](http://www.nhk.or.jp/news/t10015700241000.html#)

27 'Beefed-up Okinawa Border Eyed', *Japan Times*, 20 July 2010, at [www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20100720a5.html](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20100720a5.html); 'Editorial: Why Try to Rock the Boat?', *China Post*, 29 July 2010, at [www.chinapost.com.tw/editorial/world-issues/2010/07/29/266563/Why-try.htm](http://www.chinapost.com.tw/editorial/world-issues/2010/07/29/266563/Why-try.htm)

28 'Japan May Place Troops Close to Disputed Islands', *Taipei Times*, 10 November 2010, at [www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2010/11/10/2003488154](http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2010/11/10/2003488154); 'Japan to Send Troops to Remote Isle Over China Fears', *AFP*, 11 November 2010, at [www.rsis.edu.sg/research/RMA\\_bulletin/RMA%20Bulletin%202410.pdf](http://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/RMA_bulletin/RMA%20Bulletin%202410.pdf)

29 Ministry of Defense, 'Mid-Term Defense Program (FY2011–FY2015)', 17 December 2010.

30 James Simpson, 'As Plans for Coastal Monitoring Unit Proceed, Yonaguni Residents Raise Voices', 22 August 2011, at [jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=7801#comments](http://jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=7801#comments)

be a socialist who opposed the Self-Defense Force's very existence', but that he 'became a base proponent after Chinese ships began appearing in nearby waters a decade or so ago'.<sup>31</sup>

On 21 August 2011, *Mainichi Shimbun* reported that the MoD had selected 15–20 hectares of a 125-hectare farm in the south-west part of the island, then being used for grazing about 60 cows and horses. It was municipal land belonging to Yonaguni Town. It was reported that initial procurement funds were included in the FY 2012 budget, that the project comprised a signals intelligence (SIGINT) facility, optical equipment and a radar system, together with the unit HQ, barracks and a heliport, and that it was scheduled for completion within four years.<sup>32</sup> On 23 August, Kitazawa confirmed at a press conference that 30 million yen was being spent on 'research' on the Yonaguni station in the FY 2011 budget, that initial construction costs would be included in the FY 2012 budget, and that the MoD intended 'to complete the deployment of the coastal monitoring unit by the end of FY 2015'.<sup>33</sup>

On 20 September 2011, 556 people, or more than a third of the island's total population, and about 46 per cent of eligible voters, signed a petition to the mayor opposing the project. A survey in early September found that the number of those opposed had reached 73.3 per cent.<sup>34</sup> In early October, however, the MoD announced that it had requested 1.6 billion yen in the FY 2012 budget to proceed with construction of the station. This included funds to purchase the land from the Yonaguni Town Office and to 'pay compensation to those affected'. The chief-of-staff of the JGSDF, Eiji Kimizuka, said that: 'As the GSDF, we have to upgrade our monitoring functions (in the southern seas) to the same levels as those in Hokkaido'. Hokama said that: 'There are no other ways to revitalize our island'.<sup>35</sup> On 18 November 2011, the MoD provided a briefing for Yonaguni residents in which it explained its plans and 'the reasons behind choosing Yonaguni'.<sup>36</sup>

31 Martin Packler, 'Japanese Isle in Sea of Contention Weighs Fist Versus Open Hand', *New York Times*, 10 February 2011, at [www.nytimes.com/2011/02/11/world/asia/11island.html?pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/11/world/asia/11island.html?pagewanted=all)

32 'Gov't Eyes Obtaining Land on Southwestern Isle for Coastal Monitoring', *Mainichi Shimbun*, 21 August 2011; 'Japan Mulls Coastal Monitoring Unit in Wake of China's Naval Activity', *Kyodo News*, 21 August 2011, at [www.accessmylibrary.com/article-1G1-264916415/japan-mulls-coastal-monitoring.html](http://www.accessmylibrary.com/article-1G1-264916415/japan-mulls-coastal-monitoring.html); Simpson, 'As Plans for Coastal Monitoring Unit Proceed, Yonaguni Residents Raise Voices', at [jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=7801#comments](http://jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=7801#comments)

33 'Press Conference by the Defense Minister', Tokyo, 23 August 2011, at [www.mod.go.jp/e/pressconf/2011/08/110823.html](http://www.mod.go.jp/e/pressconf/2011/08/110823.html)

34 Gavan McCormack, 'Yonaguni: Dilemmas of a Frontier Island in the East China Sea', *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, September 2012, at [japanfocus.org/-Gavan-McCormack/3837#](http://japanfocus.org/-Gavan-McCormack/3837#)

35 Kim Soonhi, 'Islanders Split as Ministry Seeks 1.5 Billion Yen to Deploy SDF', *Asahi Shimbun*, 3 October 2011, at [ajw.asahi.com/article/behind\\_news/politics/AJ2011100313047](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/politics/AJ2011100313047).

36 'Japan to Deploy Forces Near Tiaoytais', *China Post*, 19 November 2011.

In September 2012, the MoD requested 6.2 billion yen for the Yonaguni Coastal Defense facility in its budget request for FY 2013. This included ‘the price of facilities and monitoring equipment’, as well as ‘site preparation works’.<sup>37</sup> The budget statement and pursuant media commentary indicated that the planned JGSDF station will comprise four systems: (i) a 7-element CDAA for HF DF purposes, similar to the one installed for No. 301 Coastal Surveillance Unit at Wakkanai in 2009–10; (ii) VHF/UHF monitoring equipment, such as that operated by No. 301 Coastal Surveillance Unit at Maruyama (and depicted in the MoD’s budget statement); (iii) a large UHF monitoring system, such as that operated by No. 301 Coastal Surveillance Unit on Rebuta Island (and also depicted in the MoD’s budget statement); and, (iv) a mobile radar system.

Planning was again interrupted when, on 20 March 2013, Hokama unexpectedly presented the MoD with a demand for 1 billion yen as a ‘nuisance payment’ to compensate local landowners, in addition to an annual rent of 15 million yen. The MoD responded a week later, with a spokesman stating that: ‘The MoD will continue to negotiate positively with the islanders, but if we do not see any progress, we will have no choice but to review the plan, including whether to deploy the troops on the island’.<sup>38</sup> Press reports said that alternative sites, including Miyako-jima and Ishigaki Island, were being considered.<sup>39</sup> On 20 June, however, the Yonaguni Assembly formally adopted a resolution withdrawing the demand for the ‘nuisance payment’ and agreeing to the annual rent of 15 million yen for the lease of ‘about 214,000 square metres of land’. On 27 June, the MoD and the assembly signed a contract to this effect, with completion of the station still scheduled for the end of FY 2015.<sup>40</sup>

Construction of the new facility began with a ground-breaking ceremony on 19 April 2014. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Defense, Itsunori Onodera, who said that it was ‘a part of our effort to strengthen the surveillance over the southwestern region’ and that: ‘We are staunchly determined to protect Yonaguni Island, a part of the precious Japanese territory’. Some Yonaguni

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37 「我が国の防衛と予算, 平成25年度概算要求の概要」 [Defense Programs and Budget of Japan, Overview of FY 2013 Budget Request], 防衛省[Ministry of Defense], September 2012, p. 5, at [www.mod.go.jp/j/yosan/2013/gaisan.pdf](http://www.mod.go.jp/j/yosan/2013/gaisan.pdf); and James Simpson, ‘Key Figures from the MoD FY2013 Budget Request’, *Japan Security Watch*, 7 September 2012, at [jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=10480](http://jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=10480)

38 Paul Kallender, ‘Japan–China Island Spat Threatens GSDF Deployment and Much More’, *Defense News*, 1 May 2013.

39 ‘Japan to Give Up Yonaguni Garrison Only 150 km Away from Diaoyu Islands’, *Sankei*, 20 March 2013; and 「陸自配備 年1200～1400万円で与那国と用地賃貸」 [‘GSDF Deployment: 12–14 Million Yen Yonaguni Site Annual Lease’], *MSN-Sankei News*, 19 June 2013, at [sankei.jp.msn.com/politics/news/130619/plc13061900380000-n1.htm](http://sankei.jp.msn.com/politics/news/130619/plc13061900380000-n1.htm)

40 ‘SDF Will Build a New Military Base Only 150 km Away from the Diaoyu Islands’, 21 June 2013, at [www.best-news.us/news-4707397-SDF-will-build-a-new-military-base-is-only-150-km-away-from-the-Diaoyu-Islands.html](http://www.best-news.us/news-4707397-SDF-will-build-a-new-military-base-is-only-150-km-away-from-the-Diaoyu-Islands.html); ‘Japanese Self-Defense Forces Will be Stationed at Diaoyu Islands to Monitor China’, 29 June 2013, at [www.best-news.us/news-4773774-Japanese-Self-Defense-Forces-will-be-stationed-at-Diaoyu-islands-nearest-to-monitor-China.html](http://www.best-news.us/news-4773774-Japanese-Self-Defense-Forces-will-be-stationed-at-Diaoyu-islands-nearest-to-monitor-China.html)

residents who were opposed to the new station scuffled with MoD officials at the ceremony. Officials reiterated that the unit would become operational in March 2016.<sup>41</sup>

In addition, there have been persistent reports since 2010 that the JMSDF has already deployed a sound surveillance system (SOSUS)-type undersea surveillance system connected to a shore station on Yonaguni.<sup>42</sup>

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41 Nobuhiro Kubo, 'Japan to Arm Remote Western Island, Risking More China Tension', *Reuters*, 18 April 2014, at [www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/18/us-japan-military-islands-idUSBREA3H05M20140418](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/18/us-japan-military-islands-idUSBREA3H05M20140418); 'Local Anger at Japan Island Surveillance Unit', *Aljazeera*, 20 April 2014, at [www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/04/local-anger-at-japan-island-surveillance-unit-201442044145528401.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/04/local-anger-at-japan-island-surveillance-unit-201442044145528401.html)

42 '中国艦隊通過 外洋進出に懸念 政府「動き注視」' ['Government Concerned to "Watch Movements" of Chinese Fleet Transiting to the Open Ocean'], *Japan Research Center of Military Affairs*, 14 April 2010, at [www.kamiura.com/whatsnew/continues\\_398.html](http://www.kamiura.com/whatsnew/continues_398.html); Kyle Mizokami, 'Yonaguni is Getting a Garrison', *Japan Security Watch*, 10 November 2010, at [jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=3116](http://jsw.newpacificinstitute.org/?p=3116); '中国海军039级等多型潜艇与驱逐舰练对抗攻防' ['US and Japan Work Together to Establish Undersea Listening Network Close to Chinese Submarine Bases'], *Beijing Daily*, 10 July 2013, at [dailynews.sina.com/bg/chn/chnmilitary/sinacn/20130710/00164728365.html](http://dailynews.sina.com/bg/chn/chnmilitary/sinacn/20130710/00164728365.html)

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