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Defense Ministry to set up medical center for SDF combat injuries

Міноборони створить медичний центр для постраждалих від бойових поранень

Міноборони Японії планує створити центр допомоги постраждалим в боях бійцям самооборони, де будуть проводити операції та реабілітацію з урахуванням бойових поранень. Маючи мало можливостей брати участь у місіях високого ризику, які можуть призвести до втрат, Сили самооборони Японії (SDF) не мають медичного закладу, який би спеціалізувався на складних травмах, таких як поранення, які зараз зустрічаються в Україні. Його створення заплановане на наступний фінансовий рік у лікарні Медичного коледжу національної оборони. Попередньо названий центр травматології, опіків та тактичної невідкладної медичної допомоги також готуватиме та розвиватиме медичних та сестринських офіцерів SDF. Цей захід спрямований на посилення здатності SDF лікувати бойові втрати. Він був прийнятий у світлі останніх подій у світі, зокрема після вторгнення росії в Україну.

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14959400>

The Defense Ministry plans to set up a center for care of Self-Defense Forces personnel injured in battle, offering surgery and rehabilitation tailored to combat injuries.

Having few opportunities to engage in high-risk missions that could produce casualties, the SDF does not have a medical facility specializing in complex trauma such as the injuries currently being encountered in Ukraine.

Its establishment is scheduled in the next fiscal year at the National Defense Medical College Hospital in Tokorozawa, Saitama Prefecture.

The provisionally named center for trauma, burns and tactical emergency medical support will also train and develop SDF medical and nursing officers.

The measure aims to strengthen the SDF's ability to treat combat casualties. It was adopted in the light of recent global developments, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Funding for staffing, equipment and other outlays will be included in the Defense Ministry's request in August for the fiscal 2024 draft budget, government officials said.

Until now, the ministry has assumed that SDF personnel wounded in action would be treated at relevant departments at the National Defense Medical College Hospital and other SDF hospitals.

However, many of the soldiers and others injured in Ukraine and other conflicts have complex injuries. These often feature multiple traumas, such as limb amputations combined with visceral injuries resulting from an explosion.

This prompted the ministry to set up a specialist trauma, burns and tactical medicine center. It will oversee everything from surgery to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The center will be staffed with full-time medical workers, including doctors.

It will provide staff with simulations of medical care and other forms of training to sharpen their professional knowledge and skills.

Moreover, it is assumed that the center will also accept civilian patients who have suffered complex injuries such as in traffic accidents.

The SDF has traditionally attached little importance to developing combat casualty care capabilities because it had few opportunities to engage in high-risk missions that could produce casualties.

However, the government spelled out its determination to change this in a set of national security documents approved by the Cabinet late last year.

The documents said the Defense Ministry and the SDF will “promote fundamental reforms to improve the combat trauma care capabilities.”

One of the documents said that the NDMC Hospital will undergo a “drastic reform” of its operations to accommodate those wounded in war.