

How is the SOFA maintained?

A requirement of the UN-GOJ SOFA is to exercise it, which the UNC-R achieves by exercising the use of the seven UN/US bases by UNC Sending States. These nations regularly send ships, aircraft, and personnel to UN bases in Japan under the UN flag. By doing so, Sending States are able to rehearse the procedures necessary to conduct missions during a contingency and to enable U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) to enhance their preparedness to support Sending State forces which would either transit through or operate from Japan. All logistic support for visiting Sending State forces is provided by USFJ. As such, USFJ is a key partner and enabler.



The seven UN-designated bases in Japan: Camp Zama, Yokota Air Base and Yokosuka Naval Base on Honshu; Sasebo Naval Base on Kyushu; and Kadena Air Base, White Beach Naval Facility, and Futenma Marine Corps Air Station on Okinawa.



HQ United Nations Command - Rear
DSN 315-225-9850
Commercial from US: 011-81-31175-59850

For media queries, contact:
UNC/CFC/USFK Public Affairs Office at
usfk.pao.queries@mail.mil

United Nations Command-Rear Fact Sheet



History

General Headquarters United Nations Command (UNC) was established in Tokyo under the command of General Douglas MacArthur following United Nations Security Council Resolution 84 being passed. The primary purpose of UNC was to provide command and control for the UN Forces involved in the Korean War. When Japan regained sovereignty in September 1951, the "Treaty of San Francisco" included notes which detailed that Japan would permit the continued operation of UN bases in Japan to support UN actions relating to UNSCR 84.

Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

On 19 February 1954, these notes were formalized and a number of the UN Sending States and Japan signed the "Agreement Regarding the Status of United Nations Forces in Japan," known as the UN-GOJ SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement).



Why was UNC-R formed?

When UNC Headquarters relocated from Tokyo to Seoul in 1957, a small element was left behind to maintain the UN-GOJ SOFA. This unit became "United Nations Command-Rear." Their mission is to maintain the UN-GOJ SOFA. In a contingency UNCR manages force flow from sending state nations based in Japan.

What does the SOFA permit?

The UN-GOJ SOFA permits seven UN bases in Japan to provide logistics support. UNC-R is required to notify the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs that activity under the UN-GOJ SOFA is taking place, but the UN-GOJ SOFA is the approval authority.

What does the SOFA require?

The UN-GOJ SOFA requires UNC to comply with the following stipulations:

- UNC must maintain a presence in Japan – this is done by UNC-R
- UNC-R must be multinational – the Commander is Australian and the Deputy is Canadian
- The U.S. and Japan must mutually designate U.S. bases for co-use by UNC Member Nations
- UNC-designated bases must fly the UN flag
- UNC-R must exercise the use of those bases by UN-GOJ SOFA Sending States

Current Signatories

The current signatories to the UN GOJ SOFA are Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.