

# Japan's Ambassador to the U.S. visits agency headquarters

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On April 26, Ichiro Fujisaki, Japan's ambassador to the United States, visited Defense Threat Reduction Agency and U.S. Strategic Command-Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Headquarters on Fort Belvoir, Va., to thank agency personnel for their timely and courageous support of Operation Tomodachi, after Japan's recent earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident.

"On behalf of (the) Japanese government, all the people you have worked with in Japan, I'd like to express gratitude and this is why I am here today," Fujisaki said.

Before the full scope of the nuclear event was known, a DTRA/SCC-WMD Consequence Management Advisory Team joined the first-response effort, working with the U.S. Forces Japan and the Japanese Ministry of Defense to develop courses of action to contain the nuclear release, monitor radiation levels and help the Japanese people.

With support and expertise from Technical Reachback, the CMAT participated in working groups, briefed USFJ senior leaders and U.S. ambassadors to Japan and planned and developed capabilities to tackle the crisis.

Since mid-March, DTRA/SCC-WMD Technical Reachback has responded to 38 requests for information and



Photo courtesy of DTRA

**Ichiro Fujisaki, Japan's ambassador to the United States, visits Defense Threat Reduction Agency/SCC-WMD Headquarters on Fort Belvoir to thank agency personnel for their support of Operation Tomodachi.**

advice from U.S. and Japanese government officials involved in Operation Tomodachi.

Remarking on the capability provided by the team, Fujisaki said, "This kind of situation really requires an experience, past experience. You can imagine many things, but experience really counts and this agency is an accumulation, a library, of experiences."

"Mr. Myers was saying that this is a small agency of 2,000 people, but we don't have this in Japan," said Fujisaki. "We learned a lot from your experts and I think we need to develop a similar capability."

Additionally, the ambassador solicited suggestions and advice from DTRA/SCC-WMD personnel for improving Japan's disaster-response system. Fujisaki noted that, while the disaster was a great mis-

fortune, it has served as an opportunity to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Japan.

"Mr. Ambassador, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the USSTRATCOM Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction were proud to be part of the U.S. support to Japan," said Kenneth Myers, DTRA/SCC-WMD director. "And, we look forward to continuing our support of our friends in Japan."

Ambassador Fujisaki closed his remarks saying, "We will recover. Recover soon. Being with us in such a difficult time, (you've) really been great to us and people in Japan will never forget it."

After his remarks, Fujisaki presented each CMAT member with a special coin recognizing their service to Japan.