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Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 82-1

SDF HOLDS ANNUAL MANEUVERS

41feet 1min. 25sec.

1. (HELICOPTERS) The annual maneuvers of Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force are held at a maneuver area in the foothills of Mt. Fuji.

The maneuvers began with a simulated air-mobile action by the troops, mobilizing among others, airborne soldiers, anti-tank weapons and artillery.

2. (105mm SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER) One of the most important items of equipment displayed in these maneuvers was the highly mobile 105mm Self-Propelled Howitzer, which can be used for artillery and antitank purposes. This weapon system gives the GSDF forces a strong boost to its capability to maneuver and fire accurately at a high rate.

3. (MINE EXPLOSION) The people invited to witness the maneuvers saw defensive mine operations, designed to knock out enemy vehicles. High-power artillery support was provided to the troops by the long-range Type-75 155mm cannon.

4. (TYPE-74 TANK) This Japanese made tank is considered one of the world's most advanced, suited admirably to defensive actions on Japanese soil.

The Type-74 tank is capable of stabilizing itself on rugged terrain. Its hydraulic system allows it to maneuver with greater freedom in mountainous areas.

5. (HELICOPTERS) The GSDF maneuvers, displayed Japan's readiness for defensive action against a potential invasion of the islands.

MARRIAGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ART

108feet 3min/ psec.

1. (FOLDING PAPER CRANES) 'Ceramic paper', originally used as insulation, has proven to be the key to combining two traditional folkcrafts --- pottery and 'origami' paper-folding.

These enthusiasts of ceramic paper first use paper-folding techniques to 'mold' the objects they want. Paper cranes such as these are one of the most common origami creations.

2. (CUTTING, PASTING) Ceramic paper allows other designs to be achieved too, through cutting and pasting various bits of the material to make a large item.

Ceramic paper comes in varying thicknesses, and ranges in content from 50 to 90 percent pulp.

3. (CALLIGRAPHY) Thick sheets of ceramic paper are perfect for calligraphy. The artist simply brushes ink directly onto the sheet, before baking. The flat paper accepts ink well, and provides a good writing surface.

4. (BAKING OF PIECES) When the basic work has been done, it's time for the 'pottery' process. The items are placed on trays and put into a kiln where they bake for eight hours or so at very high temperatures. This hardens the clay in the paper, and removes much of the pulp. By the use of ceramic paper, even beginners can make highly-sophisticated designs. Origami cranes, for example, are turned into lovely pottery objects.

5. (DISPLAY, BREAK, DROP) The finished pieces are virtually identical to regular pottery. They are brittle, and easy to break and, of course, are gone forever if dropped, just like any other piece of pottery.

6. (PAINTING, SAMPLES) The results of the skillful use of ceramic paper are exceptionally lovely, and greatly rewarding to the artist. Modern technology plus a traditional craft have resulted in a most happy marriage --- the birth of a new art form.

WEEKLY VISIT TO THE STRATOSPHERE

104feet 2min. 54sec.

1. (ROCKET LAUNCH) With a cloud of smoke and a trail of flame, a rocket shoots skyward.

2. (PREPARING ROCKET COMPONENTS) Every week, Japan's Weather Rocket Station in the northeast launches a small rocket into the sky to obtain data that will help predict weather patterns. This Japanese effort is the only one of its kind in Asia, and supplements other projects throughout the world.

Throughout the week, technicians at the station in Iwate Prefecture work to prepare both the rocket and the payload, consisting of many instruments to monitor and relay back to earth information on atmospheric conditions.

3. (WIND BALLOONS) On launching day, wind conditions are carefully checked by balloons released at frequent intervals.

4. (ROCKET MADE READY) The rocket is then carefully put in position for the launch. After a final instrument check, it is raised to a vertical position, and the countdown begins.

5. (CONTROL ROOM: LAUNCH) In the control room, technicians prepare to receive and monitor the data that the rocket will soon send.

" 4... 3... 2... 1... ZERO! Lift-off! "

6. As the instruments begin transmitting, scientists carefully record the information to send to weather stations throughout the world. Combined data from all the world's weather stations help make atmospheric predictions far more accurate than is possible from watching local conditions only. Japan's weekly weather rocket plays a vital role within the international network of advanced weather research.

STRANGE DESIGNS FOR EFFICIENCY

83feet 2min. 29sec.

1. (INTRO) In an unusual race held recently, hand-made vehicles competed to become Mileage Marathon champion. This strange race was not for speed, but to see who could travel furthest on a certain amount of fuel.

2. (CARS) No limits were placed on the entries, which were all specially-designed, vehicles aimed at getting maximum mileage.

3. (MEASURING FUEL) Each car was filled with a precise amount of fuel, to calculate mileage with extreme accuracy.

4. (RACE START) The cars take off ---. Each car ran 10 laps around a special course. The cars must average a speed of 25 kilometers per hour. Public interest in fuel efficiency drew a large crowd to watch the race.

The world record for this kind of race was set last year in Australia, where one car clocked a phenomenal 900+ kilometers per liter of fuel. But this time, the results were nowhere near that good because of strong head winds. The best mileage figures were only about a third of the world record.

5. (FINISH, MEASURE FUEL) After completing the course, the car has its fuel measured to see how much was consumed. The judges can then tell who has gotten the best mileage.

6. (WINNER) The winner was car #86, "Town Kiss" built by a Honda employee. The winner had an efficiency of 335.4 kilometers per liter.