

intelligence in public media

Keishicho koan sosakan: supai hanta no shirarezaru riaru
[Public Security Investigators of the Metropolitan Police]

Reviewed by Stephen Mercado

Author: Katsumaru Enkaku
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Reviewer: The reviewer is a retired CIA open-source officer.



A veteran of Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD, also often abbreviated unofficially as TMPD), now active as an intelligence entrepreneur, consultant to a hit Japanese television series, and popular author, has returned with his third book this year to regale the public with tantalizing tidbits about police intelligence in Japan. Katsumaru Enkaku stepped several years ago from the shadows of MPD intelligence into the light of day, more or less. His identity hidden behind trademark dark glasses, ballcap, face mask, and what is almost certainly a pen name, Katsumaru holds forth in interviews on intelligence issues. On his business website (<https://katsumaru-office.tokyo/>), he offers insights and services at various hourly rates.

Part of Katsumaru's high profile comes from his stint consulting on intelligence matters in the production of *Vivant*, last year's big spy drama from the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), now available on Netflix. With Sakai Masato, star of the hugely popular TBS banking drama *Hanzawa Naoki*, Abe Hiroshi, and other top actors, *Vivant* has become in a single season a popular spy thriller that features characters from the MPD's Foreign Affairs Division (FAD) and the Japanese military's secretive Beppan intelligence organization. (Japanese officials have long denied Beppan's existence, but it has surfaced repeatedly in articles and books on Japanese intelligence.^a)

a. See, for example, Ishii Gyo, *Jieitai no yami soshiki: himitsu joho butai 'Beppan' no shotai* [*Shadow Organization of the Self-Defense Forces: The True Character of the Secret Intelligence Unit 'Beppan'*], (Kodansha, 2018)

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Katsumaru Enkaku reveals little of his background. According to his author's profile, which omits the customary information on his date and place of birth and education, he joined the MPD "in the mid-1990s." By the early 2000s, he was working in "foreign affairs" in the MPD Public Security Bureau (PSB). Adept at English, Katsumaru spent part of his career overseas at an unspecified Japanese embassy and later worked liaison with foreign diplomatic missions in Japan. "Several years" before this book's publication, he retired from the police to start his present career as an international security consultant to business leaders and corporations.

His previous books included two slim self-published works this year, as well as the earlier *Cho muho chitai: anyaku suru supaitachi* [*Zone of Intelligence and Lawlessness: Spies Active Behind the Scenes*] (Jitsugyo no Nihon Sha, 2023) and *Keishicho Koanbu Gaijika* [*Foreign Affairs Division, Public Security Bureau, MPD*] (Kobunsha, 2021).

In Public Security Investigators, Katsumaru gives one rousing cheer after another for Japanese police intelligence. He explains that, whereas typical police attempt to solve crimes that have already taken place, PSB officers keep spies and terrorists under surveillance and gather other intelligence to thwart them in advance. The PSB includes officers of the public security divisions (PSDs), who track domestic targets, and those of the foreign affairs divisions (FADs), who go after spies, terrorists, and anyone who may be helping them. Katsumaru was an FAD officer, although he refrains from revealing the specific division.

All Japanese police officers may be elite, but Katsumaru writes that those tapped to work in public security are the "super elite." (20) The author claims that PSB officers are those who compiled outstanding records at the police academy. He credits his ability to rise into the elite ranks of the PSB to his high marks and proficiency in English. (32)

Some Japanese academics and police veterans have criticized, or even denounced, Japanese police intel-

ligence practices, but Katsumaru is a cheerleader. He devotes much of the book to describing with pride the art of surveillance, including the work of officers in surveillance teams and the monitoring of suspects from the front as well as from behind. He proudly recalls that he was particularly good at tailing targets. In addition, Katsumaru mentions brush passes, dead drops, disguises, private rooms in restaurants, and surveillance detection routes as some of the tools of the trade.

Katsumaru keeps intelligence interesting and simple. To whet popular interest in intelligence, he devotes attention to the honey trap, the technique of using an attractive man or woman to snare a human target. He also refers repeatedly to intelligence in popular culture. Readers learn, for example, that real intelligence officers do not resemble the strikingly handsome Abe Hiroshi, who plays one in *Vivant*. The author peppers his text with references to James Bond (his inspiration to work in intelligence), the 2012 television movie *Double Face* (a TBS remake of the 2002 Hong Kong police thriller *Internal Affairs*, which Martin Scorsese remade in 2006 as *The Departed*), and the 2022 Japanese animated television series *Spy x Family*.

He also introduces over several pages a number of special terms used in police intelligence. (102–105) One odd term is the English word "monitor," which he repeatedly uses. Rather than someone who, for example, watches the airwaves for intelligence in foreign broadcasts, the author seems to use the term to mean police collaborator, informant, or agent.

Katsumaru also engages in fearmongering to drum up support for new legislation against espionage as well as to boost police intelligence and, by extension, his own background. He repeatedly reminds readers that Japan is the only major power without extensive anti-espionage legislation. In the author's telling, spies run rampant in Japan, brazenly stealing secrets. Without going into details, he asserts that 30,000 foreign spies are in Japan. (75) Nowhere does Katsumaru acknowledge that Tokyo's reluctance to date to institute far-reaching laws against spying has something to do with the legacy of Imperial Japan's

feared Special Higher Police (SPH, aka the Tokkō) and military police (the Kempeitai), as well as the documented violation of post-World War II Japanese law by police officers engaged in illegal intelligence activities.

In Katsumaru's view, FAD police are a pure blue line protecting Japan, despite the absence of rigorous anti-espionage laws, against Chinese, North Korean, and Russian spies. His repeated reminders that readers never forget that they, too, are targets constitute an advertisement to businessmen and corporations for his services.

Such boosterism aside, Katsumaru offers some interesting information on Japanese police intelligence. His claim that MPD officers cut ties to colleagues and

to classmates from the police academy upon entering PSB ranks is an interesting bit of information, as is his claim that PSB officers review past operations and plot next moves in the private rooms of izakaya bars and karaoke boxes.

The publisher, Gentosha, has put out this book as part of its recent series on the Japanese police and intelligence. Among authors in the series are Furuno Mahoro, a police veteran and public security expert, and Fukuyama Takashi, a retired officer of the Ground Self-Defense Force. The launch of this series suggests a growing interest in intelligence among the Japanese public, as well as greater interest among influential Japanese in promoting positive impressions of Tokyo's developing intelligence community. ■