

# **Part I**

## **Security Environment Surrounding Japan**

# Part I Security Environment Surrounding Japan

## Overview

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- North Korea's announcement of ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests
- Resolution to impose sanctions on North Korea and six-party talks

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### [Main Points]

- Trends in international terrorism
- Transfer and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Situation of Iraq
- Complex and diverse regional conflicts

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### [Main Points]

- Efforts to stabilize the international community by the United States, North Korea, the Republic of Korea, China, Russia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Australia, Europe, the U.N., etc.

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## Overview

### 1. General

Last year and the first half of this year witnessed a variety of events and incidents noteworthy from the perspective of peace and security of Japan and the international community. They include North Korea's ballistic missile launches and announcement of nuclear tests, and the declaration of a new Iraq policy by the United States.

The most characteristic features of today's security environment are increasing diversity and complexity of threats and difficulty of accurately estimating emergence of such threats. This requires each country to develop new approaches to them.

The proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as well as ballistic missiles and other delivery means for these WMDs is recognized as one of the greatest threats to security today. Efforts to counter the proliferation of WMDs have become a pressing issue for the international community. The problems of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles not only impact the security of Japan seriously, but also have become an important issue for the international community from the perspective of the non-proliferation of WMDs. Iran continues its uranium enrichment and this issue also remains unresolved despite the pressure from international community through U.N. Security Council resolutions and other means. Furthermore concerns have risen about the acquisition and use of WMDs by international terrorist organizations that have no state or people to protect and therefore conventional deterrence are not effective.

The heightened threat posed by international terrorist organizations and other non-state actors is one of the notable features of the world's security environment in recent years. Non-state entities such as international terrorist organizations against which conventional deterrence does not function effectively now possess, due to the spread of globalization, means of attack and destructive power that were previously beyond their grasp. In addition, many non-state entities, unlike conventional military forces, are believed to have scattered, network-type organizations with members of various nationalities and this makes it very difficult for states to combat them effectively. This fact became clear with the 9/11 terrorist attacks that took place in the United States in 2001. The clash between Israel and Hizbollah last year demonstrated that the abilities of non-state entities should not be underestimated.

Patient, long-term approaches have become necessary in addressing threats such as terrorism. Although some success has been achieved in the fight against terror by the United States and other countries, efforts continue to address severe challenges presented in Iraq and Afghanistan, which are regarded by the United States as front lines in this fight. An intensification of the sectarian conflict in Iraq since last year has caused a serious deterioration in the security situation. Consequently, the United States announced a review of its Iraq strategy in January and dispatched additional U.S. forces. With the resurgence of Taliban in Afghanistan, efforts are being made to reinforce the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Therefore a considerable number of troops must still be stationed in both countries, creating a crunch in troops deployable overseas by major countries and impacting the world's security environment in various ways.

Furthermore, relations between sovereign states remain a factor that cannot be overlooked in today's security environment. The emergence of China and India and the resurgence of Russia should be regarded as major opportunities for international collaboration and cooperation. Simultaneously, interest has risen in their policies, their mutual interaction, and their relations with other countries since any moves by these powers may have a significant impact on the security environment.

As seen above, today's international community confronts a range of issues from traditional inter-state relations to new threats and diverse circumstances. These issues may arise simultaneously or in combination. It has become difficult for any country, including the sole superpower, the United States, to address these

complex issues on its own. Therefore, cooperation with allies and friendly countries has become necessary, and so do more active measures to prevent the emergence of threats and comprehensive approaches that include not only military means but also diplomatic, judicial, police, information, economic and other measures. The roles required for military forces have also diversified beyond deterrence and armed conflicts to include a broad spectrum of tasks from conflict prevention to reconstruction assistance. Accordingly, each state continues to enhance its military capabilities in line with its resources and circumstances, and pursue international cooperation and partnerships in security areas.

## 2. Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region, in which some countries such as China and India are enjoying rapid economic development, is drawing heightened attention worldwide and has seen enhanced coordination and cooperation among countries, mainly in economic affairs. On the other hand, this region boasts considerable political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity, and conflicts between countries/regions remain despite the end of the Cold War. Since views on security and threats differ by country, major changes in the security environment, which are seen in Europe following the end of the Cold War, have yet to be found. In addition, long-standing issues of territorial rights and reunification still plague the region.



Prime Minister Abe at press conference during visit to South Korea following North Korea's nuclear test announcement (Cabinet Public Relations Office)

On the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people have been divided for more than half a century, and the face-off continues between the military forces of North Korea and the Republic of Korea. There are issues concerning Taiwan and the overlapping territorial claims on the Spratly Islands. Japan also confronts unresolved territorial disputes over the Northern Territories and Takeshima,

both of which are integral parts of Japanese territory.

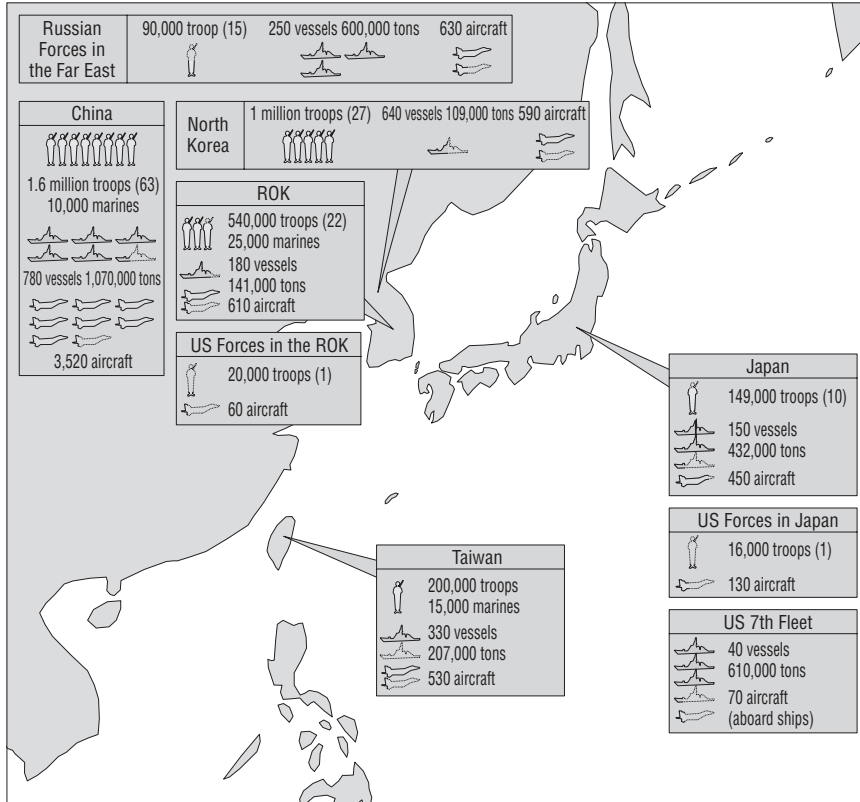
Concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles have grown more serious. North Korea launched ballistic missiles in July last year, and announced in October that it had conducted an underground nuclear test. These actions are seen as clear threats to the peace and security not only of Japan but also of the international community. The international community strongly condemned these actions and took firm steps including U.N. Security Council resolutions. In February 2007 the Six-Party Talks adopted "Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement," marking an important step toward denuclearization. However, careful monitoring of the nuclear issue including North Korea's reaction is necessary. The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea also poses a major threat to the lives and security of the Japanese public, and the solution of this problem requires more sincere actions by North Korea.

Moreover, many countries in this region have taken advantage of economic growth to expand and upgrade their military forces by increasing their defense budgets and introducing new weapon systems. In particular, China, a regional power with tremendous political and economic influence, has been continuously boosting its defense spending and has been modernizing its military forces. Consequently, China has drawn international attention. There are also concerns about the lack of transparency regarding China's military capabilities. When China destroyed one of its own satellites in a test in January this year, the absence of a sufficient explanation by the Chinese government has aroused the concern of other countries, including Japan with regard to the

peaceful use of space and their own security. (See Fig. I-0-0-1)

In recent years, terrorism and piracy in Southeast Asia have been seriously affecting the region's security.

**Fig. I-0-0-1 Major Military Powers in the Asia-Pacific Region (Approximate Strength)**



- Notes:
1. Source: "Military Balance" (2007) publications of the US Department of Defense and others (actual numbers as of the end of fiscal 2006 are shown for Japan)
  2. US ground forces in Japan and the ROK are combined figures of Army and Marine Corps personnel
  3. Combat aircraft include Navy and Marine aircraft
  4. Figures inside parentheses show the number of divisions

Legend

Ground forces (200,000 troops)	Naval vessels (200,000 tons)	Combat aircraft (500 aircraft)
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Terrorist organizations and separatist/independence groups have reportedly conducted terrorist attacks in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The Malacca Straits and the Singapore Straits, important international sea lanes of transportation, are suffering from frequent piracy incidents, and joint efforts are underway to combat these threats.

In the Asia-Pacific region, where elements of opaqueness and uncertainty still exist as described above, the presence of the U.S. military remains extremely important. Japan and other countries have established bilateral alliances and friendly relations with the U.S. and, accordingly, they allowed the stationing or presence of U.S. forces in their territories.

Recent years have also seen an increase in opportunities for bilateral defense exchanges between countries

in the region. Efforts continue to take root in order to promote multilateral security dialogues, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and conferences hosted by non-governmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers. Promoting and developing such confidence-building measures among countries, alongside a stable U.S. military presence, is important to ensure security in the region.