

Part I

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Overview

Overview

1. General Situation

In the international community today, with relations of mutual dependence between sovereign states growing ever stronger, matters of security or the potential for instability emanating in one country have increasing potential to transcend national borders and spread globally, impacting on other countries. As such, it is to the common benefit of each country to secure global and regional peace, stability and prosperity through the promotion of a more stable international security environment. Therefore it becomes more important for multinational cooperation in the resolution of issues to the benefit of the international community as a whole.

The activities of non-state actors, including international terrorist organizations, present a serious threat. Acts of terrorism are occurring in every region of the world.

The United States and other countries are continuing efforts in the fight against terrorism and have achieved some success, but have confronted severe challenges presented in Iraq and Afghanistan – which are regarded by the United States as front lines in this fight – and a crunch in the numbers of deployable troops to missions overseas is becoming a significant issue. Consequently, the U.S. government has requested an increase in ground and naval forces in order to expand military capacity and reduce the burden on deployed troops. Additionally, given the recent resurgence of Taliban activities and other groups in Afghanistan, it has become necessary to reinforce the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and the deployment and dispatch burden has been brought to the attention of members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In addition to terrorism, the issue of proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as well as ballistic missiles and their means of delivery, represent a continued and significant threat to the international community. The issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles remains unresolved, which not only affects the security of Japan, but has become an issue of concern for the international community from the perspective of the non-proliferation of WMD. Despite the issuance of numerous U.N. Security Council Resolutions, Iran's nuclear problem poses an additional concern to the international community.

These days, the relation between sovereign states, which cannot be overlooked in today's security environment, has some issues to watch.

While the U.S. and NATO-led fight against terrorism requires a persistent, long-term approach, the emergence of China and India fueled by a robust economy and the resurgence of Russia, may lead these countries to pursue more influence in the international community. Such developments should be regarded as major opportunities for international collaboration and cooperation. Simultaneously, interest has risen in their policies, mutual interaction and relations with other countries since any developments by these powers may have a significant impact on the security environment.

It has also been pointed out in the international community that there is potential for competition for energy resources among sovereign states and also for climate change to become more prominent in the future, becoming new factors that influence the global security environment.

As seen above, today's international community confronts a range of issues from traditional inter-state relations to new threats and diverse contingencies. These issues could arise independently or in combination. In order to respond to such issues, the roles of military forces are diversifying beyond deterrence and armed conflicts to include a broad spectrum of activities from conflict prevention to reconstruction assistance. Moreover, unified responses that incorporate military as well as diplomatic, police, judicial, information and economic measures are becoming necessary. Accordingly, each state continues to enhance its military capabilities in line with its resources and circumstances, and pursue international cooperation and partnership in security areas.

2. Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region has been getting more global attention, due to the rapid development of economies such as China and India resulting in enhanced coordination and cooperation among countries, mainly in economic affairs. On the other hand, this region is considerably rich in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity, and conflicts between countries/regions remain even after the end of the Cold War, unlike Europe. Because of these reasons major changes in the security environment have yet to emerge and long-standing issues of territorial rights and reunification continue to plague the region.

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, and in 2006, its ballistic missile launch and the announcement of an underground nuclear test further underscored the threat posed by North Korea, not only to the peace and security of Japan, but also to the international community. With regard to the North Korean nuclear issue, a halt to activities at the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon was achieved based on a document reached at the Six-Party Talks, but complete disablement of the Yongbyon facilities and a declaration concerning North Korea's nuclear programs are still pending, and careful monitoring of the nuclear issue, including North Korea's reaction, will continue to be necessary. North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals is also yet to be resolved. It is a major threat to the lives and security of the Japanese public and its resolution will require sincere and concrete actions by North Korea.

In the Republic of Korea, President Lee Myung-Bak was inaugurated in February 2008, and there are expectations that he will step up partnerships with the U.S. and Japan towards denuclearization by North Korea.

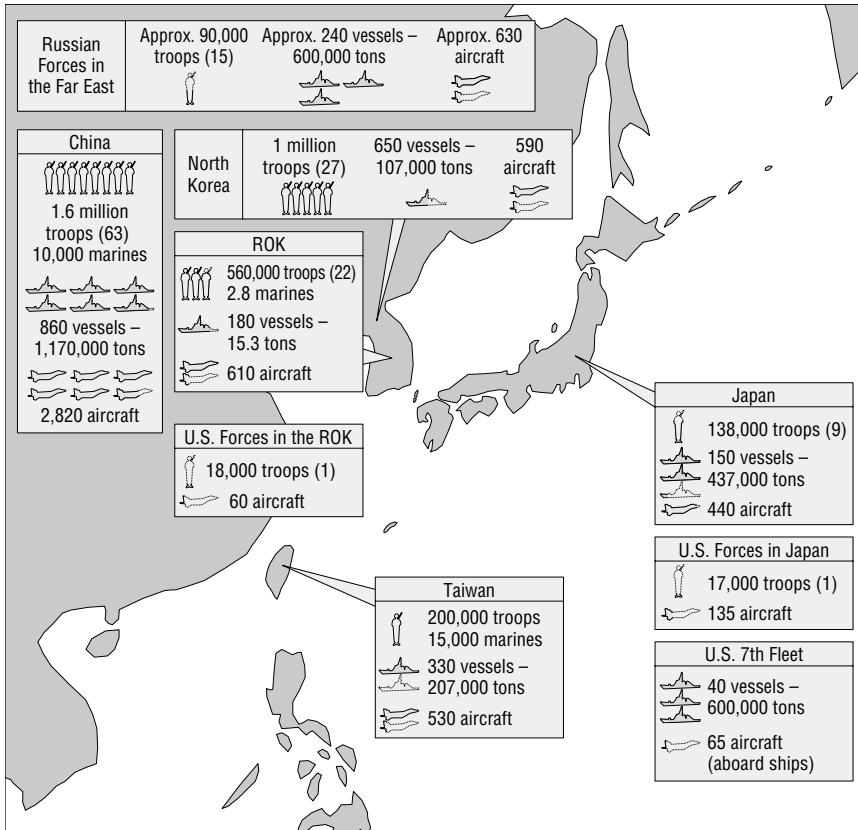
Moreover, many countries in this region have taken advantage of economic growth to expand and upgrade their military forces by increasing their defense budgets and introducing new weapons systems.

In particular, China, a regional power with tremendous political and economic clout, is increasingly drawing the close attention of many countries. China has been continuously boosting its defense spending and has been modernizing its military forces, with this significant increase in total defense spending. However, with clarity on neither the present condition nor the future image, Japan is apprehensive about how the military power of China will influence the regional state of affairs and the security of Japan. Moreover, due to the insufficient transparency, it is noted that other nations might have distrust and misunderstandings about the process of decision-making concerning the security and the military of China. In this fashion, improvement on the transparency relating to China's national defense policies is demanded, and it has become an important task to pursue dialogues and exchanges, and strengthen the mutual understanding and the trust relationship with China.

Under the administration of former President Vladimir Putin, Russia reemerged in the international community as a "strong state," and backed by recent economic development Russia is developing a military posture commensurate with its national strength. In the Far East too, the Russian military has been demonstrating dynamic movements with its aircraft, following resurgence in aircraft sophistication, and in February 2008, Japan's airspace was violated by Russian bombers, underlining the severity of the situation which we must monitor carefully. (See Fig. I-0-0-1)

Terrorism and piracy in Southeast Asia have seriously affected regional security. Terrorist organizations and separatist/independence groups have been a threat of terrorism in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The Malacca Straits and the Singapore Straits, important international sea lanes of transportation, suffer from frequent piracy incidents. Joint efforts are underway to combat these threats, and improvements are being witnessed.

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



- Notes: 1. Source: "The Military Balance 2008" publications of the U.S. Department of Defense and others (actual numbers as of the end of FY 2007 are shown for Japan)
 2. U.S. ground forces in Japan and the ROK are combined figures of Army and Marine Corps personnel
 3. Combat aircraft includes 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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In the Asia-Pacific region, where elements of uncertainty and a lack of transparency still exist as described above, to achieve regional stability 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 allow 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 are being made to engage in multilateral security dialogues, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and conferences hosted by non-governmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers, as well as bilateral and multilateral joint exercises. Promoting and developing such multi-level approaches among countries is important to ensure security in the region.