Japan–Korea Defense Ministerial Meeting

On January 10, Defense Minister Kitazawa visited Republic of Korea and had a ministerial meeting with ROK Minister of National Defense Kim Kwan-Jin.

Defense Minister and Minister of National Defense exchanged views on the security situation in the region, raising cases such as the sinking of the patrol vessel and the shelling of Yeongpyeong Island. The two Ministers reaffirmed the close cooperation between Japan and ROK with the common recognition that provocative actions by North Korea such as the unveiling of its uranium enrichment facility and the Yeongpyeong Island shelling were unacceptable and threaten peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

The two Ministers also agreed that they would expect China to play a more constructive role in North Korea issues.

In addition, the two ministers agreed to hold regular meetings at the defense ministerial and vice-ministerial levels between Japan and ROK, and Minister Kitazawa extended an invitation to Minister Kim to visit Japan within this year, 2011.

The two ministers shared their view, highly appreciating that Japan–ROK defense cooperation and exchanges has been continuously developed in many diverse fields, and agreed to broaden increase and deepen the cooperation and exchanges with the spirit of working their way to a new era of defense cooperation.

The two ministers agreed, as a first step toward enhancing cooperation, on the exchange of views in the fields such as an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between their defense ministries, aimed at providing mutual support of water, food, and fuel in activities such as the United Nations’ PKO, humanitarian support, disaster relief activities, and search-and-rescue training.

In addition to enhancing defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and ROK, the two ministers also reaffirmed that it was important for enhancing defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and ROK to share information, and agreed to develop the exchange of opinions between the two defense authorities on the contents of an agreement on information security.

Furthermore, the two ministers evaluated the progress of the Japan–ROK defense cooperation in recent international peace cooperation activities, such as UN PKO and anti-piracy operations off the Coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, and agreed that such cooperation should be further enhanced.

Minister Kitazawa also explained the concept of the “Dynamic Defense Force” in the newly formulated National Defense Program Guidelines, as well as the matter of international cooperation, in particular, on deepening of the cooperation with both ROK and Australia which are also allies of the U.S.
Japan–US Defense Ministerial Meeting

Defense Minister Kitazawa and U.S. Defense Secretary Gates had a ministerial meeting at the Ministry of Defense on January 13.

Minister Kitazawa explained that his meeting with ROK Minister of National Defense Kim Kwan-jin during his visit to the Republic of Korea. Minister Kitazawa stated that enhancing Japan–ROK and Japan–U.S.–ROK defense cooperation was important to secure stability in the Korean Peninsula in light of issues on the peninsula such as shelling of Yeonpyeong Island.

Secretary Gates explained his visit to China, and with regard to North Korea, stated that it was necessary for the whole international community to encourage China to act in a cooperative manner as a responsible power in the international community.

Regarding the deepening of the Japan–U.S. Alliance, Minister Kitazawa and the Secretary Gates agreed to accelerate consultation to review the common strategic objectives and to show the basic concept on the future direction of the Japan–U.S. defense cooperation during the Prime Minister’s visit to the U.S.

On the Host Nation Support (HNS) for the cost sharing for the stationing of US forces in Japan, on Host Nation Support (HNS) the Defense Minister welcomed the conclusion of an agreement for its comprehensive review.

Regarding the realignment of US forces in Japan, Minister Kitazawa explained the government’s efforts to explain to Okinawa the issues related to the relocation of the Futenma Air Station, and measures to reduce burden on the local communities. Secretary Gates expressed his understanding on the complexity of the internal situation in Japan, and concurred that the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps and return of facilities to Okinawa by the implementation of the roadmap, would bring significant merits to the people of Okinawa.

On the training relocation of aircraft, Minister Kitazawa said that MOD would like to promote the current negotiations to add Guam as a relocation site, expanding the scale of training relocation.

Minister Kitazawa also explained the way ahead of SM-3 Block II A described in the new Mid-Term Defense Program. Minister stated that the transition to the production and deployment phase would be decided based on the development progress in the future, but Japan and U.S. would consider the issues such as transfer of SM-3 Block II A to a third country, and that he hoped to come to a conclusion within this year. Secretary Gates stated that transfer to a third country would be a meaningful issue.

MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Hirota attends regional security summit “Manama Dialogue”

On December 4, 2010, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Hirota attended the regional security summit “Manama Dialogue” hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Bahrain, and held meetings with defense authorities of each country.

In the meeting, he and the Under Secretary of State and Lords of Spokesman on Defence, U.K., Lord Astor, exchanged views on the situation of the Korean Peninsula and China, as well as anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and agreed to promote closer cooperation in future between the two countries.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Hirota also exchanged opinions with German Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defence Schmidt on the Korean Peninsula situation and the Japan’s review of the National Defense Program Guidelines. They shared the view on the need for defense capabilities that was suitable for the demands of the time.

He and Bahrain’s Minister of State for Defense Affairs Muhammad exchanged the views on defense exchange and cooperation between the two countries, anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and other issues. They agreed to develop defense exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Hirota and Vice Admiral Fox, the Commander of the U.S. 5th Fleet exchanged views on anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, the importance of securing stability on the Straits of Hormuz, and other issues. They agreed that it is important to secure the stability of sea-lanes through anti-piracy operations and so on.
Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Matsumoto visits four Southeast Asian countries and Nepal

From January 5 to 11, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Matsumoto visited four Southeast Asian countries and Nepal.

In the Philippines, he exchanged views with Secretary of National Defense Gazmin on Japan-Philippines defense cooperation and other topics.

In Thailand, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Matsumoto exchanged the views on Japan-Thailand defense cooperation and exchanges, the regional situation, and other issues with Defence Minister General Prawit. Defence Minister General Prawit expressed his anticipation for a Japan’s international role in such a field as the ADMM-Plus.

In Nepal, Parliamentary Vice-Minister encouraged the SDF’s personnel engaging in UNMIN as military observers, and exchanged views with officials of UNMIN. He also paid courtesy calls on the Prime Minister of Nepal and Home Minister.

In Malaysia, he paid a courtesy call on Defence Minister Zahidi, and exchanged opinions on assistance to Afghanistan, and other issues, and visited the Peacekeeping Training Center.

In Indonesia, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Matsumoto and Deputy Defence Minister Sjafrie, exchanged views on Japan-Indonesia defense cooperation and exchanges. Deputy Defence Minister Sjafrie expressed his gratitude for acceptance of students from Indonesia at National Defense Academy.

Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Nakae visits Thailand and Singapore

On January 20 and 21, Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Nakae visited Thailand and Singapore.

In Thailand, he held meetings with Defence Minister General Prawit and Permanent Secretary for Defence General Kittipong. In the meetings, they reaffirmed steady development of bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, and concurred on strengthening the relationship in the future.

In Singapore, he paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo, and exchanged views on defense cooperation and exchanges, the expanding ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and other issues. He explained the new National Defense Program Guideline.

Administrative Vice-Minister Nakae and Permanent Secretary for Defence Chiang exchanged opinions on the ADMM-Plus’ Defense Medical Working Group Meeting on Military Medicine which Japan and Singapore would co-chair, and agreed on the evaluation of the 1st ADMM-Plus and its future direction.

Visit from Minister of Defense of Indonesia

On January 14, Defense Minister Kitazawa held a defense ministerial meeting with Minister of Defense Dr. Purnomo who visited Tokyo.

Before the meeting, an unveiling ceremony of a bronze statue of General Sudirman, which was presented by Indonesia, was held. General Sudirman was a national hero in Indonesia’s independence who had been educated and trained by Japan.

At the meeting, Defense Minister Kitazawa said that Indonesia is a major power in the region and the Chair of ASEAN, and stated that MOD/SDF hoped to further develop and enhance cooperation with Indonesia on the basis of that newly formulated National Defense Program Guidelines had specified the strengthening of security cooperation with ASEAN countries. Regarding the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise to be held by the two countries in March, Defense Minister said that it was a valuable opportunity to deepen defense cooperation and exchange between the two countries, and that the SDF would participate actively in the exercise. Minister of Defense expressed that the SDF’s participation would be welcomed.

On the matter of maritime security, with both Japan and Indonesia in a similar situation regarding their relationship with China, the two ministers concurred to build closer cooperation in bilateral and multilateral relations.
International peace cooperation activities in Haiti

The 3rd Unit of International Relief Team to Haiti (Commander, Colonel Sasaki, approximately 330 personnel) engaged in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the United Nations’ PKO, has performed their mission, in activities such as clearing rubble from streets in the capital city, Port-au-Prince. The unit built “Malpasset Orphanage” through the United Nations’ Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). “Malpasset Orphanage” was handed over to the authorities on January 25 (local time).

Anti-piracy operations off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

The 7th surface unit (Commander: Captain Hiroshi Ito, about 390 members including 8 Japan Coast Guard offices), departed from Sasebo on December 1, 2010, which was composed of two destroyers “Kirisame” (Commanding Officer: Commander Munekazu Mizutani) and “Yuudachi” (Commanding Officer: Commander Yoshihito Hayashida) in order to engage in the anti-piracy operations off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

Destroyer “Makinami” (Commanding Officer: Commander Tatsuo Akimoto) and destroyer “Setogiri” (Commanding Officer: Commander Masafumi Nishiwaki) in the 6th surface unit (Commander: Captain Shinobu Mifune about 420 members) completed the mission and returned to Sasebo on January 18 and Ominato on January 21, respectively.

The 6th surface unit conducted 28 convoy escorts between September and December 2010, escorting a total of 259 civilian vessels, 28400 kilometers through the waters.

Operational activity conducted by the surface unit in the region

- Operation activity in January and February 2011

1. Number of escort operations: 19 (The 206th to 224th escort operations) (The 165th to 183rd escort operations) (The 165th to 183rd escort operations)
2. Number of escorted vessels: 161 (Accumulated total of 1,555 since the commencement of escort operations)

[Breakdown]

Japanese-registered ships: 1 (Accumulated total of 10) Foreign ships operated by Japanese shipping companies: 41 (Accumulated total of 367) (Out of the 41 foreign ships, Japanese citizens were on board 1 ships) Foreign ships other than the above: 119 (Accumulated total of 1,178) (Out of 119 foreign ships, Japanese citizens were on board 0 ships)

* The above record does not include the 1st-41st escort operation performed as Maritime Security Activities, which were performed before the establishment of the Anti-Piracy Measures Law.
* If the Anti-Piracy Measures Law had not come into force, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers would not have been able to legally escort 181 of the 161 escorted vessels (the 118 foreign ships not operated by Japanese shipping companies.)

Two P-3C Patrol Aircraft of the 6th air unit (commanded by Captain Masaki Moritake, consisted of about 170 personnel), departed from Naha Airbase MSDF for Djibouti. The 5th air unit (commanded by Captain Toshiaki Ono, consisted of about 150 personnel) finished its mission and returned to Atsugi Airbase MSDF on February 3. The 5th air unit conducted 80 flights, about 640 flight hours, and confirmed visually about 6700 commercial ships and provided information approx. 860 times.

Operational activity of P-3C Patrol Aircraft in the region

- Operation activity in January and February 2011

Number of flights: 37 (Accumulated total of 418) Flight hours: Approximately 290 hours (Accumulated total of approximately 3,220 hours) Number of visually confirmed commercial ships: Approximately 2,910 (Accumulated total of approximately 30,620)
In response to the earthquake that hit the Southern Island of New Zealand on February 22, the Ministry of Defense Kitazawa issued an order to implement international disaster relief activities on February 23, after the consultation by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and based on the order, the Self-Defense Force organized the New Zealand International Disaster Relief Air Transport Unit. This Unit transported members and equipment of the Disaster Relief Rescue Team etc., by a special government aircraft (B-747) from Japan to the devastated area, Christchurch, on the same day.

After this mission, the special government aircraft was on stand-by in Auckland in New Zealand, for further activities about a week.

However, on a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the aircraft left Christchurch for Japan on March 2 with members of the Disaster Relief Rescue Team and its equipment. On March 3, it arrived in Japan, and the activity of the Air Support Unit came to an end.

### New fighter IPT holds first meeting

On January 7, 2011, the Ministry of Defense established an Integrated Project Team (IPT) for the acquisition of new fighters, and the first meeting was held.

The meeting was attended by about 20 people, including Defense Minister Kitazawa, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Azumi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Hirota, Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Nakae, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, General Oriki, Chief of Staff A.S.D.F., General Iwasaki, Director General, Minister’s Secretariat, Kanazawa, Director General, Bureau of Defense Policy, Takamizawa, and Director General, Bureau of Finance and Equipment Nishi.

The IPT is comprised of directors of divisions from the Internal Bureau, Joint Staff, Air Staff Office, and Equipment Procurement and Construction Office. This project team is a working team to carry out an inter-organ-study for the acquisition of new fighters.

### Drop Drill of 1st Airborne Brigade, Ground Self-Defense Force

On January 9, the 1st Airborne Brigade, Ground Self-Defense Force held a drop drill at the Narashino Training Ground.

A total of 11,000 people including Defense Minister Kitazawa, Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Nakae, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, General Oriki, Chief of Staff General Hibako, as well as other dignitaries including National Diet members, representatives of the U.S. Forces, and visitors observed the drill.

The drop drill was performed by 400 personnel from the 1st Airborne Brigade and the 1st Helicopter Brigade, as well as the Air Support Command, ASDF and 19 aircraft and 38 vehicles. Led by commander, Major General Yamanoue, the other commanders and youngest personnel in the brigade personnel made parachute jump from a CH-47 transport helicopter. Then, 10 members of reconnaissance members made a 1,400 meters parachute jump, forming a circle during their falling. The pathfinders jumped from UH-1 multi-purpose helicopters and CH-47 helicopters, and entered the front lines, then, about 80 members of the main force jumped from the ASDF C-1 and C-130H transport aircraft in a height of about 340m and landed successively onto the training grounds.

Combat training started immediately after support equipment had been dropped off. The AH-1S antitank helicopter controlled the drop point, while the UH-1 supported the main force by scattering landmines and firing, keeping the enemy’s armored unit back. Then, air and vehicle units came to the front.

After the drill, Defense Minister Kitazawa encouraged the participating personnel, saying, “Based on the concept of dynamic defense force outlined in the new National Defense Program Guideline, a high level of mobility, rapid deployment, and readiness are required of the defense forces. In this sense, the airborne brigade plays an important role. I hope that the Airborne Brigade should become defense capability in a new era.”
National Defense Program Guidelines

On 17 December 2010, the Government of Japan held a meeting of the Security Council and Cabinet to decide the new National Defense Program Guidelines and the Mid-Term Defense Program. The new Guidelines indicate a new policy for the modality of Japan’s security and defense forces in the current security environment surrounding Japan. And they decided that Japan should no longer base on the traditional “Basic Defense Force Concept,” but aim to develop defense forces that emphasize readiness, mobility and other factors to a greater degree than ever before. Principally, the vision of defense forces in the Guidelines is for approximately the next decade, but the Guidelines will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised in case that there will be major changes in the circumstances. The following is an overview of the Guidelines.

Basic Principles of Japan’s Security

1. Japan’s security objectives are: 1) to prevent and eliminate external threat from reaching Japan, 2) to prevent threats from emerging, by improving international security environment and 3) to create global peace and stability and to secure human security.

2. Japan will achieve these objectives by promoting “Japan’s own efforts,” “cooperation with its ally,” and “multi-layered security cooperation with the international community” in a consolidated manner.

3. Japan will continue to uphold the basic principles of defence policy including the exclusively defence-oriented policy, not to become a military power that poses a threat to other countries, civilian control, and the three non-nuclear principles.

4. Japan will participate more actively in international peace cooperation activities.

5. To address the threat of nuclear weapons, Japan will play active role in international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, and will continue to maintain and improve the credibility of U.S. extended deterrence, with nuclear deterrent as a vital element, through close cooperation with the U.S. and will also appropriately implement its own effort, including ballistic missile defense.

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

1. The number of so-called “gray zone” disputes (confrontations over territory, sovereignty, economic interest that do not to escalate into wars) is on the increase.

2. A global shift in the balance of power has been brought about by the rise of emerging powers and the relative change of the U.S. influence.

3. Issues such as risks related to space and cybersecurity, in addition to international terrorism and piracy, have become global security challenges.

4. It is important that countries that share common interests regularly cooperate with each other.

5. Specific cooperative measures are being undertaken to resolve challenges particularly in the non-traditional security field in the Asia-Pacific region.

Future Defense Forces

1. Roles of Defense Forces

1. Effective deterrence and response (Examples of the priority areas: ensuring security in the sea and air space surrounding Japan, response to attacks on Japan’s offshore islands)

2. Efforts to further stabilize the security environment of Asia-Pacific region

3. Efforts to improve the global security environment


In order to effectively perform the roles of the defense forces, the Self-Defense Force will maintain a posture with increased readiness, smoother joint operations, international peace cooperation activities in addition to responding various contingencies.


1. While reducing Cold War-style equipment and organizations, priority functions, including those in Japan’s southwestern region, will be enhanced.

2. Budget allocation among each service of the Self-Defense Forces will be subject to drastic review.

3. As regards preparations against full-scale invasion, knowledge and expertise will be maintained at a minimum necessary level in light of possible changes in future circumstances.

4. Priority will be placed on, among others, enhancing the basis for joint operations, improving capabilities to respond to attacks on offshore islands, and strengthening capabilities for international peace cooperation activities.

5. Details of the organization, equipment, and position of Ground Self-Defense Force, Maritime Self-Defense Force, and Air Self-Defense Force are provided in the NDGP.
Basic Foundations to Maximize Defense Capability

1. To utilize the human resources of the Self-Defense Forces more efficiently, Japan will reform its personnel management system by such measures as reviewing rank and age structures.

2. Japan will procure equipment more efficiently by improving its contract and procurement systems.

3. Japan will set forth a strategy to develop and maintain defense production capability and technological bases from a medium-to-long-term perspective.

4. Japan will study measures to respond to changes in the international environment regarding defense equipment.

Cabinet Decision on Mid-Term Defense Program

The “Mid-Term Defense Program” (FY2011-FY2015) was approved at the Cabinet meeting held on 17 December 2010.

In accordance with the National Defense Program Guidelines, Japan will develop a “Dynamic Defense Force”, which possesses readiness, mobility, flexibility, sustainability and versatility supported by intelligence and advanced technology based on the trend of military technology.

Budget for each fiscal year will be allocated under a total of 23 trillion 390 billion yen. However, additional expenditure up to 100 billion yen with the approval of the Security Council, is introduced in the event where it is recognized as necessary due to pressuring circumstances. So, the total defense expenditure is approximately 23 trillion 490 billion yen. This program will be reviewed after three years, approximately 23 trillion 490 billion yen. This recognition is necessary due to pressing circumstances.

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I. Program Guidance

Effective and efficient improvement of defense build-up will be carried out effectively and efficiently to build a “Dynamic Defense Force.”

1. The NDPG identifies three roles that Japan’s defense should fulfill: to effectively deter and respond to contingencies, and to further stabilize the security environment of the Asia-Pacific and global security environment. To be able to engage swiftly and seamlessly in activities to fulfill these roles, emphasis will be given to among others enhanced joint-ness, enhanced operational capability in remote islands, and enhanced capacity for international peace cooperation activities.

2. Resource allocation priority will be given to those functions that are versatile, asymmetric response, and irreplaceability. To hedge against full-scale invasions, relevant posture including knowledge and expertise will be maintained at a minimum necessary level.

3. In order to build a quality defense force, combine the introduction of highly capable equipment and the service-life extension and upgrading of existing equipment.

4. Conduct thorough revision of existing personnel management system to check and economize personnel expenses, and shift towards a younger SDF age distribution for better robustness of the force. Further promote acquisition reforms thereby providing for increased density and volume of operations.

5. Japan will promote the measures to strengthen the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements to deepen and develop the Japan–U.S. Alliance.

6. In view of the fiscal conditions, Japan will seek economization and check expenditures. Conduct a bold revision of resource allocation, and make focused investments in critically necessary functions and bring about structural reform of the defense force.
II Revision of Major SDF Units

1. Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF)
   Implementing reduction in tanks, howitzers and rockets, improvement in mobility and readiness by reorganization of operational units, stationing of units in island areas of southwestern Japan.

   Regionally deployed destroyer units will become mobile units Measures for expanding submarine fleet.

3. Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF)
   Shift one fighter squadron to Naha Air base as its second squadron. New A.S.D.F. Yokota base (Air Defense Command will move to Yokota).

4. Authorized Number of SDF Personnel at the End of FY2015
   Regular personnel: approx. 246,000 (approx. 2,000 decrease from end-of-FY2010 strength) GSDF: approx. 157,000 (active duty approx. 150,000, ready-reserve: approx. 7,000) and the MSDF and ASDF equivalent to their end of FY2010 strength.

III. Major Programs Regarding SDF’s Capabilities

1. Effective Deterrence and Response
   • Ensuring security of sea and air space around Japan (Acquisition and Service-life extension for destroyers, submarines and patrol aircraft)
   • Countering attack against island areas (Acquisition of new fighter aircraft and the implementation of mobilization training)
   • Countering Cyber Attacks (Protection improvement of SDF’s information and telecommunication network)
   • Countering Special Operation Forces Attacks/Guerilla Warfare (Strengthening of infantry units, acquisition of multi-purpose helicopters)
   • Countering Ballistic Missile Attacks (Upgrading of Aegis and Patriot missile systems and promoting Japan–US joint development of ballistic missile defense (BMD) interceptors)
   • Response to “Complex” Contingencies (Improved command and control, logistic support)
   • Response to Large-scale and Special Disasters (Coordination, training, and planning with related organizations, etc.).

2. Further Stabilization of Security Environment of the Asia-Pacific
   Development of layerd bilateral and multilateral security dialogues, defense cooperation and exchange, and multinational training/exercise to promote security architecture.

3. Improvement of Global Security Environment
   Engage in international peace cooperation activities, Promote security architecture.

4. Focus on Capacity Development
   • Integrated and effective response by the three services in countering attacks against island areas and security of air and maritime spaces.
   • International Peace Cooperation Activities (Improve function of the Central Readiness Force, improvement to transportation capability and DDH)
   • Intelligence (Improvement of information gathering, facilities, hardware, and devices)
   • Science and Technology (Improvement of countering cyber-attacks, research and development).
   • Medical (Upgrading SDF hospitals as hub facilities, recruitment of qualified medical experts, etc)

5. Infrastructure for Defense Force
   • Human resources (Improvement of training infrastructure and educational training. Reform of the National Defense Academy, etc.)
   • Reform of personnel management system (Review of age and rank distributions for stronger defense capabilities, management of the number of SDF personnel by each rank, new personnel appoint system and early retirement system for logistic support functions).
   • Streamlining logistics including business in camps and bases.
   • Maintenance and development of infrastructure of defense industry and technology (Making strategy on infrastructure of defense industry and technology, etc).
   • Exploring measures to deal with changes in international environment surrounding military equipment.
   • Acquisition reform (Improving contract system, etc).
   • Improvement of the operational infrastructure for equipment (Secure fuel and parts for operations, introducing new contract systems relating to maintenance).
   • Cooperation with local communities and related organizations (Closer cooperation with related organizations; measures to alleviate the impact of bases)


Strategic dialogues and policy coordination, strengthening of Japan–US defense cooperation and measures for smooth and effective stationing of United States Forces in Japan, etc.

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**Service** | **Equipment** | **Quantity**
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**Ground Self-Defense Force** | **Tanks** | 68
| **Howitzers and rockets (except mortar)** | 32
| **Armored vehicles** | 75
| **Ground-based anti-ship missile launchers** | 3
| **Attack helicopters (AH-64D)** | 13
| **Transportation helicopters (CH-47JA)** | 10
| **Middle-range SAM batteries** | 6
| **Maritime Self-Defense Force** | **Modification of Aegis-equipped destroyers** | 2
| **Destroyers** | 3
| **Submarines** | 5
| **Other ships** | 5
| **Total new ships** | 10
| **(Tonnage)** | 13
| **Fixed-wing patrol aircraft (P-1)** | 10
| **Patrol helicopters (SH-60K)** | 26
| **Minesweeping/transportation helicopters (MCH-101)** | 5
| **Air Self-Defense Force** | **Improvement of Patriot SAM batteries** | 1
| **Modernization of F-15** | 16
| **New fighters** | 12
| **New transportation aircraft** | 10

For inquiry, contact following office: