Section 2 Overview of the Revision of the 1997 Guidelines

It is necessary for both Japan and the United States to discuss and decide the roles each will fulfill in case of an armed attack against Japan or other situation in advance, with a view to responding rapidly to such an event. The Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (Guidelines) and the various policies for ensuring their effectiveness provide a framework pertaining to role-sharing between Japan and the United States. Based on that framework and the changing security environment surrounding Japan, both Japan and the United States continuously studied bilateral cooperation plans for the two countries, held consultations on them, and worked on the revision of the Guidelines to adapt to the current situations.

1 Background to the Revision of the Guidelines

◆ Background to the Formulation of the Guidelines

The 1978 Guidelines were formulated with a focus on an armed attack on Japan against the backdrop of the Cold War, which was still ongoing then. The subsequent Guidelines were developed in 1997 in light of changes in the security environment, such as the end of the Cold War. The 1997 Guidelines expanded cooperation to responses in situations in areas surrounding Japan. The 1997 Guidelines define the roles of Japan and the United States, and the cooperation of the two countries under three categories: (1) under normal circumstances, (2) in response to an armed attack against Japan, and (3) in situations in areas surrounding Japan. They also stipulated that they would review the Guidelines in a timely and appropriate manner.

◆ Background to the Revision

Since the formulation of the 1997 Guidelines, various issues and destabilizing factors have emerged, and become more visible and aggravated in the security environment surrounding Japan; such as more active military activities of neighboring countries, new threats including international terrorist organizations and risks against the stable use of global commons such as oceans, outer space and cyberspace. In addition, the activities of the SDF have expanded to a global scale, as exemplified by antipiracy activities, PKO, and international disaster relief activities. As a result, it had become necessary for the manner of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation to be adapted to these changes in the security environment and the expansion of the SDF’s activities and missions.

Against the backdrop of these changes in the security environment, Prime Minister Abe directed then Minister of Defense Onodera at the end of 2012 to work on the revision of the Guidelines and other matters. In addition, at the Japan-U.S. Summit held in February 2013, Prime Minister Abe stated to U.S. President Obama that, “in response to the changing security environment, Japan would like to start reviewing the Guidelines through discussions on the two countries’ views of the roles, missions and capabilities (RMC).”

◆ The Direction of the Revision

Against the background described above, at the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (SCC or “2+2” Meeting) in October 2013, the Ministers directed the Subcommittee for Defense Cooperation (SDC) to draft recommended changes to the 1997 Guidelines, and this task was to be completed by the end of 2014.

The Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting identified the following seven objectives of the review of the 1997 Guidelines:

(1) Ensuring the Alliance’s capacity to respond to an armed attack against Japan, as a core aspect of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation;
(2) Expanding the scope of cooperation, to reflect the global nature of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, encompassing such areas as counterterrorism, counter-piracy, peacekeeping, capacity building, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and equipment and technology enhancement;
(3) Promoting deeper security cooperation with other regional partners to advance shared objectives and values;
(4) Enhancing Alliance mechanisms for consultation and coordination to make them more flexible, timely, and responsive and to enable seamless bilateral cooperation in all situations;
(5) Describing appropriate role-sharing of bilateral defense cooperation based on the enhancement of mutual capabilities;
(6) Evaluating the concepts that guide bilateral defense cooperation in contingencies to ensure effective, efficient, and seamless Alliance response in a dynamic security environment that includes challenges in emerging strategic domains such as space and cyberspace; and

(7) Exploring additional ways in which we can strengthen the Alliance in the future to meet shared objectives.

Based on the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in October 2013 and in line with approaches indicated in the 2013 National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) and the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) of the United States, Japan and the United States conducted extensive work on the revision of the 1997 Guidelines. On October 8, 2014, based on the agreement reached at the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting held on July 11, 2014, the two governments announced “The Interim Report on the Revision of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation.” In addition, on December 19, 2014, the Security Consultative Committee (SCC) (“2+2” Meeting), recognizing the significance of ensuring consistency between the revision of the Guidelines and Japan’s legislative process, decided to further deepen the discussions to work toward finalizing the revision of the Guidelines during the first half of 2015, taking into account the progress of Japan’s legislative process.

2 Content of the New Guidelines

As a result of the intensive bilateral work on the revision of the Guidelines, the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (SCC) approved the new Guidelines recommended by the Subcommittee for Defense Cooperation (SDC) at the “2+2” Meeting held on April 27, 2015, thereby accomplishing the objectives outlined by the Ministers in October 2013. The new Guidelines, which replace the 1997 Guidelines, update the general framework and policy direction for the roles and missions of the two countries and manifest a strategic vision for a more robust Alliance and greater shared responsibilities by modernizing the Alliance and enhancing its deterrence and response capabilities in all phases, from peacetime to contingencies.


1 Defense Cooperation and the Aim of the Guidelines

The new Guidelines newly specified the matters to be emphasized in security and defense cooperation. The objectives of the new Guidelines are retained in line with the approach of the 1997 Guidelines.

● In order to ensure Japan’s peace and security under any circumstances, from peacetime to contingencies, and to promote a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Asia-Pacific region and beyond, bilateral security and defense cooperation will emphasize:
  − seamless, robust, flexible, and effective bilateral responses;
  − synergy across the two governments’ national security policies;
  − a whole-of-government Alliance approach;
  − cooperation with regional and other partners, as well as international organizations; and
  − the global nature of the Japan-U.S. Alliance

● The two governments will maintain their individual defense postures based on their national security policies. The United States will continue to extend deterrence to Japan through the full range of capabilities, including U.S. nuclear forces. The United States also will continue to forward deploy combat-ready forces in the Asia-Pacific region and maintain the ability to reinforce those forces rapidly.

● The Guidelines provide the general framework and policy direction for the roles and missions of Japan and the United States, as well as ways of cooperation and coordination.

● The Guidelines promote domestic and international understanding of the significance of the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

2 Basic Premises and Principles

The basic premises and principles maintain the approaches of the 1997 Guidelines as described below:

● The rights and obligations under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and its related arrangements will remain unchanged.

● All actions and activities undertaken under the Guidelines will be consistent with international law.

● All actions and activities undertaken by Japan and the United States will be in accordance with their respective constitutions, laws and regulations then in effect, and basic positions on national security policy. Japan will conduct actions and activities in accordance with its basic positions, such as the maintenance of its exclusively national defense-oriented policy and its three non-nuclear principles.

● The Guidelines do not obligate either government to take legislative, budgetary, administrative, or other
measures, nor do the Guidelines create legal rights or obligations for either government. Since the objective of the Guidelines, however, is to establish an effective framework for bilateral cooperation, the two governments are expected to reflect in an appropriate way the results of these efforts, based on their own judgment, in their specific policies and measures.

Strengthened Alliance Coordination

Effective bilateral cooperation under the Guidelines will require the two governments to conduct close, consultative dialogue and sound policy and operational coordination from peacetime to contingencies. For this purpose, the two governments will establish a new, standing Alliance Coordination Mechanism, enhance operational coordination, and strengthen bilateral planning.

(1) Alliance Coordination Mechanism

In order to address seamlessly and effectively any situation that affects Japan’s peace and security or any other situation that may require an Alliance response, the two governments will utilize the Alliance Coordination Mechanism, and will strengthen policy and operational coordination related to activities conducted by the SDF and the United States Armed Forces in all phases from peacetime to contingencies. The two governments will establish necessary procedures and infrastructure (including facilities as well as information and communication systems) and conduct regular training and exercises.

(2) Enhanced Operational Coordination

The two governments recognize the importance of collocating operational coordination functions. The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will exchange personnel to ensure robust information sharing, to facilitate coordination and to support international activities.

(3) Bilateral Planning

In peacetime, the two governments will develop and update bilateral plans through Bilateral Planning Mechanism. Bilateral plans are to be reflected appropriately in the plans of both governments.

Seamlessly Ensuring Japan’s Peace and Security

This section presents the direction of achieving seamless cooperation, from peacetime to contingencies, in order to ensure Japan’s peace and security, the core of the Guidelines.

The two governments will take measures to seamlessly ensure Japan’s peace and security in all phases from peacetime to contingencies, including situations when an armed attack against Japan is not involved. In this context, the two governments also will promote further cooperation with partners.

The two governments will utilize the Alliance Coordination Mechanism as appropriate, for assessment of the situation, sharing of information, as well as flexible deterrent options and actions aimed at de-escalation. The two governments also will coordinate strategic messaging through appropriate channels.

(1) Cooperative Measures from Peacetime

As described below, this section specifies ways of cooperation from peacetime to strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

The two governments will promote cooperation across a wide range of areas, to strengthen the deterrence and capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will enhance interoperability, readiness, and vigilance to prepare for all possible situations. To these ends, the two governments will take measures, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) activities based on the capabilities and availability of their respective assets. This will include conducting bilateral ISR activities in a mutually supportive manner to ensure persistent coverage of developments that could affect Japan’s peace and security.

b. Air and Missile Defense

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will maintain and strengthen deterrence and their defense postures against ballistic missile launches and aerial incursions. The two governments will cooperate to expand early warning capabilities, interoperability, network coverage, and real-time information exchange and to pursue the comprehensive improvement of capabilities to respond to the threat of ballistic missiles, and will also closely coordinate in responding to provocative missile launches and other aerial activities.

c. Maritime Security

The two governments will cooperate closely with each other on measures to maintain maritime order
based upon international law, including freedom of navigation. The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate, as appropriate, on various efforts such as maintaining and enhancing a bilateral presence in the maritime domain through ISR and training and exercises, while further developing and enhancing shared maritime domain awareness.

d. Asset Protection
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will provide mutual protection of each other’s assets, as appropriate, if engaged in activities that contribute to the defense of Japan in a cooperative manner, including during training and exercises.

e. Training and Exercises
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will conduct effective bilateral and multilateral training and exercises both inside and outside of Japan in order to strengthen interoperability, sustainability, and readiness. Timely and realistic training and exercises will enhance deterrence.

f. Logistic Support
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will provide mutual logistic support where appropriate, including supply, maintenance, transportation, engineering, and medical services, for such activities as set forth in the Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement and its related arrangements.

g. Use of Facilities
The two governments will enhance joint/shared use of facilities and areas in order to expand interoperability and improve flexibility and resiliency of the SDF and the United States Armed Forces. The two governments also will cooperate in conducting site surveys on facilities, including civilian airports and seaports.

(2) Responses to Emerging Threats to Japan’s Peace and Security
As set forth below, this section describes measures to respond to emerging threats to Japan’s peace and security.

The Alliance will respond to situations that will have an important influence on Japan’s peace and security. Such situations cannot be defined geographically. The measures described in this section include those that may be taken, in accordance with the two countries’ respective laws and regulations, in circumstances that have not yet amounted to such a situation.

In addition to continuing cooperative measures from peacetime, the two governments will pursue all avenues. Utilizing the Alliance Coordination Mechanism, the two governments will take additional measures, based on their own decisions, including, but not limited to, those listed below.

a. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations
The two governments will coordinate in planning and cooperate in carrying out evacuations of Japanese or U.S. noncombatants. These evacuations will be carried out using each country’s capabilities such as transportation means and facilities in a mutually supplementary manner. The two governments will enhance coordination in noncombatant evacuation operations from peacetime, including by conducting training and exercises.

b. Maritime Security
The two governments’ cooperative measures may include, but are not limited to, information sharing and inspection of ships based on a United Nations (U.N.) Security Council resolution or other basis under international law.

c. Measures to Deal with Refugees
If a situation develops such that a flow of refugees into Japan becomes likely or actually begins, the two governments will cooperate to maintain Japan’s peace and security.

d. Search and Rescue
The two governments will cooperate and provide mutual support, as appropriate, in search and rescue operations. The SDF will provide support to combat search and rescue operations by the United States where appropriate, subject to Japanese laws and regulations.

e. Protection of Facilities and Areas
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces are responsible for protecting their own facilities and areas in cooperation with relevant authorities. Upon request from the United States, Japan will provide additional protection for facilities and areas in Japan in close cooperation and coordination with the United States Armed Forces.

f. Logistic Support
The two governments will enhance mutual logistic support as appropriate, to enable effective and efficient operations.

The Government of Japan will provide logistic or other associated support where appropriate, subject to Japanese laws and regulations.

g. Use of Facilities
The Government of Japan will provide, as needed, temporary use of facilities, including civilian airports and seaports, in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and its related arrangements.

(3) Actions in Response to an Armed Attack against Japan
The new Guidelines state that bilateral actions in response to an armed attack against Japan remain a core aspect of Japan-U.S. security and defense cooperation. While maintaining the basic principles of bilateral responses to an armed attack against Japan described in the 1997 Guidelines, the content of the new Guidelines
have been enhanced in view of the expansion and diversification of cooperation between Japan and the United States.

a. When an Armed Attack against Japan is Anticipated
The two governments will take measures to deter an armed attack and to de-escalate the situation, while making preparations necessary for the defense of Japan.

b. When an Armed Attack against Japan Occurs
(a) Principles for Coordinated Actions
- Japan and the United States will take appropriate and coordinated actions to promptly repel the attack and deter any further attacks.
- The SDF will have primary responsibility to conduct defensive operations, and the United States Armed Forces will support and supplement the SDF.

(b) Concept of Operations
(1) Operations to Defend Airspace
The SDF will have primary responsibility for conducting air defense operations while ensuring air superiority. For this purpose, the SDF will take necessary actions, including, but not limited to, defense against attacks by aircraft and cruise missiles.

The United States Armed Forces will conduct operations to support and supplement SDF operations.

(2) Operations to Counter Ballistic Missile Attacks
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will exchange real-time information for early detection of ballistic missile launches. When there is an indication of a ballistic missile attack, they will maintain an effective posture to defend against ballistic missile attacks heading for Japan and to protect forces participating in ballistic missile defense operations.

The SDF will have primary responsibility for conducting ballistic missile defense operations.

The United States Armed Forces will conduct operations to support and supplement SDF operations.

(3) Operations to Defend Maritime Areas
The SDF will have primary responsibility for the protection of major ports and straits in Japan and of ships and vessels in waters surrounding Japan and for other associated operations.

The United States Armed Forces will conduct operations to support and supplement SDF operations.

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate in the interdiction of shipping activities providing support to adversaries involved in the armed attack.

(4) Operations to Counter Ground Attacks
The SDF will have primary responsibility to prevent and repel ground attacks, including those against islands. If the need arises, the SDF will conduct operations to retake an island.

The SDF, in cooperation with relevant agencies, also will have primary responsibility for defeating attacks by special operations forces or any other unconventional attacks.

The United States Armed Forces will conduct operations to support and supplement SDF operations.

(5) Cross-Domain Operations
Examples of cooperation across domains include the actions described below.

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces, in cooperation with relevant agencies, as appropriate, will strengthen their respective ISR postures, enhance the sharing of intelligence, and provide protection for each other’s ISR assets.

The United States Armed Forces may conduct operations involving the use of strike power, to support and supplement the SDF. When the United States Armed Forces conduct such operations, the SDF may provide support, as necessary. These operations will be based on close bilateral coordination, as appropriate.

(c) Operational Support Activities
(1) Communications and Electronics
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will ensure effective communication between the two forces and maintain a common operational picture for bilateral operations under common situational awareness.

(2) Search and Rescue
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces, in cooperation with relevant agencies, will cooperate and provide mutual support in search and rescue operations, including combat search and rescue, as appropriate.

(3) Logistic Support
When operations require supplementing their respective logistics resources, the SDF and the United States Armed Forces will provide flexible and timely mutual logistic support, based on their respective capabilities and availability.

(4) Use of Facilities
The Government of Japan will provide, as needed, additional facilities in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and its related arrangements. The two governments will enhance cooperation in joint/shared use of facilities and areas.
(5) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Protection

At Japan’s request, the United States will support Japan in CBRN incident or attack prevention and response-related activities in an effort to ensure the protection of Japan, as appropriate.

(4) Actions in Response to an Armed Attack against a Country other than Japan

When Japan and the United States each decides to take actions involving the use of force in accordance with international law, including full respect for sovereignty, and with their respective Constitutions and laws to respond to an armed attack against the United States or a third country, and Japan has not come under an armed attack, they will cooperate closely to respond to the armed attack and to deter further attacks. Bilateral responses will be coordinated through the whole-of-government Alliance Coordination Mechanism.

Japan and the United States will cooperate as appropriate with other countries taking action in response to the armed attack.

The SDF will conduct appropriate operations involving the use of force to respond to situations where an armed attack against a foreign country that is in a close relationship with Japan occurs and as a result, threatens Japan’s survival and poses a clear danger to overturn fundamentally its people’s right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, to ensure Japan’s survival, and to protect its people.

Examples of cooperative operations are outlined below.

a. Asset Protection
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate in asset protection, as appropriate. Such cooperation will include, but not be limited to, protection of assets that are engaged in operations such as Noncombatant Evacuation Operations or Ballistic Missile Defense.

b. Search and Rescue
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces, in cooperation with relevant agencies, will cooperate and provide support in search and rescue operations, including combat search and rescue, as appropriate.

c. Maritime Operations
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate in minesweeping, as appropriate, including to secure the safety of sea lines of communication.

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces, in cooperation with relevant agencies, will cooperate in escort operations to protect ships and vessels, as appropriate.

The SDF and the United States Armed Forces, in cooperation with relevant agencies, will cooperate in the interdiction of shipping activities providing support to adversaries involved in the armed attack, as appropriate.

d. Operations to Counter Ballistic Missile Attacks
The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate in intercepting ballistic missiles, as appropriate, in accordance with their respective capabilities. The two governments will exchange information to ensure early detection of ballistic missile launches.

e. Logistics Support
When operations require supplementing their respective logistics resources, the SDF and the United States Armed Forces will provide flexible and timely mutual logistic support, based on their respective capabilities and availability.

The two governments will make appropriate use of the authorities and assets of central and local government agencies, as well as private sector assets, to provide support.

(5) Cooperation in Response to a Large-scale Disaster in Japan

In light of the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the new Guidelines now include the following.

When a large-scale disaster takes place in Japan, Japan will have primary responsibility for responding to the disaster. The SDF, in cooperation with relevant agencies, local governments, and private actors, will conduct disaster relief operations. The United States, in accordance with its own criteria, will provide appropriate support for Japan’s activities. The two governments will coordinate activities through the Alliance Coordination Mechanism, as appropriate.

The two governments will work together closely, including through information sharing. The United States Armed Forces may participate in disaster-related drills, which will increase mutual understanding in responding to large-scale disasters.

Cooperation for Regional and Global Peace and Security

The new Guidelines stipulate specific ways of Japan-U.S. cooperation for regional and global peace and security, based on experiences from previous international activities.

In an increasingly interconnected world, Japan and the United States will take a leading role in cooperation with partners to provide a foundation for peace, security, stability, and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

When each of the two governments decides to participate in international activities, the two governments will
cooperate closely with each other and with partners, as appropriate, such as in the activities described below.

(1) Cooperation in International Activities
The two governments will participate in international activities, based on their own judgment. When working together, the SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate to the maximum extent practicable.

Common areas for cooperation by the two governments will include the following.

a. Peacekeeping Operations
The two governments will cooperate, as appropriate, to maximize interoperability between the SDF and the United States Armed Forces. The two governments also may cooperate in providing logistic support for and protecting U.N. and other personnel who participate in the same mission, as appropriate.

b. International Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief
The two governments will cooperate closely to provide mutual support, as appropriate, maximizing interoperability between participating SDF and United States Armed Forces. Examples of cooperative activities may include mutual logistic support and operational coordination, planning, and execution.

c. Maritime Security
The two governments will cooperate closely, as appropriate. Examples of cooperative activities may include efforts for: safe and secure sea lines of communication such as counter-piracy and minesweeping; non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and counterterrorism activities.

d. Partner Capacity Building
The two governments will cooperate in capacity building activities, as appropriate, by making the best use of their capabilities and experience, with the objective of strengthening the capability of partners. Examples of cooperative activities may include maritime security, military medicine, defense institution building, and improved force readiness for humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) or peacekeeping operations.

e. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations
In circumstances when international action is required for the evacuation of noncombatants, the two governments will utilize, as appropriate, all possible avenues including diplomatic efforts to ensure the safety of noncombatants, including those who are Japanese or U.S. nationals.

f. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance
When the two governments participate in international activities, the SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate in ISR activities, as appropriate, based on the respective capabilities and availability of their assets.

g. Training and Exercises
In order to enhance the effectiveness of international activities, the SDF and the United States Armed Forces will conduct and participate in joint training and exercises, as appropriate. The two governments also will continue to pursue opportunities to work with partners in training and exercises.

h. Logistic support
When participating in international activities, the two governments will cooperate to provide mutual logistic support.

The Government of Japan will provide logistic support where appropriate, subject to Japanese laws and regulations.

(2) Trilateral and Multilateral Cooperation
The two governments will promote and improve trilateral and multilateral security and defense cooperation.

The two governments also will work together to strengthen regional and international institutions with a view to promoting cooperation based upon international law and standards.

Space and Cyberspace Cooperation
The new Guidelines now incorporate cooperation in emerging strategic domains such as outer space and cyberspace.

(1) Cooperation on Space
❖ The two governments will maintain and strengthen their partnership to secure the responsible, peaceful, and safe use of space.
❖ The two governments will ensure the resiliency of their space systems and enhance space situational awareness cooperation.
❖ The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will continue to cooperate in such areas as early-warning, ISR, positioning, navigation and timing, space situational awareness, meteorological observation, command, control, and communications.

(2) Cooperation on Cyberspace
❖ The two governments will share information on threats and vulnerabilities in cyberspace in a timely and appropriate manner. The two governments will cooperate to protect critical infrastructure and the services upon which the SDF and the United States Armed Forces depend to accomplish their missions.
❖ The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will maintain a posture to monitor their respective networks and systems, conduct educational exchanges, ensure the resiliency of their respective networks and
systems, contribute to whole-of-government efforts, and conduct bilateral exercises.

In the event of cyber incidents against Japan, Japan will have primary responsibility to respond, and the United States will provide appropriate support to Japan. In the event of serious cyber incidents that affect the security of Japan, the two governments will consult closely and take appropriate cooperative actions to respond.

Bilateral Enterprise

The new Guidelines state that the two governments will develop and enhance the following areas as a foundation of security and defense cooperation, in order to improve further the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation.

(1) Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation
(2) Intelligence Cooperation and Information Security
(3) Educational and Research Exchanges

Procedures for Review

The two governments will regularly evaluate whether the Guidelines remain adequate in light of the evolving circumstances, and will update the Guidelines in a timely and appropriate manner if deemed necessary. The new Guidelines newly incorporate the implementation of the regular evaluation while maintaining the approach of the 1997 Guidelines.