The security environment surrounding Japan has become increasingly severe, with various challenges and destabilizing factors becoming more tangible and acute.

**Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region**
- Security challenges and destabilizing factors in the Asia-Pacific region including the area surrounding Japan are becoming more serious.
  1. There has been also a tendency towards an increase in and prolongation of so-called “gray-zone” situations, that is, neither pure peacetime nor contingencies over territory, sovereignty, and maritime economic interests.
  2. There has been a noticeable trend among neighboring countries to modernize and reinforce their military capabilities and to intensify their military activities.
- In particular, North Korea’s further progress in nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles development, coupled with repeated provocative rhetoric and behavior that disregard the international community, constitute serious and imminent threats to the security of the region including Japan and of the international community. In 2016, North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and launched ballistic missiles at an unprecedented frequency of more than 20 times. The threat from North Korea’s improved capabilities in the development and use of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles has entered a new stage.
- Additionally, China’s reinforcement of its military capabilities without transparency, along with active maritime advancements, has been rapidly shifting the regional military balance. Under these circumstances, China’s attempts to change the status quo in the East and South China Seas based on its unique assertions have become serious security concerns to the region including Japan and to the international community, including the likelihood of increasing the risk of causing unintended consequences due to misunderstanding or miscalculation.
- Furthermore, territorial disputes over the Northern Territories and Takeshima, both of which are inherent parts of the territory of Japan, remain unresolved.

**Global Security Environment**
- There is a growing risk that unrest or a security problem in a single country or region could immediately develop into a challenge or destabilizing factor for the entire international community.
  1. International terrorist organizations continue to remain active. Today, the threat of international terrorism is not confined to the Middle East and North Africa, but is spreading globally. Given that Japanese nationals have also been victims in these incidents, Japan must squarely address the threat of international terrorism as its own challenge.
  2. Unilateral actions to change the status quo and heighten tensions, such as China’s large-scale and rapid reclamations in the South China Sea, establishment of outposts there, and their use for military purposes, leave challenges for the response of the international community, as the actions are further turned into a fait accompli.
  3. Cyber attacks have become more sophisticated and skillful, with government involvement suspected in various attacks. In this context, there are increasing risks to the stable use of cyberspace.

**Response of the International Community**
The security challenges and destabilizing factors are complex, diverse, and wide-ranging, and it is becoming ever more difficult for a single country to deal with them on its own.
Chapter 2 The United States

1. The patterns of U.S. involvement in the world have changed significantly in a new security environment, including a shift in the global balance of power, attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in Ukraine and the South China Sea, the intensification of the activities of international terrorist organizations, and the development and improved operational capability of North Korea’s nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles which have reached a new level of threat. The Trump administration inaugurated in January 2017 announced a policy to make the U.S. Forces strong again and emphasize alliances, citing the need for peace through strength, under its America First doctrine.

2. Although it has yet to present a comprehensive security and national defense strategy, immediately after taking office the Trump administration has clearly indicated that defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) will be its highest priority along with continuing to emphasize the security of the Asia-Pacific region. After reviewing the country’s policy towards North Korea, President Trump has stated “All options are on the table” and increased the country’s military presence, based on the recognition that North Korea is the most pressing security issue in the world.

3. President Trump determined that the Assad regime in Syria used chemical weapons, and then ordered strikes against the Syrian military, while the United States used the Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) in its arsenal for the first time in combat against ISIL in Afghanistan. The United States has also expressed security concerns over Iran, China, and Russia.

4. Thus, it is believed that the United States considers states and organizations that attempt to threaten the interests of the United States and its allies as threats to the country, and in particular, the United States identifies North Korea and ISIL, along with stopping the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction, as issues that should be addressed with priority.

5. Given this understanding, the Trump administration is working towards the goal of building a larger and more capable joint force as part of its efforts to rebuild the U.S. Forces. In this regard, attention will focus on the details of the new national defense strategy being established by the Trump administration.

The Recent Trend of the U.S. Forces in the Asia-Pacific Region

- **[Japan]**
  - Deploys F-22 and RQ-4 (Global Hawk)
  - Deploys MV-22 Osprey, P-8 and F-35B
  - Deploys second TPF-2 radar
  - Additionally deployed one Aegis ship (normal ship) (June 2015)
  - Switched one Aegis ship (normal ship) with Aegis BMD destroyer (March 2016)
  - Additionally deployed two Aegis BMD destroyers (one already deployed in October 2015 and one to be deployed in summer 2017)

- **[Guam]**
  - Rotationally deploys submarines
  - Rotationally deploys bombers
  - Established a facility for aircraft carrier’s temporary port of call
  - Deploys unmanned reconnaissance aircraft (RQ-4)

- **[Philippines]**
  - Signed the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) for enhancing the presence of the U.S. Forces, etc. (April 2014)
  - Announced US$79 million assistance and provision of one patrol vessel and one survey vessel (November 2015)
  - Implements joint patrol activities (March 2016–)
  - Agreed on five locations such as Air Force bases, etc. to serve as hubs for implementing defense cooperation based on EDCA (March 2016)
  - Regularly deploys A-10 ground attack aircraft, etc. (April 2016–)

- **[Singapore]**
  - Rotationally deploys littoral combat ships (LCS) (To deploy four LCSs by end of 2017. The first ship started rotation in April 2013, the second ship in December 2014 and the third ship in October 2016)
  - Rotationally deployed P-8 (December 2015)
  - Signed enhanced defense cooperation agreement (December 2015)

- **[Australia]**
  - At the November 2011 U.S.-Australia Summit, an agreement was reached on the following initiatives:
    - Rotation deployment of the Marines to northern Australia
    - Increased rotational deployment of U.S. Air Force aircraft in northern Australia

In September 2016, then U.S. Secretary of Defense Carter announced a plan to deploy 60% of the assets of the U.S. Navy and overseas Air Force in the Asia-Pacific region as well as to proceed with the rotational deployment in the region and deployment of equipment.
Chapter 2  📖 North Korea

General Situation  ➤ P. 60

The military trend in North Korea constitutes a serious and imminent threat to the security not only of Japan but also of the entire region and the international community. Especially since last year, when it willfully conducted two nuclear tests and launched more than 20 ballistic missiles, the development and enhancement of the operating capabilities of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by North Korea have reached a new level of threat.

Development of WMD and Ballistic Missiles  ➤ P. 62

1 North Korea is deemed to be developing nuclear weapons as an indispensable deterrent for maintaining the existing regime.
2 North Korea willfully conducted the fifth nuclear test in September 2016. Considering North Korea has already conducted five nuclear tests so far, it is conceivable that North Korea has made considerable progress in its nuclear weapons program.
3 Considering the technological maturity that is estimated to have been reached through North Korea’s previous five nuclear tests, it is possible that North Korea has achieved the miniaturization of nuclear weapons and has developed nuclear warheads.
4 North Korea is suspected to have several facilities capable of producing chemical agents and already a substantial stockpile of such agents. North Korea is also thought to have some infrastructure for the production of biological weapons. The possibility cannot be denied that North Korea is able to load biological and/or chemical weapons on ballistic missiles.
5 It appears that North Korea gives high priority to the development of ballistic missiles. North Korea has repeatedly launched various types of ballistic missiles. Particularly in 2016, it conducted an unprecedented 20-plus launches, and continues to repeatedly conduct launches in 2017 including launches of what appear to be new types of missiles.

6 As for recent trends in North Korea’s ballistic missile launches,
   - Firstly, it appears that the country aims to acquire longer-range ballistic missiles.
   - Secondly, North Korea may be aiming to enhance the accuracy and operational capabilities necessary for saturation attacks with regard to ballistic missiles already deployed.
   - Thirdly, North Korea has repeatedly launched ballistic missiles from Transporter-Erector-Launchers (TELs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), which makes it possible to launch ballistic missiles from any point. Furthermore, it is possible that North Korea is proceeding with the development of solid-fueled ballistic missiles. Through these means, North Korea appears to be seeking to improve its ability to conduct surprise attacks by enhancing secrecy and instantaneity to make it difficult to detect signs of a launch.
   - Fourthly, North Korea may be attempting to diversify the forms of launches. It was confirmed that so-called lofted trajectories were utilized for launches. Generally, when a launch is conducted on a lofted trajectory, interception is considered to be more difficult.

7 North Korea has launched four new types of ballistic missiles in 2017.
   - Since the new type of ballistic missile that appears to be a modified version of the SLBM for ground launch, launched on February 12 and May 21, 2017, is estimated to have been launched on somewhat higher trajectories than nominal and its firing range is estimated to exceed 1,000 km if launched on a nominal trajectory, and North Korea has made references to its deployment for “operational deployment,” there is a possibility that North Korea will newly deploy a new type of ballistic missile using solid fuel that includes Japan within its firing range.
   - The ballistic missile launched on May 14, 2017 is estimated to have been launched on a lofted trajectory. Had it been launched on a nominal trajectory, the maximum firing range is expected to reach approximately 5,000 km as of this present time. Thus, there is renewed concern over the increasing ranges of North Korea’s ballistic missiles.
   - Regarding the new type of ballistic missile launched on May 29, 2017 that appears to be an improvement of the Scud missile, since North Korea announced that Korean Workers’ Party (KWP) Chairman Kim Jong-un instructed the development of a ballistic missile that can strike adversary ships and other individual targets with precision, the intent appears to be to enhance the accuracy of ballistic missile attacks.
   - Regarding the ballistic missile launched on July 4, 2017, since it is believed to have a maximum range of at least more than 5,500 km given the height, distance, etc. of its flight, it is believed to be an intercontinental range ballistic missile. In addition, North Korea announced that it had conducted a demonstration test of warhead reentry technology with this launch, from which it can be deemed that it is aiming at the operationalization of long-range ballistic missiles.

8 Taking into account that North Korea has not changed its stance of continuing its nuclear weapons program, it is believed that with the passage of time, there would be a greater risk of North Korea deploying a ballistic missile mounted with a nuclear warhead that includes Japan in its range. In this regard, related developments need to be monitored carefully.

9 Should North Korea acquire longer-range ballistic missile capability and simultaneously achieve the miniaturization of nuclear weapons and acquisition of nuclear warheads and come to have a false sense of confidence and recognition that it secured strategic deterrence against the United States, this could lead to increases and the escalation of military provocations by North Korea in the region and could create situations that are deeply worrying also for Japan.
## Domestic Affairs

1. Five years have gone by since the Kim Jong-un regime, which places Kim Jong-un at the top of the military, party and the state, was established after the demise of then Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-il in 2011.

2. North Korea held the Seventh KWP Congress in May 2016 for the first time in 36 years, where it positioned itself as a “nuclear weapons state” and displayed, both to those in and outside of the country, its posture of continuing to develop nuclear weapons and missiles including consistently upholding the new strategic line (so-called Byungjin line) policy.

3. The holding of the KWP Congress may be an indication that North Korea has shifted into high gear by establishing the state-run governance system centered on the party and led by KWP Chairman Kim Jong-un, in terms of its organization, personnel, among other dimensions, both in name and in substance. However, due to an atrophy effect created by the frequent executions, demotions, and dismissals of senior officials, it is believed that there is growing uncertainty, including over the possibility of North Korea turning to military provocations without making adequate diplomatic considerations.

## Relations with Other Countries

1. Regarding the North Korea policy of the Trump administration, it was declared that the United States aims to pressure North Korea into dismantling its nuclear, ballistic missile, and proliferation programs by tightening economic sanctions and enhancing diplomatic measures. In response, North Korea has reiterated its claim from before that it needs its own nuclear deterrence in order to counter the nuclear threat from the United States and has repeatedly launched ballistic missiles, maintaining its posture of continuing its activities for nuclear and missile development.

2. The Moon Jae-in administration inaugurated in May 2017 has expressed its position on its North Korea policy that it is open to dialogue but will respond resolutely to provocations. The impact of the new administration’s new policy towards North Korea on inter-Korean relations, where tension is rising, requires close attention.

3. China is a vital political and economic partner for North Korea and maintains a degree of influence on the country. In 2017, China announced the provisional suspension of coal imports from North Korea for the remainder of the year. China plays an extremely important role in securing the effectiveness of the UN Security Council resolutions, and North Korea-China relations require continued attention.

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### Range of North Korean Ballistic Missiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missile Type</th>
<th>Range (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taepodong-2 Variant</td>
<td>(approx. more than 10,000km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musudan</td>
<td>(approx. 2,500-4,000km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodong</td>
<td>(approx. 1,300km/1,500km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scud-ER</td>
<td>(approx. 1,000km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New type of IRBM</td>
<td>(up to approx. 5,000km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taepodong</td>
<td>(ICBM criterion) (more than 5,500km*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The figure above shows a rough image of the distance each missile can reach from Pyongyang for the sake of convenience.
Chapter 2  China

**General Situation**

1. There continues to be high expectations for China to recognize its responsibility in the international community, accept and comply with international norms, and play an active role in a more cooperative manner on regional and global issues.

2. While advocating “peaceful development,” China, particularly over maritime issues where its interests conflict with others’, continues to act in an assertive manner, including attempts at changing the status quo by coercion based on its own assertions incompatible with the existing international order. These actions include dangerous acts that could cause unintended consequences. China remains poised to fulfill its unilateral demands without compromise, which has included making steady efforts to turn these coercive changes to the status quo into a fait accompli. There is strong concern regarding the impact of these actions on the security environment of the region including Japan and of the international community.

3. The Communique of the sixth plenary session of the 18th CCP Central Committee in October 2016 refers to “comprehensive, strict governance of the CCP,” and it is expected that corruption within the party and the military will continue to be addressed in the lead-up to the 19th National Congress of the CCP. At the same plenary session, the party also demonstrated its intention to further bolster the power foundations of the current regime, which included the designation of General Secretary Xi Jinping as the “core” of the Central Committee. The relevant developments will be a point to watch out for.

4. China is believed to be enhancing its asymmetric military capabilities to deter military forces of other countries from approaching and advancing to China’s surrounding region, and to inhibit their military activities in the region (so-called “A2/AD” capabilities).

**Military Affairs**

1. China has broadly and rapidly reinforced its military forces, and furthermore, has rapidly expanded and intensified its activities qualitatively and quantitatively in sea areas and in airspace, including the East and South China Seas. Japan has great concerns over such Chinese military activities, etc., together with the lack of transparency in its military affairs and security issues, and needs to keep utmost attention to them. These activities also raise security concerns for the region and the international community.

2. China has not disclosed specific information on a detailed breakdown of the national defense budget. In December 2016, in the case where ASDF aircraft scrambled against a Chinese aircraft intruding into Japanese territorial airspace, China claimed that the ASDF aircraft conducted interference at close distance, which is inconsistent with the facts. It is becoming more important for China itself to explain its military activities according to the facts and improve the transparency of its national defense policy and military capabilities. It is strongly hoped that China will increase transparency concerning its military affairs by such efforts as disclosing specific and accurate information pertaining to its defense policies and military capabilities.

3. China’s announced national defense budget has increased at a rapid pace every year since FY1989. The nominal size of China’s announced national defense budget has grown nearly 3-fold in the 10 years since FY2007. Attention will be paid to how the slowdown in China’s economic growth affects its national defense budget.

4. China is currently carrying out reforms of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) which are seen as being the largest in the country’s history and these military reforms have taken shape at a rapid pace. There are views that dissatisfaction is growing within the military because of the rapid military reforms. Attention will be paid to the progress of the reforms as well as their outcomes, including their effects on the security of Japan and the rest of the region.

5. China is likely developing anti-ship ballistic missile (DF-21D and DF-26) and long-range cruise missile (DH-10 (CJ-10)) assets to strengthen its “A2/AD” capabilities. Furthermore, in order to acquire striking force that will be capable of penetrating layered anti-missile defenses, China is considered to be rapidly developing the hypersonic glide vehicle WU-14.

6. In April 2017, a launching ceremony was held for an indigenous aircraft carrier. Moreover, it is pointed out that China is building its second indigenous aircraft carrier. It is said that the so-called maritime militia is playing the role of the advance guard for supporting China’s maritime interests. Thus, it is necessary to continue to monitor these asymmetrical forces.

7. China reportedly received delivery of the first four Su-35 fighters from a Russian state-run military company in December 2016, and is considered to have started test flights of the J-20 fighter which some consider to be a next-generation fighter.

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**Changes in China’s Announced Defense Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Defense Budget (in 100 million yuan)</th>
<th>Year-on-year growth rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7,500</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This basically shows the defense budget within central fiscal expenditures. Note that the FY2002 budget was calculated on the assumption that the disclosed rate and amount of growth represent increases from the actual defense expenditure in FY2001, because the FY2002 budget was not disclosed and discrepancies arise when the disclosed rate and amount of growth are applied to the initial budget of the previous year. Since FY2015, the Chinese Government announced only the defense budget within the basic expenditures of the central government (part of the central fiscal expenditures). As for the FY2015 defense budget, however, since the local transfer expenditure amount in FY2015 was announced separately at a later date, it was added to calculate the FY2015 defense budget within central fiscal expenditures. Regarding the FY2017 Chinese state-run Xinhua News Agency announced the FY2017 defense budget as a “statement by a senior Ministry of Finance official.”
8 In January 2017, Vice Admiral Yuan Yubai became the first non-army officer to be appointed commander of a theater of operations. As only army officers had been appointed commanders of theater of operations until then, it can be assumed that progress is being made towards consolidation in the personnel assignments domain as well.

Activities in Sea Areas and Airspace around Japan

1. China is presumably aiming to enhance operation capabilities on the open ocean, given the continued advancement of Chinese fleets to the Pacific Ocean with high frequency. In December 2016, the advancement of the aircraft carrier Liaoning to the Western Pacific was confirmed for the first time. The activities are worthy of attention as an indication of the enhancement of the capabilities of China’s naval forces and enhancement of its force projection capabilities to distant areas. There is also the possibility that the activities of Chinese naval forces in the Sea of Japan will likewise increase. In the East China Sea, Chinese naval vessels conduct operations continuously and actively. They have recently tended to expand the sea area of their regular activities to the south, and are continuously conducting activities in the sea area near Japan’s Senkaku Islands.

2. With regard to activities of Chinese government vessels, since October 2013, they have repeatedly intruded into these territorial waters in a routinized manner. China is seen to be steadily strengthening an operational posture intended to use Chinese government vessels to intrude into Japan’s territorial waters, and it appears that the operation capabilities of Chinese government vessels in the sea areas around Japan are also improving. In early August 2016, an incident occurred where a large number of Chinese government vessels and fishing boats repeatedly intruded into territorial waters for five days in a row.

3. The number of scrambles by ASDF aircraft against Chinese aircraft is growing dramatically, setting a record in FY2016. At the end of January 2016, Chinese military aircraft conducted activities in the Sea of Japan for the first time. There is a possibility that the activities will continue to increase in the future. The scope of the activities of PLA aircraft in the East China Sea has tended to expand eastward and southward in recent years. As a result, PLA aircraft have recently been confirmed conducting activities actively in airspace closer to the main Island of Okinawa and the rest of the Southwestern Islands.

4. The objectives of the maritime activities are considered to be to intercept operations by adversaries in waters and airspace as far away as possible in order to defend Chinese territory, etc., and strengthen its territorial claims at sea and in airspace surrounding the islands to which China claims territorial sovereignty.

5. In late June 2016, the installment of an anti-surface radar and a surveillance camera on one of the offshore platforms for digging oil and natural gas was confirmed. Attention will be paid to developments in China related to the platforms, such as the purpose of the use of such equipment.

Situation of Activities in the South China Sea and the “Far Seas”

1. Since 2014, China has pressed ahead with rapid and large-scale land reclamation on seven features in the Spratly Islands. Even after the Philippines-China arbitration award issued in July 2016 determined the illegality of China’s activities such as land reclamation, China has continued to develop infrastructure that could be utilized for military purposes in addition to batteries and other military facilities. Military activities in the South China Sea are expanding as well. In September of the same year, the China-Russia joint exercise Joint Sea 2016 was conducted for the first time in the South China Sea.

2. The Chinese Navy is steadily increasing its capabilities to conduct operations in more distant seas such as the Indian Ocean in recent years. China is in the process of building facilities to provide logistics support to its military forces at the new port in Doraleh, Djibouti. China is supporting Indian Ocean countries to build port infrastructure under the “One Belt, One Road” concept, and the Chinese Navy’s capabilities to conduct operations in the Indian Ocean and other distant waters could be further enhanced in addition to the expansion of the country’s influence in the region.
Chapter 2: Russia

1. As defense expenditures become more and more difficult due to the recent severe economic situation, Russia is making efforts to modernize its military forces while also increasing the activities of its military forces and expanding its area of operation.

2. With regard to the situation in Ukraine, the outcomes of Russia’s unilateral attempts to change the status quo have taken on an aspect of being entrenched, while the Russian armed forces have made it clear that new brigades are being deployed along the border with Ukraine and Belarus. Also, attention will be focused on Russia’s move to increase its influence in the Middle East, which includes brokering a ceasefire and peace talks between the Assad regime and opposition forces.

3. Russia has plans to deploy four Borey-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) to the Pacific Fleet by 2020 as part of its efforts to reinforce its maritime strategic deterrence posture. It has already deployed two of these submarines as of the end of last year.

4. Russia is proceeding with the development of military facility areas in the Northern Territories (Etorofu Island and Kunashiri Island). Russia has also announced the deployment of surface-to-ship missiles and has been increasing its activities in the Northern Territories under de facto occupation.

Chapter 2: Southeast Asia

1. In recent years, Southeast Asian countries have increased their defense spending against the backdrop of economic development, etc., and are moving to modernize their military by, among other means, introducing primary naval and air force equipment such as fourth-generation fighters and submarines.

2. In the South China Sea, Southeast Asian countries are opposed to China’s claims concerning territorial disputes, and as tensions in the region heighten, the international community’s deep concern over the unilateral changes in the status quo and their creation of a fait accompli is quickly becoming ever more widespread. Some countries concerned are also making efforts to settle the issues in accordance with international law. As a result, attention will continue to focus on the direction of discussions aimed at resolving these issues.

Chapter 2: Europe

1. Europe has sought to further strengthen and expand multilateral frameworks, such as NATO and the EU, while also proactively participating in activities outside the European region.

2. Amid Russia’s attempts to change the status quo using force and responses to international terrorism, in 2014, NATO member states agreed to allocate 2% or more of their GDP to national defense spending by 2024.

3. In 2017, the United Kingdom gave official notice to the EU of its intention to exit the EU, and as a result, future developments, including decline in the centripetal force of the EU, will be the focus of attention.

Chapter 3: Trends in Regional Conflicts and International Terrorism

1. The conflicts occurring in recent years in various parts of the world involve various issues, including ethnicity, religion, territory, and resources. In many cases, areas with a governance vacuum have become a hotbed for the activities of terrorist organizations. Among them are organizations which operate across national borders and regions, which continue to pose imminent security challenges to the international community.

2. There has been a rise in the number of young people who sympathize with the extremism of international terrorist organizations, including ISIL, against the backdrop of dissatisfaction towards society. These people are participating in the activities of international terrorist organizations, while there has been an increase in incidents where they also conducted “homegrown” and “lone-wolf” terrorism activities in their home countries. The worldwide proliferation of such extremism indicates that terrorism is spreading globally and Japan is not in any way immune from the threat of international terrorism, given the terrorist attack in Bangladesh in July 2016 in which seven Japanese nationals were murdered.

3. Some international terrorist organizations are capable of implementing terror attacks in locations far from their bases. These terrorist organizations generally tend to use cyberspace, including social media, to form global networks to obtain weapons and funds. Some organizations use sophisticated public relations strategies to skillfully promote themselves, recruit fighters and inspire terror attacks. Some organizations are said to have the potential to conduct cyber attacks.
Maritime Trends

1. In the East and South China Seas, it has become increasingly common for countries to unilaterally assert their rights or take actions, based on their own assertions which are incompatible with the existing international order.

2. While China asserts historical rights as a basis for the so-called “nine-dash line,” such historical rights were refuted in the award rendered for the arbitration case between the Philippines and China.

3. The Arctic states have been more proactively promoting efforts to secure their interests in resource development and use of the sea route. It is considered that some of these Arctic states including Russia are promoting efforts to deploy new military capabilities for the purpose of securing their interests and defending their territories. Traditionally, the Arctic Ocean has been used for the deployment of strategic nuclear forces and as their transit route. In this regard, the strategic importance of the region is increasing, as it could be used for deploying maritime forces or maneuvering military forces in the future.

4. China’s commitment to ensuring the security of its sea lanes is also considered to be connected to the Chinese Navy’s objective of building up capacity for continuous operations in more distant waters. In Djibouti, a country facing the Gulf of Aden, China is building facilities for providing logistics support to the military in Djibouti. Additionally, China supports the construction of port infrastructure in Indian Ocean countries.

Outer Space

1. Major countries are making efforts to enhance the capabilities of a variety of satellites and launch them for the purpose of enhancing C4ISR functions. Such satellites include image reconnaissance satellites reconnoitering military facilities and targets, early warning satellites that detect the launch of ballistic missiles, satellites gathering radio wave information for military communications, communication satellites for military communication, and positioning satellites for navigating naval vessels and aircraft and enhancing the precision of weapons systems.

2. Meanwhile, Chinese, Russian, and other countries’ development of anti-satellite weapons and scattering of space debris have come to be seen as a threat to space assets such as satellites of various countries. The risk to the stable use of outer space has become one of the critical security challenges countries face.

Cyberspace

1. As military dependence on information communication networks grows further, cyber attacks are regarded as an asymmetrical strategy capable of exploiting the weaknesses of an adversary’s forces. It is believed that many units of foreign militaries are developing the ability to execute attacks in cyberspace.

2. Cyber attacks have frequently been carried out against the information and communications networks of government organizations and military forces of various countries. With the suggested involvement of government organizations such as those of China, Russia, and North Korea, cyber attacks are becoming more sophisticated by the day, and cybersecurity has become one of the most important security issues for each country.

3. There has been a movement to promote the rule of law in cyberspace in the international community.

Military Science and Technology and Defense Production and Technological Bases

1. Major countries with sophisticated and modernized military forces, including the United States, place emphasis on improving the destructive capabilities of weapons, precision guidance technology, information-related technology including C4ISR, unmanned technology (e.g., drones), and hypersonic technology to be able to carry out more precise and effective attacks.

2. In the United States, a variety of DoD-related agencies provide funds including large-scale funding for research undertaken by entities such as companies and universities.

3. Western countries are increasing competitiveness through realignment of their defense industry as well as promoting equipment technology cooperation among their allies and partners, in order to adapt to the escalation of development and production costs of equipment due to their growing sophistication and complexity.