The Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces are continuously implementing measures to build highly effective and comprehensive defense capabilities.

1. Strengthening defense presence in the southwest area

The following initiatives are undertaken to strengthen defense presence in the southwest area, with a large sea area and many remote islands.

1. **Enhancement of remote island defense**
   - Deploying Self-Defense Force in blank areas

2. **Reorganization into units capable of responding promptly to a crisis or other event**
   - Reorganizing units into rapid deployment division/brigade capable of quick deployment by transport aircraft and other equipment

3. **Reinforcement of air defense**
   - Strengthening air defense operations with additional fighters and deployment of airborne early warning aircraft

4. **Preparation for remote island defense**
   - Establishing an amphibious operation specialized unit to defend remote islands

5. **Establishment of capabilities for quick transportation of troops to further locations**
   - Acquiring aircraft and other equipment to transport a larger number of personnel and supplies to further locations quickly

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**Senkaku Islands**

**Yonaguni Island (Okinawa)**

- Establishing a coast observation unit on Yonaguni Island (Japan's westernmost point)

**Naha (Okinawa)**

- Establishing Southwestern Air Defense Force
  - Strengthening the fighter unit (from about 20 aircraft to roughly 40 aircraft)
  - Establishing airborne early warning aircraft unit

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Preparation for remote island defense

Ainoura (Nagasaki)
Establishing the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade

Establishment of new unit to support quick response in a crisis or other event

Kita Kumamoto, Kumamoto 8th Division
Zentsuji, Kagawa 14th Brigade
Reorganizing units into rapid deployment division/brigade capable of quick deployment by transport aircraft and other equipment

Establishment of capabilities for quick transportation of troops to further locations

Procuring V-22 Ospreys with improved speed, traveling distance, and other features compared to existing helicopters
Procuring C-2 transport aircraft with improved traveling distance and loading capabilities

Enhancement of remote island defense

Amami Island (Kagoshima), Miyako Island, and Ishigaki Island (Okinawa)
- Security unit
- Surface-to-ship missile unit
- Medium-distance surface-to-air missile unit
2 Procuring new equipment

Stand-off missiles capable of attacking invading force from locations outside of adversary’s threat envelope

- Missiles capable of attacking invading force to Japan from locations where their attacks are unreachable (stand-off) and secure personnel of the Self-Defense Forces

JSM (image)  LRASM (image)  * Refer to page 229 in the main text for details on stand-off missiles

F-35A cutting-edge fighter that possesses better stealth capabilities and high-performance sensors

- Robust stealth capability to evade opponent’s radar
- Equipped with high-performance sensors
- Possible to discover and attack opponents without being discovered (deployments started at the Misawa Air Base (Aomori Prefecture) in January 2018)

F-35A

E-2D new airborne early warning aircraft (flying radar) with superior precise detection capability of further targets

- Airborne early warning aircraft are equipped with a circular radar device on the plane which are able to discover opponents quickly. They are also called “flying radar.”
- E-2D are able to detect further targets than existing airborne early warning aircraft

E-2D

Constructing compact new destroyers that are able to handle a variety of duties and high-performance submarines

- Constructing new destroyers that are able to handle a variety of duties and submarines with higher performance
- Future goals for the number of destroyers and submarines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current volume</th>
<th>Future volume</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destroyers</td>
<td>47 vessels</td>
<td>54 vessels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submarines</td>
<td>18 vessels</td>
<td>22 vessels</td>
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Most significant reforms since the establishment of the Ground Self-Defense Force

Establishment of Ground Component Command as the "command center for action"

The GSDF established the Ground Component Command (GCC) for the purpose of carrying out swift and flexible nationwide operation of its units under the joint operation.

* Ground Component Command commands GSDF units when integrated operation is necessary.

VOICE

Creation of Ground Component Command

A new unit (Ground Component Command) has been formed as an organization to handle the integrated operation of Ground Self-Defense Force units nationwide. This should enable quicker and more flexible nationwide operation of Ground Self-Defense Force units and facilitate efficient and effective collaboration with the Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces, the U.S. military, and others. I intend to engage in my duties to defend Japan’s peace and security and bring reassurance and security to the Japanese people within a framework of civilian control.

Establishment of the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade as a “key tool in the defense of remote islands”

The Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade is a new unit equipped with amphibious vehicles and other related equipment, possessing amphibious tactical capabilities to protect remote islands.