Persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) in the Area Surrounding Japan

1. The Self-Defense Forces (SDF) is engaged in persistent intelligence collection and warning and surveillance during peacetime over Japan’s territorial waters and airspace, as well as the surrounding sea and airspace so that it can respond to various contingencies immediately and seamlessly.

2. As part of its regular warning and surveillance activities in Japanese territorial waters, the SDF is carrying out information gathering on vessels suspected of violating the United Nations (UN) Security Council sanctions. During the period from 2018 to the end of June 2019, the SDF has confirmed 20 observations of North Korean vessels strongly suspected of engaging in ship-to-ship transfers, and made public announcement on the subject.

3. In response to these illicit maritime activities including transshipments, the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and France carried out early warning surveillance activities using aircraft based at the United States Kadena Air Base in Japan. In addition, naval vessels of the U.S. Marine Corps, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and France carried out early warning surveillance activities in sea areas surrounding Japan.

4. In December 2018, Gwanggaeto, the Great class destroyer of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy, directed a fire control-radar at a Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) patrol aircraft conducting warning and surveillance activities off the coast of Noto Peninsula (within Japan’s exclusive economic zone). The Ministry of Defense (MOD) published its final statement, compiling objective facts, and has been urging the Korean side to take recurrence prevention measures. The MOD will expend all possible means to monitor the situation and gather intelligence.

Warnings and Emergency Takeoffs (Scrambles) in Preparation against Intrusion of Territorial Airspace

1. The Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) detects and identifies aircraft flying in airspace surrounding Japan using warning and control radars as well as early-warning and control aircraft. If any suspicious aircraft heading to Japan’s territorial airspace are detected, fighters and other aircraft scramble to approach them in order to confirm the situation and monitor the aircraft as necessary.

2. In FY2018, ASDF aircraft scrambled 999 times, which is the 2nd highest number. Breaking this figure down, aircraft scrambled 638 times in response to Chinese aircraft, an increase by 138 times compared with the previous fiscal year, and 343 times to Russian aircraft, a decrease by 47 times from the previous fiscal year.
Defense of Japan including its Remote Islands

In response to attack on Japan including its remote islands, the SDF will quickly maneuver and deploy requisite units to block access and landing of invading forces while ensuring maritime and air superiority. Even when maintaining maritime and air superiority becomes untenable, the SDF will block invading forces’ access and landing from outside their threat envelopes. Should any part of the territory be occupied, the SDF will retake it by employing all necessary measures.

For defense posture buildup in the southwestern region, the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) deployed some units, including an area security unit in Amami Oshima, and an area security unit in Miyakojima Island, in March 2019. The GSDF will deploy an area security unit and other units also in Ishigakijima Island.

The SDF started research and development on technologies required for new anti-ship missiles and Hyper Velocity Gliding Projectiles (HVGPs) for the defense of remote islands to take all initiatives necessary to defend the islands since FY2018.

In order to secure capabilities for swift and large-scale transportation and deployment of units, initiatives are underway to enhance rapid deployment capabilities through: the improvement of Landing Ship, Tank; and the introduction of V-22 Ospreys and C-2 transport aircraft.

Response to Missile Attacks

Currently, Japan’s Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) is an effective multi-layered defense system with the upper tier interception by Aegis equipped destroyers and the lower tier by Patriot PAC-3, both interconnected and coordinated by the Japan Aerospace Defense Ground Environment (JADGE).

The upcoming introduction of the land-based Aegis system, Aegis Ashore, will enable our forces to intercept missiles in the upper tier not just from Aegis destroyers but from land.

In order to counter increasingly complex and diverse airborne threats and minimize damage, the SDF will establish a structure with which to conduct integrated operation of various equipment pieces, including those for missile defense as well as air defense equipment, and thereby provide persistent nation-wide protection from peacetime. It will also enhance its comprehensive air and missile defense capability so that it can simultaneously deal with multiple, complex airborne threats.

Responses in the Domains of Space, Cyberspace and Electromagnetic Spectrum

The MOD aims to establish Space Situational Awareness (SSA) by 2022, and is also working to deploy radar to monitor threats to Japanese satellites, such as space debris, and its operating system.

Based on the Medium Term Defense Program (FY2019-FY2023; MTDP), the MOD/SDF will work to enhance capabilities to ensure superiority in use of space. The efforts include:

1. establishing an SSA system;
2. improving various capabilities that leverage space domain including information-gathering, communication and positioning capabilities, and;
3. building the capability to disrupt C4I (command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence) of opponents.

Initiatives for the Development of the SSA System

1. Gather Japan’s SSA information
2. Share information with the U.S. Forces that have a global SSA network
3. MOD’s SSA system
4. U.S. Forces’ sensors
5. U.S. Strategic Command (CSpOC)
6. Optical telescope
7. Radar
8. SSA operational system
9. JAXA
10. Information gathering
11. Information sharing
12. JADGE
13. Each SDF’s command system, etc.
14. Each SDF’s system
15. U.S. Forces
16. SSA satellite
Response in Cyber Domain

1. The MOD/SDF has taken comprehensive measures to ensure the safety of information and communication systems and respond to cyber attacks by a specialized unit, etc.

2. In addition to these initiatives, based on the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and Beyond (NDPG), the SDF will fundamentally strengthen its cyber defense capability, including the capability to disrupt, during an attack against Japan in armed contingencies, the opponent’s use of cyberspace for the attack.

3. The Cyber Defense Group will be expanded by about 70 personnel to approximately 220 in FY2019.

Response in Electromagnetic Domain

1. With the development of the technology, the use of electromagnetic spectrum has expanded in range and purpose, and it is now recognized as a major operational domain in today’s warfare.

2. The MOD/SDF will:
   (1) enhance its ability to appropriately manage and coordinate the use of electromagnetic spectrum;
   (2) strengthen information collection and analysis capabilities related to electromagnetic spectrum, and develop an information sharing posture; and
   (3) strengthen capabilities to neutralize the radar and communications of opponents who intend to invade Japan.

Response to Natural Disasters, etc.

1. The SDF works in collaboration with local governments, engaged in various activities such as the search and rescue of disaster victims or ships or aircraft in distress, and preventing epidemics. In FY2018, the SDF conducted 443 disaster relief operations.

2. The SDF uses its aircraft to transport emergency patients from isolated islands and remote areas. In FY2018, out of a total of 443 cases of disaster relief, 334 cases involved the transportation of emergency patients.
The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, together with Japan’s own national defense architecture, constitute a cornerstone for Japan’s national security. The Japan-U.S. Alliance, with the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements as its core, plays a significant role for peace, stability and prosperity of not only Japan but also the Indo-Pacific region and the international community.

Outline of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation

The Guidelines 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.

Policy Consultations between Japan and the United States

Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (2+2 Meeting)

On April 19, 2019, the Japan-U.S. “2+2” Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. Both side shared the view that the two countries will strengthen cooperation for cross-domain operations, including capability enhancement in new domains, such as space, cyberspace, and the electromagnetic spectrum.

Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

Since October 2018, on various occasions, including the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meetings, Japan and the United States have confirmed the following points:

- Need to deepen Japan-U.S. cooperation with a sense of urgency with respect to new domains, such as space, cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum;
- Cooperation with the United States to maintain and strengthen a free and open Indo-Pacific;
- Continuation of ensuring full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions toward the abandonment of all weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and all ranges of ballistic missiles by North Korea in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner; and
- Close cooperation to make steady progress in implementing the plan for the realignment of the U.S. Forces, including the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Henoko.

Strengthening Ability of Japan-U.S. Alliance to Deter and Counter Threats

In all stages from peacetime to armed contingencies as well as during disasters, in order to ensure Japan’s peace and security, Japan is promoting cooperation with the United States in various fields, including “cooperation in space and cyber domains,” “comprehensive air and missile defense,” “bilateral training and exercises,” “ISR activities,” “maritime security,” “logistics support,” and “Cooperation in Response to a Large-Scale Disaster in Japan.”
In order to create a desirable security environment including maintaining and enhancing free and open maritime order, and with an eye on increasing Japanese and U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region, Japan will conduct bilateral activities on “capacity building assistance,” “humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR),” and “trilateral and multilateral training and exercises,” and promote “defense equipment and technology cooperation,” “joint/shared use of facilities and areas,” and others.

**Significance of the Presence of the U.S. Forces in Japan (USFJ)**

1. It is necessary to maintain the presence of the USFJ and its readiness to make rapid and agile actions in case of emergency, so that Japan-U.S. Alliance functions enough as a deterrent power that contributes to the peace and stability of the defense of Japan and the region.

2. Therefore, Japan accepts the stationing of the US forces based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and it is a cornerstone of Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements.

**Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Okinawa**

1. Approximately 70% of USFJ facilities and areas (for exclusive use) are concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, occupying approximately 14% of the main island of Okinawa. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to make utmost efforts to mitigate the impact.

2. Regarding distribution of functions offered by MCAS Futenma, the development of facilities is being promoted to transfer the function of accepting transient aircraft in contingencies to Tsuiki Air Base and Nyutabaru Air Base.

3. A land-fill operation for the Futenma Replacement Facility has started in the waters south of Camp Schwab.

4. The following progress has been made involving the return of USFJ land:
   - March 2015: West Futenma Housing Area within Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster) (approximately 51 ha) was returned.
   - December 2016: A major portion of the Northern Training Area (approximately 4,000 ha) was returned. This is the largest of its kind since the reversion of Okinawa to the mainland.
   - July 2017: A portion of MCAS Futenma (approximately 4 ha along Ginowan City road 11) was returned.
   - March 2018: A portion of Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser) (approximately 3 ha of land to expand Route 58) was returned.
   - March 2019: A portion of Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser) (approximately 2 ha of land near Gate 5) was returned.

5. Relocation of training of U.S. Marine Corps Ospreys, etc. to outside Okinawa has been conducted.

**Stationing of the U.S. Forces in Regions Other than Okinawa**

In regions other than Okinawa, the MOD is implementing measures to secure the stable presence of the U.S. Forces by maintaining its deterrence and trying to mitigate the impact on local communities, such as realignment of USFJ and its facilities and areas.

**Measures to Mitigate the Impacts of USFJ Facilities and Areas**

Ensuring the safety of local residents is of prime importance in USFJ operations, and an accident or incident must not occur. Both Japan and the United States cooperate with a prime focus on ensuring the safety.
Security Cooperation

The MOD/SDF will create a security environment desirable for Japan by promoting multi-faceted and multi-layered security cooperation.

Strategic Promotion of Multi-Faceted and Multi-Layered Defense Cooperation

Efforts under the Vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific

Being home to more than half of the world’s population, the Indo-Pacific region is one of the most vital areas in the world. It is important to establish this region as a free and open global commons to secure peace and prosperity in the region as a whole. Pursuing the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, the MOD/SDF has promoted defense cooperation and exchanges, and other efforts with countries in this region.

Promotion of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

1. **Australia**: The Japan-Australia “2+2” and a Defense Ministerial Meeting were held in October 2018. Defense Ministerial Meetings were also held in January and June 2019. The Ministers agreed to deepen and expand bilateral defense cooperation.

2. **India and Sri Lanka**: At the Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2018, Japan and India agreed to establish Japan-India 2+2 Ministerial dialogues, and to commence negotiations on the Japan-India Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). The GSDF and the Indian Army, and the ASDF and the Indian Air Force had their first bilateral exercises in November and December 2018, respectively. Meanwhile, in August 2018, then Defense Minister Onodera made the first visit to Sri Lanka as a Japanese Defense Minister.

3. **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states**: Under “Vientiane Vision,” as a guideline for the Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation, Japan has strengthened cooperation under multilateral frameworks in addition to bilateral cooperation efforts. A Japan-Philippine Defense Ministerial meeting was held in April 2019, and a Japan-Vietnam Defense Ministerial Meeting and a Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting were held in May 2019.

4. **ROK**: Concerning negative actions by the ROK side related to the flag of the MSDF, and an incident of a destroyer of the ROK Navy directing its fire-control radar at SDF patrol aircraft, the MOD/SDF will continue to call on the ROK side to appropriately deal with these matters. In addition, in August 2019, the Government of the ROK announced its intention to terminate the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA). The Minister of Defense made a statement that it was “extremely regrettable,” and that Japan urges the ROK side to wisely respond to secure appropriate cooperation between Japan and the ROK, and between Japan, the United States and the ROK.

5. **European countries**: The Japan-France “2+2” Meeting was held in January 2019. In October 2018, the GSDF and the British Army held their first bilateral exercise in Japan.

6. **China**: In October 2018, the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting was held for the first time in three years. In April 2019, an MSDF destroyer visited China for the first time in about seven and a half years.

7. **Russia**: In July 2018, then Minister of Defense Onodera became the first Japanese Minister of Defense to pay a visit to Russia. He joined the Japan-Russia “2+2” Meeting and the Defense Ministerial Meeting. These Meetings were held in Tokyo in May 2019.

8. **Pacific Island countries**: At the Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting held in 2018 and in the NDPG published in the same year, Japan referred to its intention to promote cooperation and exchanges with the Pacific island countries.

Further strengthen strategic collaboration with India, which has had historical connections with East Africa, the United States as an ally, and Australia to maximize the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.
Promotion of Multilateral Security Cooperation

1. Multilateral framework initiatives, such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM)-Plus and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) have made steady progress and served as an important foundation for discussion and cooperation and exchange in the security field in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Japan has contributed to the enhancement of multilateral cooperation in the region by holding the Japan-ASEAN Defense Vice-Ministerial Forum and the Tokyo Defense Forum annually. As the Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation program, Japan-ASEAN Ship Rider Cooperation Program (May 2018), the Japan-ASEAN Symposium on International Law (November 2018), and the Japan-ASEAN Invitation Program on HA/DR (January 2019) were conducted.

Proactive and Strategic Initiatives for Capacity Building Assistance

1. Since 2012, the MOD/SDF has provided capacity building assistance in such areas as HA/DR, peacekeeping operations (PKO), and maritime security to 15 countries and one organization in the Asia-Pacific and other regions.

2. Specifically, Japan supported the establishment and training of the military band of the Papua New Guinea Defense Force. The band gave an excellent performance in front of national leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in November 2018. Other programs that have thus far been conducted include seminars on air rescue, PKO, and submarine medicine in Vietnam, and seminars and field training on aviation meteorology for the establishment of a weather services unit of the Myanmar Air Force. In addition, programs have been conducted in Mongolia, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, and Djibouti.

Ensuring Maritime Security

1. For Japan, a maritime nation, strengthening the order based on fundamental norms, such as the rule of law and the freedom of navigation, as well as ensuring safe maritime transport, is the foundation for its peace and prosperity, which is extremely important.

2. The SDF has been dispatching the Deployment Surface Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement, the Deployment Air Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement, and the Deployment Support Group for Counter Piracy Enforcement since 2009 in order to protect vessels from acts of piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

3. In addition to strengthening cooperation with coastal states of the Indo-Pacific region through exercises and port calls, the MOD has been implementing capacity building assistance in maritime security of coastal countries, and working on cooperation for maritime security within regional security dialogue frameworks such as the ADMM-Plus.

Cooperation in Use of Space and Cyber Domains

1. Regarding cooperation in the use of space domain, the MOD/SDF has taken part in the annual SSA multinational tabletop exercise (Global Sentinel) and the Schriever Wargame, a multinational tabletop exercise on space security, hosted by the U.S. Forces.

2. Regarding cooperation in the use of cyber domain, the MOD has held cyber dialogues with the respective defense authorities of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and others. With the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Japan has participated in international conferences, and in a cyber defense exercise as an observer. In addition, the MOD has dispatched personnel to the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) since March 2019.
The MOD/SDF is proactively undertaking international peace cooperation activities working in tandem with diplomatic initiatives, including the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for resolving the fundamental causes of conflicts, terrorism and other problems.

**Dispatch to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)**

1. In April 2019, a Cabinet Decision was made to dispatch staff officers, and subsequently Japan started to dispatch 2 staff officers to the MFO Headquarters as the first international peace cooperation activity.

2. The two officers are engaging in liaison and coordination between governments of the Egypt and Israel or other relevant organizations and the MFO as a Deputy chief of Liaison and an Assistant Liaison Operation Officer at the MFO Headquarters, which is located in the south camp at Sharm El-Sheikh in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula.

3. These activities express Japan’s commitment to more active involvement in the peace and stability of the Middle East. It is also expected to promote collaboration with the other countries dispatching officers, including the United States, and create new opportunities for human resource development.

**United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)**

1. The peace and stability of South Sudan is not only essential for the country itself, but also for the peace and stability in Africa as a whole, as well as a crucial issue that should be dealt with by the international community.

2. After the engineering unit’s withdrawal, Japan has continued dispatch of four officers (logistics officer, information database officer, engineering officer, and aviation operations officer) to the UNMISS headquarters, and will contribute to the activities of UNMISS.

**Support to the UN Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities**

1. Japan has been dispatching GSDF personnel to the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya, as instructors since the trial training in September 2015. Training regarding the operation of heavy equipment has been provided in seven sessions to date for a total of 211 members from eight African countries.

2. Considering that more than 30% of PKO personnel are from Asia, Japan decided to implement the project for the first time in Asia and the surrounding region. In 2018, trial training took place in Vietnam for 16 personnel from nine Asian and the surrounding regions.

**Revision of the UN Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual**

1. The MOD/SDF served as chair of the working group on the engineer unit manual since 2013 with the aim of supporting the development of UN Military Unit Manuals and contributed to the completion of the manual.

2. The UN asked Japan to serve as chair of the working group again for revision of the manual, and as chair, the MOD/SDF held the first expert meeting in Tokyo in December 2018. The MOD/SDF will continue to work for the revision of the manual and support for its dissemination.