

Readout of the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting (Provisional translation)

3 June, 2017
Ministry of Defense

The following is a summary of the meeting between Defense Minister Inada and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mattis held from 1235 for about 30 minutes on 3 June, 2017 on the occasion of Shangri-La Dialogue.

1. Regional Situations

The Ministers exchanged views on the advance in North Korea's nuclear and missile development and improvement of operational capability. They shared recognition that successive ballistic missile launches are flagrant provocation against Japan and the U.S. as well as the regional peace and stability, and these are unacceptable in any way. Minister Inada appreciated a visible commitment of the U.S. to the regional peace and stability including the dispatch of Carrier Strike Groups, and noted the importance of increasing pressure on North Korea. The Ministers agreed on the significance of continuing close collaboration with Japan-U.S.-ROK, in addition to Japan-U.S. coordination.

The Ministers exchanged views on situations in the East and South China Seas and reaffirmed that the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. The Ministers reconfirmed that they would deepen the bilateral cooperation to secure the peace and stability of the East China Sea and to enhance engagement in the South China Sea.

2. Enhancement of the Deterrence and Response Capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance

The Ministers agreed on the need to further enhance the deterrence and response

capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance in light of the security environment, which is increasingly severe. Also, the Ministers welcomed the joint exercise the SDF and the Carrier Strike Group are conducting in the Japan Sea as an effort to contribute to such enhancement. The Ministers agreed to proceed with coordination to convene an SCC meeting at an early point.

3. Okinawa/Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan

The Ministers agreed to steadily proceed with the realignment plan of the U.S. forces in Japan. Secretary Mattis expressed the U.S.'s commitment to continue close cooperation with Japan. To achieve the relocation and return of MCAS Futenma as soon as possible, the Ministers shared a view that the Futenma Replacement Facility at Henoko is the only solution and agreed to continue close cooperation. Also, Minister Inada requested for cooperation from the U.S. to mitigate impact on Okinawa. The Ministers agreed to cooperate to ensure stable stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan.