

Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting (Summary)

June 3rd, 2018
Ministry of Defense

On June 3, 2018, Defense Minister Onodera, who was visiting Singapore to attend the 17th IISS Asia Security Summit (IISS Shangri-La Dialogue), held a meeting with French Minister for the Armed Forces Florence Parly. The summary of the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening Remarks

In the beginning, Minister Onodera expressed his will to continue to tackle challenges including the North Korean issue for the peace and stability of the region and the world by cooperating and further developing the bilateral defense cooperation with France, which owns territories in the Pacific region, such as New Caledonia, especially as this year marks the 160th anniversary of Japan-France diplomatic relations. In response, Minister Parly stated that France, as a Pacific Nation, will stay committed to the security of the region.

2. Regional Situations

The Ministers also exchanged views on the regional situations, including those of the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea. Concerning the North Korean situation, Minister Onodera pointed out that it is necessary to draw from North Korea concrete actions for realizing the dismantlement of all the weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. In response, Minister Parly stated, regarding the South China Sea situation, that France, as a European country, will continue to contribute to the peace and stability of the region. The Ministers concurred that they will not allow unilateral changes to the status quo and continue to work hand in hand.

3. Japan-France Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

The Ministers reaffirmed that they will continue to conduct joint training and other defense cooperation and exchanges seizing various opportunities. The Ministers also

welcomed the recent visit of MSDF's P-1 patrol aircraft to Lann Bihoue Naval Air Base and the unit-to-unit exchange conducted there. In addition, affirming the quick kick-off of the first cooperative research on the feasibility study for mine countermeasure technological activities, the Ministers concurred in promoting discussion on further cooperation on defense equipment and technologies.