

Cooperation with Our Ally



Japan's Basic Defense Policy and the Japan-U.S. Alliance

By integrating all efforts through three approaches and means to accomplish three defense objectives, Japan will resolutely defend the lives and peaceful livelihoods of Japanese nationals, as well as Japan's territorial land, waters and airspace

Three Defense Objectives

- (1) Shape a security environment not tolerating unilateral changes to the status quo by force
- (2) Deter and respond to unilateral changes to the status quo by force and such attempts through cooperation with our ally, like-minded countries and others and bring the situation under control at an early stage
- (3) If an invasion of Japan occurs, take primary responsibility to deal with the aggression and, while receiving support from the ally and others, disrupt and defeat the invasion

Three Approaches

- (1) Strengthening Japan's own architecture for national defense
 - Fundamental reinforcement of defense capabilities of Japan
 - Reinforcing the defense architecture of the whole country
- (2) Reinforcing joint deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance
 - Demonstrating joint resolve and capabilities
- (3) Reinforcing collaboration with like-minded countries and others
 - Reinforcing collaboration with as many countries as possible



Next-generation fighter aircraft (conceptual image)



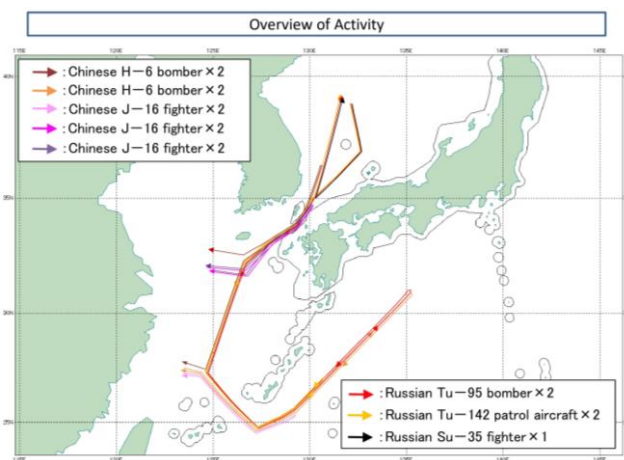
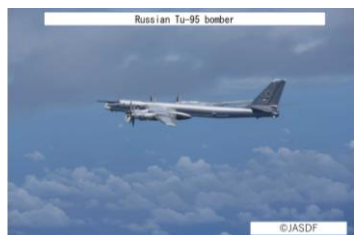
Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting
(May 2026)



U.S.-Philippines hosted Multilateral Exercise
Balikatan 26 (April to May 2026)

Emergence of New Strategic Challenges

- China's rapid strengthening of its military power, including its nuclear forces, normalization of its activities within the First Island Chain, and intensification of its activities in the Second Island Chain and across the entire region surrounding Japan
- China-Russia and Russia-North Korea cooperation
- Responding to the “new ways of warfare” seen in Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and ensuring sustained operational capability



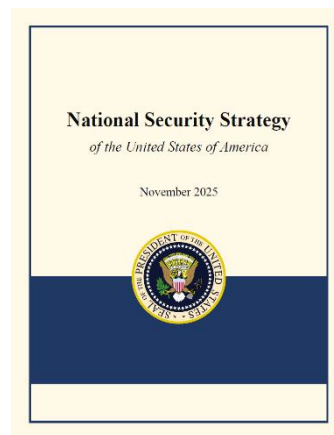
Chinese and Russian aircraft activity around Japan
(June 27, 2026)

Japan Joint Staff website

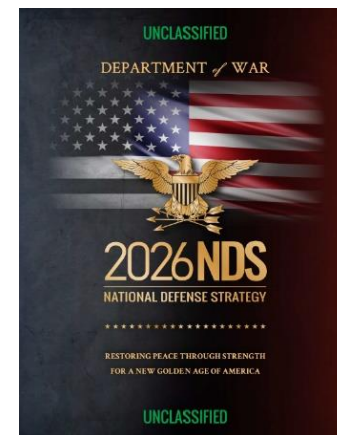
New Strategic Approaches of the United States

- In its new National Security Strategy (published December 2025) and National Defense Strategy (published January 2026), the United States clearly states that the defense of the U.S. Homeland is the top priority
- In the NDS, the United States calls for detering China in the Indo-Pacific and building a denial defense along the First Island Chain. The United States also advocated burden-sharing with allies and partners in defense spending.

(Note) The National Defense Strategy of the United States states: “Already, President Trump has set a new global standard for defense spending at NATO’s Hague Summit—3.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) on core military spending and an additional 1.5% on security-related spending, for a total of 5% of GDP. We will advocate that our allies and partners meet this standard around the world, not just in Europe.”



National Security Strategy



National Defense Strategy

Direction of Considerations

- In an increasingly severe security environment, the Japan-U.S. Alliance continues to be the **cornerstone** of Japan's **security policy**
 - By strengthening the **deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance**, Japan will build a robust defense posture and enhance its **effectiveness** in peacetime and contingencies
 - Enhance the **“indispensability” of the Japan-U.S. Alliance** in all aspects for realizing the United States' vital national interests
 - Based on the unwavering cooperative relationship between Japan and the United States, ensure **sustained U.S. engagement** necessary for **the defense of Japan and for the peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region**

Key Items for Consideration

○ **Accelerating the Modernization of the Alliance**

Enhancement of command and control frameworks of both Japan the United States, in line with the phased upgrade of U.S. Forces Japan

○ **Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Alliance**

Expansion of more realistic training (including in the southwestern region); extended deterrence; deployment of advanced and cutting-edge assets; joint use of facilities and areas

○ **Strengthening the Alliance's Activities and Foundations**

Joint FDO (Flexible Deterrent Options); co-development and co-production of missiles and other systems; co-sustainment of vessels and aircraft; strengthening supply chain resilience; further strengthening coordination for activities between the SDF and U.S. forces

○ **Strengthening Cooperation on the Defense of the Pacific and Sea Lanes**

Enhancing the Alliance's surveillance, intelligence, and defense capabilities in the Pacific areas surrounding Japan

○ **Further Strengthening Cooperation with Like-Minded Countries, Centered on the Japan-U.S. Alliance**

