

The Latest News on the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces

JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS

Aug. 2019

No. 114



Special Feature

The 18th IISS Asia Security Summit – Shangri-La Dialogue –

Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting) and Japan-Russia Defense Ministerial Meeting

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The 18th IISS Asia Security Summit – Shangri-La Dialogue –

From May 31st to June 2nd, Minister of Defense Iwaya attended the 18th IISS Asia Security Summit (2019 Shangri-La Dialogue), where he delivered a speech and held meetings with defense ministers represented at the summit.

Summary of Speech by Minister Iwaya

Minister Iwaya gave a speech in the second plenary session, “Korean Security: the Next Steps.” In his speech, he emphasized the importance to seek the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile of all ranges. Having said that, he pointed out that maintaining robust deterrence and sustaining the effectiveness of United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) on North Korea are two important roles of defense authorities.

Japan-Australia Defense Ministerial Meeting

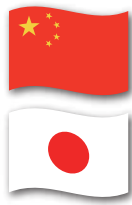


To open the meeting, Minister Iwaya congratulated Australian Minister for Defence Reynolds on her appointment and expressed his will for stronger and closer bilateral cooperation between Japan and Australia. In response, Minister Reynolds stated that she would like to deepen bilateral defense cooperation based on extensive past defense cooperation by closely coordinating efforts with Minister Iwaya.

The Ministers exchanged opinions on various issues in the Indo-Pacific region including those related to North Korea and Oceania. Concerning North Korea, both Ministers recognized the importance of international cooperation in upholding UNSCRs to ensure effective sanctions on North Korea. They expressed their intent to continue cooperating closely in surveillance activities to counter illegal ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea.

The two ministers welcomed the progress of bilateral defense cooperation and confirmed the various recent initiatives in that effort, including joint training and exercises, the exchange of defense equipment and technology, and support in capacity building. Based on this exchange, both Ministers confirmed that their defense ministries would continue efforts to further deepen and expand bilateral defense cooperation to strengthen and maintain a free, open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting



Minister Iwaya and Chinese Defense Minister Wei welcomed the fact that their communication is becoming closer with the fruition of this ministerial meeting, following the one held last October. Both Ministers shared their views to continue the dialogues, including their mutual visits. Both Ministers welcomed the fact that various dialogues and exchanges are being implemented between the two defense authorities, and they shared their views to continue promoting mutual understanding and confidence.

Both Ministers shared the recognition of the importance to realize the mutual visits between the Japanese Defense Minister and the Chinese Minister of Defense as soon as possible, as agreed in the Japan-China summit meeting. To this end, both Ministers confirmed to realize Minister Iwaya’s visit to China at an earliest possible timing this year. Moreover, the two Ministers shared the view to promote high-level mutual visits, including the ones between the Japanese Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Office and the Chinese Chief of the Joint Staff Department. Both Ministers welcomed the realization of: (1) Japanese Maritime Chief of Staff’s visit to China this April for the first time in approximately five years; and (2) the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) vessel’s port call to China in the same month for the first time in approximately seven and a half years. The Ministers confirmed to advance coordination to realize a port call by a Chinese vessel to Japan. Both Ministers shared views to send a delegation from Japan, consisting of JSDF commanders and staff officers, to the Eastern Theater Command within this year following the Eastern Theater Command delegation’s visit to Japan made last November. With respect to the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the Defense Authorities of Japan and China, both Ministers welcomed that the mechanism has been effectively in operation since its initiation, and they also confirmed that technical coordination is steadily progressing for an early establishment of the hotline.

In addition, both Ministers shared their recognition on the importance of a stable East China Sea.

Japan-United States (U.S.)-Australia Defense Ministers Meeting



Minister Iwaya, then U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan and Australian Minister for Defence Reynolds were united in their shared commitment to do more together in support of security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

The ministers affirmed their shared vision for the Indo-Pacific region that is open, inclusive, rules based and respectful of sovereignty, where disputes are resolved peacefully and free of coercion. The ministers recognized the importance of supporting Association of South East Asian Nations-led regional architecture and their support for ASEAN centrality which has played an instrumental role in establishing norms of behavior and habits of cooperation in the region. The Australian and Japanese ministers welcomed the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy Report (IPSR) announced by then Acting Secretary Shanahan. The ministers agreed to continue to closely coordinate support to the region to maximize the benefits of their national and combined engagement activities in the region in a transparent, efficient and effective manner under their shared strategic vision.

The ministers underscored the importance of the international community’s ongoing commitment to achieving North Korea’s abandonment of all of its weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles, and related programs and facilities in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner in accordance with relevant UNSCRs. They confirmed that while a diplomatic path to peace on the Korean Peninsula exists, North Korea remains an extraordinary threat, exemplified by its recent missile launches, that requires continued vigilance. They agreed to continue to fully enforce all relevant UNSCRs. The ministers welcomed and reaffirmed their commitment to sustained international cooperation to deter, disrupt, and ultimately eliminate illicit activities, such as illegal ship-to-ship transfers.

The ministers expressed strong opposition to the use of any coercive unilateral actions that seek to alter the status quo or increase tensions in the East China Sea. They also expressed their intention to remain in close contact on the security situation in that area with a view to deter such actions.

The ministers discussed the importance of adherence to international law and their shared commitment to upholding freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea. The ministers remained seriously concerned about any action including militarization of disputed features in the South China Sea that are destabilizing or dangerous. They emphasized the importance of the peaceful resolution of conflict in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and expressed strong opposition to the use of force or coercion to alter the status quo; calling instead for all countries in the region to take meaningful steps to ease tension and build trust. All sides called for the Code of

Conduct for the South China Sea to be consistent with existing international law, as reflected in UNCLOS; to not prejudice the interests of third parties or the rights of all states under international law; to reinforce existing inclusive regional architecture; and to strengthen parties’ commitments to cease actions that would complicate or escalate disputes.

The ministers underscored their commitment to work with their Pacific partners to support a Pacific region that is prosperous, secure and respects sovereignty. The ministers welcomed and acknowledged the significance of each state’s military-to-military activities, particularly when those activities contributed to whole of government engagement with the Pacific.

The ministers agreed on a Strategic Action Agenda (SAA) that articulates their shared long-term vision for trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. They affirmed the SAA would enable their respective defense organizations to plan and implement enhanced trilateral defense cooperative activities.

The ministers underscored the close defense relationship between the three countries, and agreed to do more to coordinate their respective regional defense engagement activities, such as joint exercises and training and capacity building.

Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) Defense Ministerial Meeting



Minister Iwaya, ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong, and then Acting Secretary Shanahan held discussions on North Korea, the regional security situation, and trilateral security cooperation.

With regard to North Korea, they exchanged their views on the recent missile launches by North Korea, and confirmed that they would stay vigilant as defense authorities. They underscored the importance of the international community’s commitment to fully implement UNSCRs, including sustained international cooperation to deter, disrupt, and ultimately eliminate North Korea’s illicit ship-to-ship transfers. They recognized the international community’s shared goal of North Korea’s full compliance with its international obligations in accordance with all relevant UNSCRs, which call for North Korea’s complete denuclearization in a verifiable and irreversible manner.

The three ministers discussed other regional security issues and concurred on the importance of a rules-based order. They reaffirmed that freedom of navigation and overflight must be ensured, and that all disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner in accordance with the principles of international law.

The three ministers emphasized that trilateral and multilateral security cooperation led by the three countries plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. They committed to further trilateral security cooperation, including information sharing, high-level policy consultation, and combined exercises.



Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation (“2+2” Ministerial Meeting) and Japan-Russia Defense Ministerial Meeting

On May 30th, Mr. Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Minister Iwaya, held a Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation (“2+2” Ministerial Meeting) with Mr. Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Shoygu, Minister of Defence. On the day, Minister Iwaya held the Japan-Russia Defense Ministerial Meeting at the Ministry of Defense (MOD) with Minister Shoygu before the Japan-Russia “2+2.”

1 Confidence Building between Japan and Russia in the Field of Security

(1) Communication of Japan’s stance

Minister Kono and Minister Iwaya stated that the military build-up in the Northern Territories by Russian forces, including missile firing exercises and fighter-aircrafts deployment is inconsistent with Japan’s legal positions. In addition, Minister Iwaya expressed a concern about the vigorous activities of Russian military aircrafts around Japan and called for a calm response from Russia.

The Russian ministers expressed their stance with regard to concerns about Japan’s missile defense system, including Aegis Ashore. In response, Minister Iwaya explained the National Defense Program Guidelines that were formulated in 2018, noting in particular that Japan’s

missile defense system, including Aegis Ashore, which the Russian side had been noted, is purely defensive, and as such does not pose any threats to neighboring countries including Russia.

(2) Defense exchanges

The ministers welcomed the recent successful visit to Russia by the Chief of Staff of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF). It was confirmed that joint Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX) will take place in Vladivostok in mid-June and that towards the end of the year a Russian naval commander will visit Japan. The ministers also confirmed that the JGSDF Central Band will take part in the International Military Tattoo “Spasskaya Tower” in Moscow this coming summer.

(3) Japan-Russia cooperation on responses non-traditional threats

With regard to cooperation on responses non-traditional threats, such as in the field of counter-narcotics, the ministers shared the view that positive cooperation outcomes are being built up between Japan and Russia in this area.

2 Regional Affairs

(1) North Korea

The ministers exchanged opinions about the latest developments relating to North Korea, and Minister Iwaya pointed out that the launch of a short-range ballistic missile by North Korea on May 9th was a clear violation of UNSCRs. The ministers confirmed that Japan and Russia will continue to cooperate on achieving the denuclearization of North Korea which is a common goal for both countries.

(2) Free and Open Indo-Pacific

In the course of discussions on regional affairs, the Japanese ministers conveyed their wishes to continue to engage in dialogue with Russia in order to realize the vision for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

(3) Other matters

The ministers exchanged the views about a range of urgent international issues including Iran, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.



Minister Iwaya Meets With then U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan

On June 4th, Minister of Defense Iwaya met with Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan at the MOD.

1 Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation

Minister Iwaya welcomed the Indo-Pacific Strategy Report (IPSR) recently published by the U.S. Both sides confirmed their intent to work closely in efforts laid out in the strategy documents of both countries, in the direction confirmed at the Japan-U.S. “2+2,” including the efforts in the IPSR.

Sharing a sense of urgency, both sides confirmed the necessity to deepen Japan-U.S. cooperation in new domains such as space, cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum. Both sides agreed to promote Japan-U.S. cooperation for cross-domain operations including enhanced operational cooperation by improving the interoperability and verification of bilateral cooperation procedures through various exercises.

2 Free and Open Indo-Pacific

Both sides renewed their shared recognition about the importance of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Minister Iwaya expressed his intent to strengthen the cooperation with the U.S. efforts to maintain and strengthen the Free and Open Indo-Pacific laid out in the IPSR. Both sides also confirmed the significance of cooperation with various partners in this effort.



3 Regional Affairs

Both sides discussed the regional affairs based on discussions held at the Shangri-La Dialogue. In particular, both sides exchanged opinions on the latest development concerning the issue of North Korea and confirmed the importance of continuing to fully implement the UNSCRs towards CVID of all North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Both sides reaffirmed to work closely together between Japan and the U.S. and between Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

4 U.S. Forces in Japan

Minister Iwaya requested cooperation in efforts to mitigate the impact on local communities including Okinawa, and both sides agreed to cooperate closely between Japan and the U.S. to steadily implement the realignment initiatives of U.S. forces in Japan including the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma to Henoko. Minister Iwaya also asked for efforts to minimize the operational impact of the U.S. Forces on local communities including the noise of transient aircrafts. Both sides also confirmed the importance to ensure the safe operations of the U.S. forces.



Multilateral Exercise Khaan Quest 19

From June 14th through 28th, the JGSDF participated in Multinational Exercise Khaan Quest 19 in Mongolia, hosted by Mongolia and the U.S. This exercise is organized with the goal of improving various skills for the UN peacekeeping operations as well as reinforcing mutual understanding and trust among participating countries.

More than 30 countries including those in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe took part in this exercise.

The JGSDF sent approx. 60 personnel from the Ground Component Command, and conducted field training event, command post exercise and other exercises on the UN peacekeeping operations.



Minister Iwaya’s visit to JASDF Yokota Air Base and the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan

On June 19th, Minister Iwaya visited the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) Yokota Air Base to encourage the JASDF personnel, and the adjacent headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) to have a discussion with Air Force Lieutenant General Kevin B. Schneider. During the discussion, Minister Iwaya extended his appreciation to Lt. Gen. Schneider, Commander of the USFJ and the 5th Air Force, for his dedication to the peace and stability in the

region, the development of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and the day-to-day efforts for the relationship with the local communities. In addition, Minister Iwaya expressed his intent to further strengthen cooperation between the JSDF and USFJ after having confirmed during the visit that the JASDF’s Air Defense Command and USFJ were closely cooperating with each other.



Equipment

Type 96 Armored Personnel Carrier

In this issue, we will introduce the Type 96 Armored Personnel Carrier.

The type 96 Armored Personnel Carriers are mainly deployed to units such as infantry troops and are used for operational maneuvers as well as transporting personnel under enemy threats.

These armored vehicles are equipped with combat tires allowing them to excel in combat situations by providing high-speed battlefield mobility under the threats of enemy fire. When mounted with automatic grenade launchers, they are also enabled to provide effective ground control.

Specifications and performance	▷Capacity: 10 people	▷Weight: approx. 14.5t	▷Length: 6.84m	▷Width: 2.48m	▷Height: 1.85m
	▷Minimum ground clearance: 0.45m	▷Max speed: 100km/h	▷Range: Over 500km		
	▷Engine: Water-cooled 4-cycle straight six 360ps/2,200rpm diesel engine				
Equipment	▷Type 96 40mm grenade launcher or 12.7mm heavy machine gun				

Koraku-en Garden



Okayama Prefecture

© Okayama Korakuen Garden

Japan has many gardens with beautiful scenery, and among them all, Kenroku-en (Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture), Kairaku-en (Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture), and Koraku-en (Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture), which we will introduce this time, are famous gardens called “Three Great Gardens of Japan.”

Koraku-en, located in Okayama City in western Japan, was built approx. 300 years ago in the early Edo period (from 17th to 19th century) as a place of peace for Okayama’s feudal lord.

Surrounded by the Asahi River that flows through the city, this garden, situated on the river island, opposite side of *Okayama Castle*, was designated as a nation’s Special Place of Scenic Beauty in 1952 and is maintained

and preserved as a historic cultural heritage to be passed on to future generations.

In the garden’s central area, there is an elegant meandering stream. In addition, there is a building with a waterway running through it. This building, known as “*Ryu-ten*,” offers a beautiful view of the garden from its sitting area.

The JGSDF is stationed at the Camp Nihonbara in Katsuta District, Okayama. The 13th Artillery Unit, the 13th Tank Company, the 13th Antiaircraft Artillery Company, and the 13th Logistic Support Unit, etc. are stationed there, training hard day and night, under the commanding policies “A Bright and Lively Camp” and “Integration with the Local Communities”.



- Courtesy Call by H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) (Jun. 20)



H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias



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May 2019: "We Are Tomodachi Spring /Summer 2019" Released