

terrorist attack on a restaurant in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that occurred in July 2016 as well as the large-scale bombings in Sri Lanka that occurred in April 2019, the threat of international terrorism must be considered a problem facing Japan, too.

In this manner, there is a growing risk that the impact of regional conflict and threat of terrorism will spread as a factor of instability affecting the entire international community, not just a single country or single region. It is important for members of the international community to review approaches to international frameworks and their involvement based on their respective characteristics and to seek out appropriate responses. As for regional conflicts, the mission of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations has expanded to a wide range of fields including civilian and policing activities: supervision of disarmament, security

force reforms, election and government monitoring, and humanitarian assistance such as refugee repatriation. In particular, there is growing importance placed on missions for protecting civilians and women and for peace building. Additionally, there are examples in which multinational forces and regional institutions authorized by the UN Security Council are working for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

In terms of international counterterrorism, there is growing importance for international cooperation due to the spread of activities by terrorist organizations across international borders. At present, in addition to the use of military means, the entire international community is taking initiatives to block sources of financing for terrorist organizations and to prevent the international transfer of terrorists.

Section 2

Military Trends in the Neighboring Countries of Japan

Qualitatively and quantitatively superior military powers concentrate in Japan's surroundings where clear trends are observed in further military build-up and increase in military activities.

The Indo-Pacific region, including Japan, abounds in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity. Also, views on security and perceptions of threats are different by country. Therefore, a regional cooperation framework in the security realm has not been sufficiently institutionalized, and longstanding issues of territorial rights and reunification continue to remain in the region.

In the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people have been divided for more than half a century, and the faceoff continues between the military forces of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and North Korea. There are issues concerning Taiwan and the South China Sea. Furthermore, with regard to Japan, territorial disputes over the Northern Territories and Takeshima, both of which are inherent parts of the territory of Japan, remain unresolved.

On top of this, recent years have seen a continued tendency towards the prolongation of "gray-zone" situations—which are neither purely peacetime nor contingency situations—as part of state-to-state competition, and it is possible that those situations may increase and expand. The gray-zone situations harbor the risk of rapidly developing into graver situations without showing clear indications.

(1) The United States

While remaining to possess the world's largest comprehensive national power, the United States, with inter-

state competition in a range of areas prominently emerging, has acknowledged that a particularly important challenge is strategic competition with China and Russia, who attempt to alter global and regional order.

To rebuild its military power, the United States is engaged in such efforts as maintaining military advantage in all domains through technological innovations, enhancing nuclear deterrence, and advancing missile defense capabilities. The United States upholds defense commitments to allies and partners, and maintains forward force presence, while calling on them to share greater responsibility. The United States frames the Indo-Pacific as a priority region where it adopts a policy of strengthening alliances and partnerships.

Member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), including the United States, are reviewing their strategies to deal with coercive attempts to alter the status-quo as well as "hybrid warfare." In view of changes in the security environment, NATO member states have been increasing their defense expenditures.

(2) China

With an aim to build "world-class forces" by the mid-21st century, China has sustained high-level growth of defense expenditures with continued lack of transparency. China has engaged in broad, rapid improvement of its military power in qualitative and quantitative terms with focus on nuclear, missile, naval and air forces. China is also strengthening capabilities in new domains that are essential for modern military operations, including space, cyber and electromagnetic domains. China is also

improving missile defense penetration capabilities and amphibious landing capabilities. China is also improving missile defense penetration capabilities and amphibious landing capabilities. Such capability enhancement serves to improve the so-called Anti-Access/Area Denial (“A2/AD”) capabilities—capabilities to deny access and deployment of foreign militaries to one’s surrounding areas and to disrupt their military operations therein—as well as to build capabilities with which to conduct military operations over greater distances. In addition, China is promoting Civil-Military Fusion policy in areas of national defense, science & technology and industry, and actively developing and acquiring cutting-edge technologies of potential military utility.

China engages in unilateral, coercive attempts to alter the status quo based on its own assertions that are incompatible with existing international order. In the East China Sea and other waters, China is expanding and intensifying its military activities at sea and in the air. Around the Senkaku Islands, an inherent part of Japanese territory, despite Japan’s strong protests, Chinese government vessels continually violate Japanese territorial waters, and Chinese naval ships continuously operate in waters around the Islands. China has already been indicating its policy of strengthening cooperation between the navy and the maritime law-enforcement division in order to protect its maritime interests. As an example of the strengthening of the cooperation, in July 2018, the China Coast Guard to which Chinese government vessels repeatedly intruding into Japanese territorial waters belonged were integrated into the People’s Armed Police, which are under the unified command of the Central Military Commission.

China is also expanding its military activities in the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan. In particular, the Chinese military in recent years has frequently advanced to the Pacific, with its navigation routes and unit composition becoming more diverse. In the South China Sea, China has forcibly conducted large-scale, rapid reclamation of maritime features, which are being converted into military footholds. China in the South China Sea is also expanding and intensifying its maritime and air activities.

Such Chinese military and other developments, coupled with the lack of transparency surrounding its defense policy and military power, represent a serious security concern for the region including Japan and for the international community. Japan needs to continue to pay utmost attention to these developments. China is eagerly expected to play

active roles in a more cooperative manner in the region and the international community.

(3) North Korea

North Korea in recent years has launched ballistic missiles at unprecedented frequency, rapidly improving its operational capabilities, such as simultaneous launch and surprise attack. Given technological maturity obtained through a series of nuclear tests, North Korea is assessed as having already successfully miniaturized nuclear weapons to fit ballistic missile warheads. Although North Korea expressed its intention for complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and blew up its nuclear test site in public, it has not carried out the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner: there has been no essential change in North Korea’s nuclear and missile capabilities.

North Korea is assessed as possessing large-scale cyber units as part of its asymmetric military capabilities, engaging in theft of military secrets and developing capabilities to attack critical infrastructure of foreign countries. North Korea also retains large-scale special operation forces.

Such military developments of North Korea pose serious and imminent threats to Japan’s security and significantly undermine the peace and security of the region and the international community. Also, through UN Security Council resolutions, the international community made it clear that North Korea’s nuclear- and ballistic missile-related activities constitute a clear threat to international peace and security.

As for North Korea’s abduction of Japanese nationals, the utmost efforts continue to be made to realize the return of all abductees to Japan as quickly as possible by close cooperation with related countries including the US.

(3) Russia

It is deemed that Russia has promoted the strengthening of the readiness of its Armed Forces and the development and acquisition of new equipment, while giving priority to modernizing its nuclear force from the viewpoint of making up for its disadvantage in terms of conventional weapons in

KEY WORD

“Anti-Access/Area-Denial” [“A2/AD”] capabilities

Anti-Access (A2) is a concept introduced by the United States. It refers to capabilities, usually long-range, designed to prevent an opposing force from entering an operational area. Area-Denial (AD) refers to capabilities, usually of shorter range, designed to limit an opposing force’s freedom of action within the operational area. Weapons used for A2/AD include ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, anti-satellite weapons, air-defense systems, submarines, and mines.

addition to securing its international position and maintaining the nuclear power balance with the United States.

Russia's military activities are trending upward in the Arctic Circle, Europe, areas around the United States and the Middle East, as well as in the Far East, including Japan's Northern Territories. Specifically, Russia changed the status quo using force by engaging in so-called "hybrid warfare"¹ in Ukraine, which Russia regards as a part of its sphere of influence. Therefore, this is recognized as not only a strong concern for European countries, but also a global issue that could potentially engulf the entire international community, including Asia. Russia is also appearing to be expanding its influence internationally, including through its involvement in the Syria Civil War as a supporter of the Assad regime.

In the Far East, the number of scrambles by Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) aircraft against aircraft of the Russian Armed Forces has remained at a high level, and in this region, the Russian Armed Forces have conducted large-scale exercises. Russia has unveiled the deployment of coastal (surface-to-ship) missiles in the Northern Territories, and there have been media reports about the start of the deployment of fighter aircraft on Etorofu Island, indicating Russia's efforts to enhance armaments in the region. Therefore, continued attention needs to be paid to Russian military development in the Far East, including the Northern Territories.

As seen above, in the Asia-Pacific region, where the security environment has increasingly grown severe, the

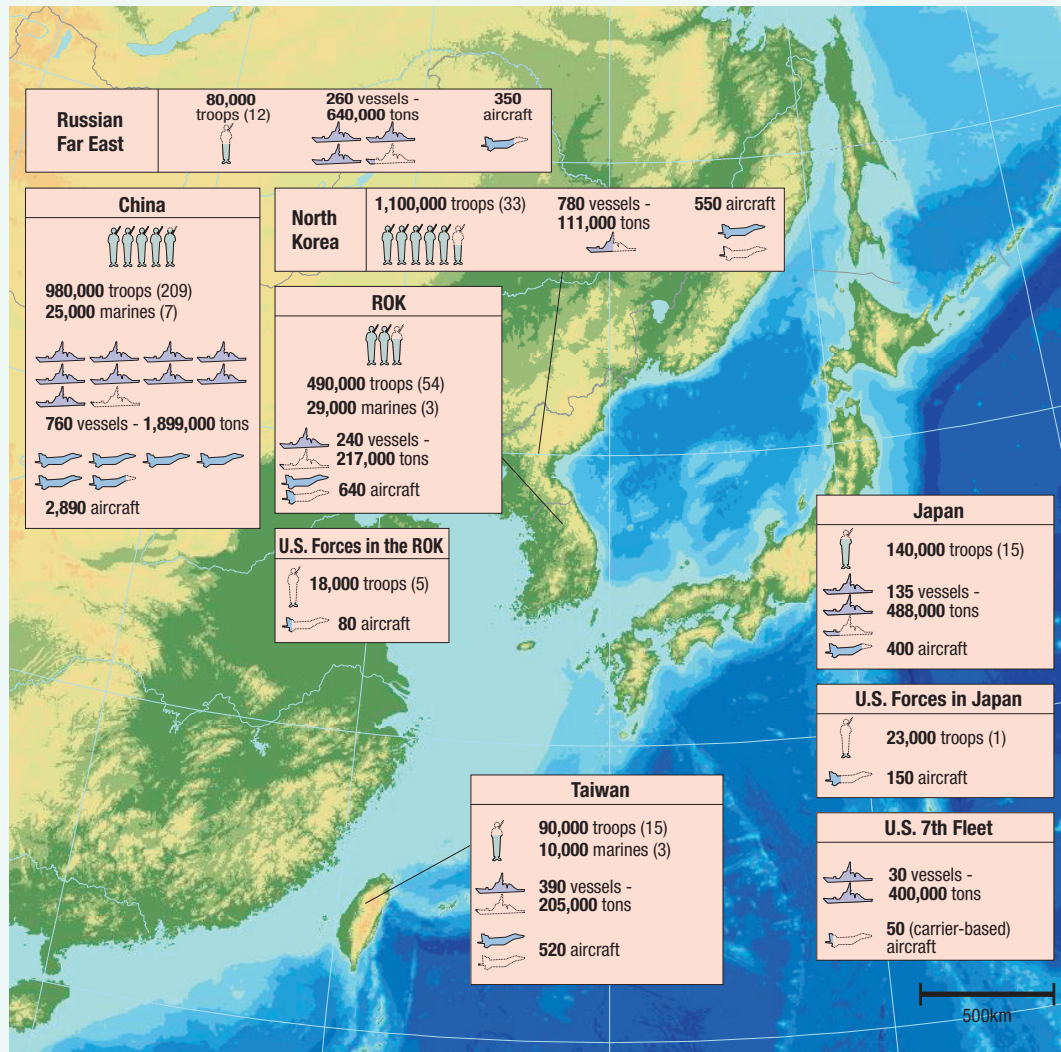
presence of the U.S. Forces remains extremely important in order to achieve regional stability. Accordingly, Japan and other countries, such as Australia and the ROK, have established bilateral alliances and partnerships with the United States, and allow the stationing and rotational deployment of the U.S. Forces in their territories. In regard to the responses to the unilateral changes in the status quo by force or coercion based on unique assertions, it is important for the international community centered around countries in the region to make concerted efforts to protect the existing international order based on law.

Meanwhile, countries in the region have made efforts to enhance and strengthen specific and practical intra-regional coordination and collaboration with a particular focus on non-traditional security fields such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Opportunities for bilateral defense exchanges between countries in the region have increased in recent years. Multilateral security dialogues, including the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), conferences hosted by nongovernmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers, and bilateral and multilateral exercises are held. Promoting and developing such multilayered approaches among countries is also important to ensure stability in the region.

Q See Fig. I-1-2-1 (Major Military Forces in the Asia-Pacific Region [Approximate Strength])

¹ Asymmetrical military capabilities, in this context, refer to means of attack different from those of an opponent with superior conventional military capabilities. Such measures are exploited to compensate for disadvantages in conventional weapons and troops. Examples include WMDs, ballistic missiles, terrorism, and cyber attacks.

Fig. I-1-2-1 Major Military Forces in the Asia-Pacific Region (Approximate Strength)



- Notes: 1 Source: "The Military Balance 2019," documents published by the U.S. DoD, etc.
2 Figures for Japan indicate the strength of each SDF as of the end of FY2018; the number of combat aircraft is the sum of ASDF aircraft (excluding transport aircraft) and MSDF aircraft (fixed-wing aircraft only).
3 Figures for the U.S. ground forces in Japan and the ROK are those of the Army and Marine Corps personnel combined.
4 Combat aircraft include Navy and Marine aircraft.
5 Figures in parentheses show the total number of central units, such as divisions and brigades. That of North Korea shows only divisions. That of Taiwan includes military police as well.
6 The number of U.S. 7th Fleet vessels and aircraft indicates those which are forward-deployed in Japan and Guam.
7 Figures of combat aircraft of the U.S. Forces, Japan and the U.S. 7th Fleet include only fighters.

Legend:

Ground forces (200,000 troops) Naval vessels (200,000 tons) Combat aircraft (500 aircraft)