

The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG)¹ reflects the recognition that Japan, even amid the realities of security environment it has hitherto never faced, must strive to preserve national interests identified in the National Security Strategy—defend to the end Japanese nationals' life, person and property, territorial land, waters and airspace, and its sovereignty and independence. Based on that recognition, the NDPG identifies national defense objectives and the means to achieve them.

To this end, the NDPG defines national defense objectives as follows: first, to create, on a steady-state basis, security environment desirable for Japan by integrating and drawing on the strengths at the nation's disposal; second, to deter

threat from reaching Japan by making opponent realize that doing harm to Japan would be difficult and consequential; and finally, should threat reach Japan, to squarely counter the threat and minimize damage.

Furthermore, the NDPG provides that Japan will strengthen each of the means by which to successfully achieve these national defense objectives: Japan's own architecture for national defense; the Japan-U.S. Alliance; and international security cooperation, which are three pillars of Japan's defense.

Part III explains initiatives by the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) based on these three pillars of Japan's defense.

Section

1

Truly Effective Defense Capability

As described below, concerning the strengthening of Japan's own architecture for national defense, the NDPG identifies the significance and necessity of defense capacity, and states

that Japan will build a truly effective defense capability, "Multi-Domain Defense Force."

1

Significance and Necessity of Defense Capability

Defense capability is the ultimate guarantor of Japan's national security. Defense capability represents Japan's will and ability to: deter threat from reaching Japan; and should threat reach Japan, eliminate the threat and, as a sovereign nation, by exerting efforts on its own accord and initiative, defend to the end Japanese nationals' life, person and property as well as territorial land, waters and airspace.

At the same time, defense capability is essential for Japan to play on its initiative its roles in the Japan-U.S. Alliance at all phases from peacetime to armed contingencies.

Strengthening Japan's defense capability to provide for national security is none other than strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Defense capability is essential also for advancing Japan's efforts in security cooperation with other countries.

Defense capability is the most important strength for Japan in retaining self-sustained existence as a sovereign nation amid security environment it has never faced before. Japan must strengthen this capability on its own accord and initiative.

2

Truly Effective Defense Capability—Multi-domain Defense Force

To be able to deter and counter qualitatively and quantitatively superior military threats in increasingly testing security environment, it has become vitally important to adapt to warfare that combines capabilities in new domains—space,

cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum—and traditional domains—land, sea and air.

Japan needs to develop, while qualitatively and quantitatively enhancing capabilities in individual domains, a

¹ See Part II, Chapter 3, Section 1, Footnote 1