

Section  
2

## Strengthening Ability of Japan-U.S. Alliance to Deter and Counter Threats

The NDPG provides that, for strengthening the ability of the Japan-U.S. Alliance to deter and counter threats, in all stages from peacetime to armed contingencies as well as during disasters, Japan will enhance information sharing with the United States, conduct effective and smooth bilateral coordination involving all relevant organizations and take all necessary measures to ensure Japan's peace and security.

For these purposes, Japan will further deepen various operational cooperation and policy coordination with the United States. In particular, Japan will expand and deepen

cooperation in: space and cyber domains; comprehensive air and missile defense; bilateral training and exercises; bilateral ISR operations; and bilateral flexible deterrent options. Japan will also promote development and update of bilateral plans and deepen the Extended Deterrence Dialogue. In addition, Japan will even more actively conduct activities such as logistic support for U.S. force activities and protection of U.S. ships and aircraft.

## 1 Cooperation in Space and Cyber Domains

## 1 Cooperation on Space

With regard to cooperation on space, based on the agreement at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in November 2009 to promote cooperation in the area of space security as part of initiatives to deepen the Japan-U.S. Alliance, the two countries have periodically been working together to discuss how they should cooperate in the future, such as the holding of the 1st Japan-U.S. Space Security Dialogue in September 2010 with the participation of relevant ministries and agencies.

Furthermore, the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2012 decided to deepen the space-based partnership for civil and security purposes and to create a whole-of government comprehensive dialogue on space, enabling relevant ministries and agencies to hold the 1st whole-of government Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space in March 2013. The two countries have been sharing information on their respective space policies and discussing plans for future cooperation on a regular basis.

Moreover, based on the instructions given by the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting of April 2015, the two countries established the Space Cooperation Working Group (SCWG) to further promote the cooperation among bilateral defense authorities in the area of space. The SCWG has held five meetings in total since its establishment in October 2015 (the most recent meeting was in January 2019). Going forward, Japan and the United States will leverage this working group to deepen discussions in a wide variety of areas, including (1) promoting space policy dialogue, (2) reinforcing information sharing, (3) working together to

develop and secure experts, and (4) continued participation in tabletop exercises.



Part III, Chapter 3, Section 3-1 (Cooperation in the Use of Space Domain)

## 2 Cooperation on Cyberspace

Concerning cooperation on cyberspace, the Cyber Defense Policy Working Group (CDPWG) was established in October 2013 as a framework between the MOD and the DoD to discuss a broad range of professional and concrete issues, including the sharing of information at the policy level, human resources development, and technical cooperation.

The Guidelines released in April 2015 and the CDPWG Joint Statement published in May 2015 cited the prompt and appropriate establishment of an information sharing structure and the protection of the critical infrastructure upon which the SDF and the U.S. Forces depend to accomplish their missions as examples of cooperation between the Japanese and U.S. Governments. In addition, as part of cooperation between the SDF and the U.S. Forces, the securing of the resiliency of their respective networks and systems and the implementation of educational exchanges and joint exercises were also cited. Japan and the United States will further accelerate bilateral cyber defense cooperation in line with the direction presented by the Guidelines and the CDPWG Joint Statement.



Part III, Chapter 3, Section 3-2 (Cooperation in the Use of Cyber Domain)

## 2 Comprehensive Air and Missile Defense

Regarding the response to airborne threats coming to Japan, such as ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and aircraft, Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities have been enhanced by sharing operation information and establishing response procedures.

For the repeated ballistic missile launches by North Korea, Japan and the United States have conducted coordinated responses utilizing the ACM. Also, in the systems and

technology field, the cooperative development of a new ballistic missile defense (BMD) interceptor with enhanced capabilities (SM-3 Block IIA) is steadily in progress. In January 2019, the United States released its Missile Defense Review (MDR) in which it clearly indicated the importance of cooperation with allies, including Japan.

**Q See** Part III Chapter 1, Section 2-2-2 (Response to Missile Attacks)

## 3 Bilateral Training and Exercises

Bilateral training in peacetime not only contributes greatly to maintaining and enhancing the Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities by improving interoperability including mutual understanding of tactics and mutual communication, but is also beneficial for improving tactical skills on each side. In particular, the knowledge and techniques that the Japanese side can learn from the U.S. Forces, which have vast experience in actual fighting, are invaluable and greatly contribute to improving SDF capabilities.

In addition, conducting bilateral training at effective times, places, and scales demonstrates the unified commitment and capabilities of Japan and the United States, which has a deterrent effect. In light of these perspectives, the MOD/SDF is continuing its initiatives to enrich the contents of bilateral training and exercises.

Bilateral training has been expanded not only within Japan but also to the United States by dispatching SDF units there. Ongoing efforts are being made to enhance interoperability and Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities at the military branch and unit levels, including the Japan-U.S. Bilateral Regional Army command post exercises, special anti-submarine exercises, and Japan-U.S. Bilateral Fighter

combat training.

Since FY1985, mostly on an annual basis, command post exercises and field training exercises have been conducted alternately as the Japan-U.S. bilateral exercise. From January to February 2018, command post exercises were conducted at the Ministry of Defense in Ichigaya. Also, from October to November of the same year, a Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise (field training) (Keen Sword 19) was carried out in the water areas and airspace around Japan and in areas including Guam of the United States, with approximately 47,000 personnel, 20 vessels, and 170 aircraft taking part from Japan's Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces (GSDF, MSDF, and ASDF).

As for recent training and exercises, the SDF participated in the multilateral exercise "Rim of the Pacific Joint Exercise (RIMPAC) 2018" organized by the United States Navy from June to August 2018, and conducted anti-submersible warfare training and amphibious training as well as training in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR). In the exercise, the GSDF held its first bilateral anti-ship exercise with the U.S. Army and the MSDF using the Type 12 surface-to-ship missile system.



Planning meeting held at Orient Shield, field training with the U.S. Army (from August to September 2018)



Japanese and U.S. vessels and aircraft participating in the FY2018 Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise (field training exercise) (November 2018)

Meanwhile, Japan and the United States have conducted bilateral training in various waters and airspace. In October 2018, vessels including MSDF Destroyer JS “Kirisame” and U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan carried out Japan-U.S. bilateral training from around the Bashi Channel to the area south of Kyushu through the waters to the east of Okinawa. In June 2019, as part of Indo-Pacific Deployment, vessels including MSDF Destroyer JS “Izumo” and U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan carried out Japan-U.S. bilateral training in the South East Sea.

Since 2017, the ASDF has conducted various training with U.S. Air Force strategic bomber B-52 in airspace over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea. In addition, from May till June 2019, the ASDF participated in “RED FLAG-Alaska,” an exercise conducted by the U.S. Air Force in Alaska, and conducted training on air defense combat operation training, etc.

The Japan-U.S. bilateral training was conducted with the aim of enhancing the tactical skills of the SDF and bolstering collaboration with the U.S. Forces. It is believed that bolstering Japan-U.S. collaboration and demonstrating



ASDF F-15s and U.S. Air Force B-52s conducting bilateral training (July 2018)

bilateral ties as an outcome has the effect of further enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the overall Japan-U.S. Alliance and demonstrating Japan's determination and high capacity towards stabilizing the region in an increasingly severe security environment for Japan.

In recent years, the USFJ have also participated in disaster drills organized by local governments, thereby deepening cooperation with relevant institutions and local governments.

**Q See**

Reference 27 (Record of Main Japan-U.S. Bilateral Exercises in FY2018)

## 4 ISR Activities

With regard to bilateral ISR activities, it is important to implement ISR activities in a broad Asia-Pacific region in cooperation between Japan and the United States to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities of both countries.

The expansion of these ISR activities will function as

deterrence capabilities, and will also ensure information superiority over other nations and enable the establishment of a seamless cooperation structure in all phases from peacetime to contingencies.

## 5 Maritime Security

In accordance with the Guideline and others, the two governments will cooperate closely with each other on measures to maintain maritime order based upon international law, including freedom of navigation. The SDF and the United States Armed Forces will cooperate,

as appropriate, on various efforts such as maintaining and enhancing bilateral presence in the maritime domain through ISR and training and exercises, while further developing and enhancing shared maritime domain awareness including by coordinating with relevant agencies, as necessary.

## 6 Logistics Support

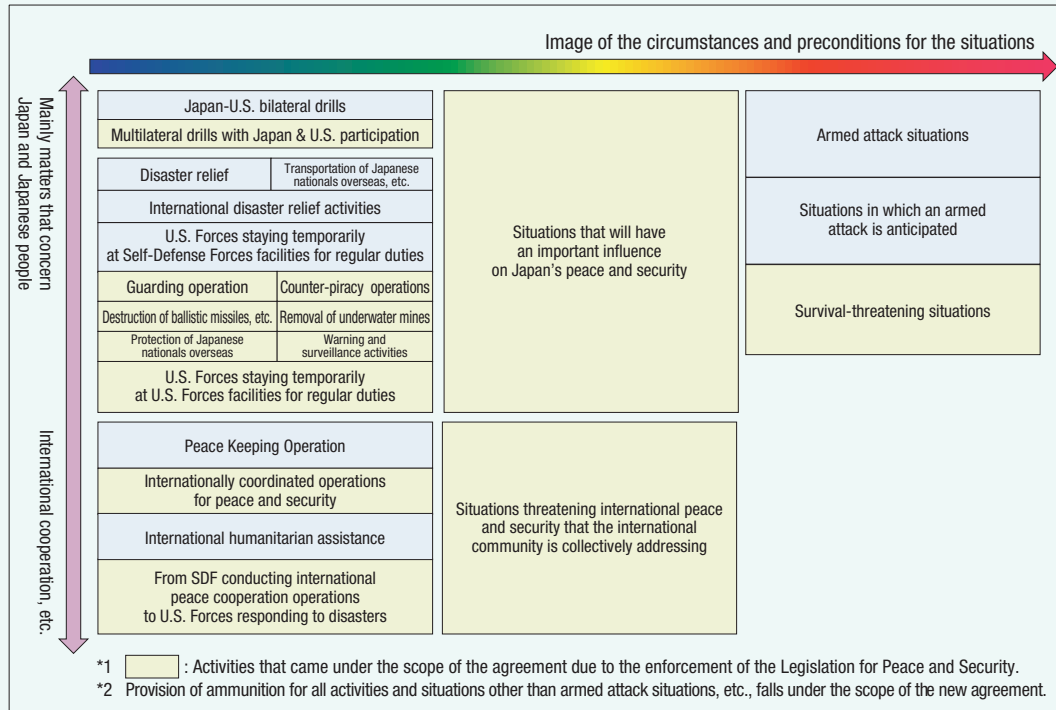
Japan-U.S. cooperation is also being steadily promoted through logistics support based on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement<sup>1</sup> (ACSA) signed in 1996 and revised in 1999 and 2004. The Agreement is designed to positively contribute to the smooth and effective operation under the

Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and to initiatives for international peace taken under the leadership of the United Nations. Its scope of application includes various occasions such as bilateral training and exercises in peacetime, disaster relief activities, UN PKO, international disaster relief activities,

<sup>1</sup> The official title is the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Logistic Support, Supplies and Services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

**Fig. III-2-2-1** Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)**Significance of reciprocal provision of supplies and services**

In general, supplies and services necessary for unit operations are replenished by the units themselves. However, in such cases where units of allied nations are operating together, the reciprocal provision of supplies and services on site would enhance the flexibility of the operations.

**Scope of the Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)**

situations in areas surrounding Japan, and armed attack situations. If either the SDF or the U.S. Forces request the other party to provide supplies or services, the Agreement, in principle, allows the requested party to do so.<sup>2</sup>

Following the passage of the Legislation for Peace and Security in September 2015, the new Japan-U.S. ACSA was signed in September 2016, ratified by the Diet on April 14, 2017, and entered into force on April 25. This has enabled the same framework as the existing Japan-U.S. ACSA, such

as settlement procedures, to be applied to the provision of supplies and services that had become possible under the Legislation for Peace and Security, so that since April 2017 food and fuel have been provided to U.S. Forces engaged in information collection and other activities.

**Q See** Part II, Chapter 5, Section 2-3-8 (Expansion of the Provisions of Supplies and Services to the United States Armed Forces) Part II, Chapter 5, Section 3-4 (Conclusion of the New Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement [ACSA]) Fig. III-2-2-1 (Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement [ACSA])

## 7 Cooperation in Response to a Large-Scale Disaster in Japan

In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, the SDF and the U.S. Forces demonstrated their high-level joint response capabilities based on the strong ties they had developed. The success of the joint response between the U.S. Forces and the SDF through Operation Tomodachi was the result of Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training and Exercises over many years, and will lead to the Alliance being deepened further in the future. Operation Tomodachi involved the

deployment of a large-scale force at its peak, including troops of approximately 16,000 personnel, around 15 ships, and around 140 aircraft, resulting in relief activities that were unprecedented in scale and contributing greatly to Japan's restoration and reconstruction. Not only those affected but numerous Japanese at large were filled with a deepened sense of appreciation and trust for the USFJ.

On the other hand, some issues have emerged, such as

<sup>2</sup> The categories of supplies and services as provided under the Agreement include: food; water; billeting; transportation (including airlift); petroleum, oils, and lubricants; clothing; communications; medical services; base support; storage; use of facilities; training services; spare parts and components; repair and maintenance; airport and seaport services; and ammunition (only in armed attack situations and anticipated situations) (Provision of weapons is not included)