

1970



- Defense of Japan published for the first time
- The impetus for its publication was the belief of NAKASONE Yasuhiro, Director General of what was then the Defense Agency, that "more than anything else, it is the understanding, active support, and cooperation of the people that is essential to the defense of the nation."
- 94 pages long

1976



- Published for the second time
- Provided more enhanced content than the first edition. Total number of pages increased to 174
- Took on roughly the same structure it has today
- Both Japanese and English editions published annually ever since
- Was published in A5 format until 1999, but the total number of pages grew to 498 in the 1999 edition

Defense
Chronology first
published



The 1977 edition contained no photographs, only illustrations (the one below was used in an explanation about the GSDF)



Special
Feature

3

50 Years of the Defense of Japan

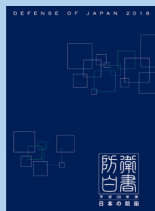
Published for the first time in 1970, the Defense of Japan white paper has been published annually since 1976. This year marks the 50th anniversary of its first publication. The objective of Defense of Japan is to provide a widespread awareness of the current state of our nation's defense, as well as related issues and initiatives, thereby gaining the understanding of readers both within Japan and overseas. To achieve this, various approaches have been devised in order to ensure that as many citizens as possible can obtain a copy of Defense of Japan. Efforts will continue to ensure that this publication is comprehensible, readable, and user-friendly, to promote understanding of the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces.

Look!

2020



- This year's edition features columns highlighting the voices of around 50 SDF personnel deployed in various settings both within Japan and overseas (about twice as many voices as last year)
- There are also QR codes that you can scan to watch related videos immediately!

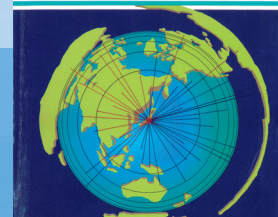


Reiwa

1989-

平成元年版 防衛白書

防衛庁編
大蔵省印刷局発行



Photographs (black and white) begin to be used

Right: A column about the launch of the Defensive Memorial Cordon system

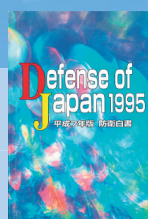
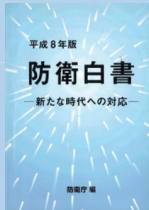


First use of color diagrams and of feature columns

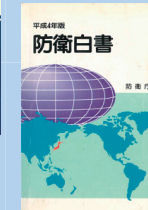


Color photographs first appeared in the 1983 edition

CD-ROM included (until 2002)



Index first published at the end



2000-

平成12年版 日本の防衛

Defense of Japan 2000



The first Defense of Japan special feature, "Towards 2000," was published.

2003-

平成15年版 日本の防衛



- Digest first published
- Columns highlighting the voices of personnel first published
- Publication on the MOD website began

Compact edition published (until 2009)



The digest began to be published at the beginning. The idea was that reading the digest would provide an overview of the whole white paper.



Smartphone edition first created



First published as an e-book



TOPICS "Defense Chronology" first appeared