

**Section
3****Strengthening and Expanding Cooperation in a Wide Range of Areas****1 Creation of a Desirable Security Environment**

The NDPG provides that in order to create a desirable security environment including maintaining and enhancing free and open maritime order, and with an eye on increasing Japanese and U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region, Japan will conduct bilateral activities.

1 Maritime Security

Both Japan and the United States have made efforts as maritime nations to maintain and develop “open and stable seas” according to fundamental rules such as securing the freedom and safety of navigation, and the rule of law including peaceful dispute resolution based on international law.

For example, Japan and the United States have worked closely together in various multilateral maritime security cooperation frameworks with such countries as those along the sea lanes, including Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) maritime interdiction exercises. In addition, the SDF has dispatched its officers to the U.S. Central Naval Command in Bahrain to carry out intelligence gathering activities in the Middle East, which began as a Japan-initiated activity in 2020.

The two countries have also been working closely together on providing multilateral capacity building in the maritime domain to countries including those along the sea lanes.

Q See Chapter 3, Section 2 (Ensuring Maritime Security)
Chapter 3, Section 4-2 (International Initiatives Aimed at Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction)

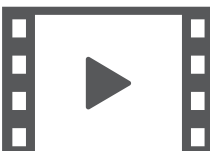
2 Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief

The SDF has conducted activities in close cooperation with the United States and other participating countries through activities pursuant to the former Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Act, and international disaster relief activities and international peacekeeping operations in the Philippines and Haiti.

Japan and the United States worked closely together at local multilateral coordination centers to respond to the typhoon disaster that hit the Philippines in November 2013. To respond to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, Japan started to dispatch liaison officers to the U.S. Africa Command in October 2014, coordinating efforts and collecting information with relevant countries including the United States, for close cooperation.

3 Trilateral and Multilateral Training and Exercises

Japan and the United States are promoting and enhancing trilateral and multilateral security and defense cooperation. The SDF is participating in trilateral (e.g., Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-India, and Japan-U.S.-ROK) and multilateral training, in addition to bilateral training and exercises between Japan and the United States.



Video : Japan-U.S.-India trilateral exercise “Malabar 2019”
URL : <https://youtu.be/eKuZ1EZfz4>

VOICE

Participating in Malabar 2019

Lieutenant Commander HATTORI Takayoshi,
Air Patrol Squadron 3, MSDF

As a captain of MSDF P-1, I participated in the Japan-U.S.-India trilateral exercise “Malabar 2019” (patrol aircraft units) held at Atsugi Air Base in September 2019. This was the 8th Malabar held with the participation of Japan and the 3rd Malabar as a Japan-U.S.-India trilateral exercise, but it was the first time that state-of-the-art patrol aircraft—P-1 of the MSDF, P-8A of the U.S. Navy and P-8I of the Indian Navy—lined up at Atsugi Air Base.



The author explaining precautions to the personnel of the U.S. Navy and the Indian Navy on board a P-1

The main focus of “Malabar 2019” was to conduct anti-submarine training together. The training convinced me of the U.S. Navy and the Indian Navy crew’s high degree of expertise and that they are reliable partners. We were also able to cultivate great friendship with each other by going through the rigorous training together. I believe that the trusting relationship built through the exercise is not only a valuable experience for me as a pilot but also conducive to security cooperation between the three countries and directly contributes to the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”



MSDF P-1 (center), P-8A of the U.S. Navy (left), P-8I of Indian Navy and crew members

2 Initiatives for Leveraging Capabilities

The NDPG provides that in order for Japan and the United States to be able to fully leverage their capabilities during bilateral activities, Japan will enhance and expand cooperation with the United States in such areas as equipment, technology, facility, and intelligence as well as information security.

1 Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation

Japan proactively promotes cooperation in defense equipment and technology with the U.S. based on the mutual cooperation principle from the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement between Japan and the United States of America, while bearing in mind the maintenance of the technological and industrial bases.

In view of the progress in technology cooperation between Japan and the United States, the improvement of technological

level, and other factors, Japan decided to transfer its military technology to the United States regardless of the Three Principles on Arms Exports and related guidelines. In 1983, Japan established the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Military Technologies to the United States of America.¹ In 2006, the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Arms and Military Technologies to the United States of America² was established to replace the foregoing Exchange of Notes. Under these frameworks, Japan decided to provide the United States with 20 items of arms and military technologies, including military technologies related to joint technological research on BMD. Japan and the United States consult with each other at forums such as the Systems and Technology Forum (S&TF) and conduct cooperative research and development regarding the specific projects agreed upon at these forums.

At the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting in June

¹ Official title: Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Military Technologies to the United States of America

² Official title: Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Arms and Military Technologies to the United States of America

2016, the Ministers signed a Reciprocal Defense Procurement Memorandum of Understanding (RDP MOU).³ The MOU promotes measures concerning the procurement of equipment by Japanese and U.S. defense authorities based on reciprocity (providing information necessary to submit bids to businesses of the other country, protecting submitted corporate information, waiving restrictions on participation by businesses of the other country, etc.).

Part IV, Chapter 2, Section 5-2 (Deepening Relationships with the United States regarding Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation) explains initiatives for the common maintenance base for the 24 MV-22 Ospreys deployed by the U.S. Marine Corps at MCAS Futenma and the V-22 Osprey deployed by the GSDF as well as initiatives for the maintenance depot (regional MRO&U Capability) in the Asia-Pacific region for F-35 fighter aircraft.

Q See Reference 22 (Japan-U.S. Joint Research and Development Projects)
Part IV, Chapter 2, Section 5-2 (Deepening Relationships with the United States regarding Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation)

2 Joint/Shared Use

The expansion of joint/shared use of facilities and areas increases bases for the SDF's activities such as maneuver areas, ports, and airfields, which in turn enhances the

diversity and efficiency of Japan-U.S. bilateral training and exercises, and expands the scope and raises the frequency of activities such as ISR. The SDF has only a limited number of facilities in Okinawa, including Naha Air Base, and most of them are located in urban areas, which results in operational limitations. The joint/shared use of facilities and areas of the USFJ in Okinawa will greatly improve the SDF's training environment in Okinawa, and facilitate implementation of joint training and exercises and increased interoperability between the SDF and the U.S. Forces. It will also improve readiness and contribute to ensuring the safety of local people in case of a disaster.

Thus, while taking into account the SDF defense posture in the regions, including the Southwestern Islands, and relations with local communities, Japan and the United States are proactively engaged in consultations, and specific initiatives are steadily progressing. For example, the GSDF has been using Camp Hansen since March 2008 for exercises purpose. Moreover, the relocation of the ASDF Air Defense Command to Headquarter Yokota in April 2012 and the relocation of the then GSDF Central Readiness Force Headquarters to Zama in March 2013 were carried out. In addition, the development of training ranges in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands (Tinian Island, Pagan Island, etc.) for shared use by the SDF and the U.S. Forces is under consideration.

³ Official title: Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of Defense of Japan concerning Reciprocal Defense Procurement