

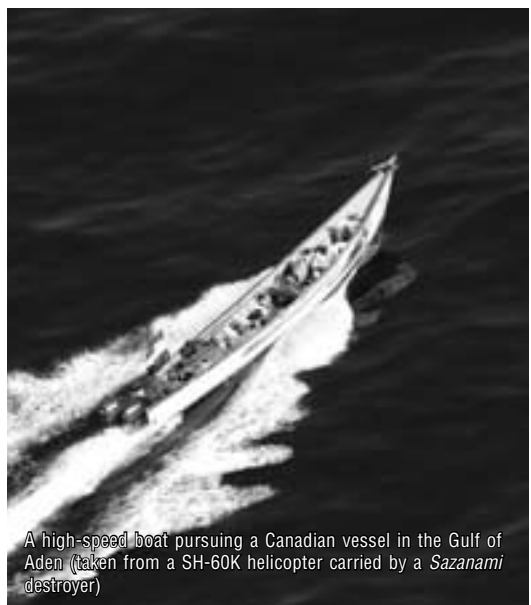
Part I

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Overview



North Korea's missile launch in April 2009 [KPS/IIJJ]



A high-speed boat pursuing a Canadian vessel in the Gulf of Aden (taken from a SH-60K helicopter carried by a *Sazanami* destroyer)

Overview

1 General Situation

1. Trends in the International Community

In the international community today, although the recent economic crisis has spawned a certain degree of protectionism, interdependence among sovereign states could be said to be deep.

Interdependence has brought stability and prosperity to many countries, but it also has a downside, in that economic crises, matters of security or elements of regional instability transcend national borders and spread globally. It is therefore in the interests of every nation to secure global and regional peace, stability and prosperity by creating a more stable international security environment. It is now more important than ever that the states concerned work cooperatively to resolve the problems that the international community faces.

The United States, the world's sole superpower, has played a leading role in addressing international issues. Now, although it has been pointed out that the relative superiority of the United States, including its military power, will decline in the future, it is considered that the United States will still be the most influential state in the international community. President Obama, inaugurated in January 2009, made it clear that the United States intends to strengthen the existing alliances, forge new alliances and use all elements of its national power in order to meet the common challenges of the international community, saying "America cannot meet the threats of this century alone, but the world cannot meet them without America."

In the meantime, China and India have established themselves as rising powers with their remarkable economic growth. Russia has recovered from the social and economic difficulties of the 1990's, and its national power is on the rise. Although the global economic crisis appears to have engendered an economic slowdown, the relative international influence of these multi-polar-oriented countries is expected to increase.

These trends should be seen as a great opportunity for international coordination and cooperation. At the same time, since developments in these countries may have a considerable impact on the security environment, these developments, as well as relations of mutual dependence and the question of what kind of relations should be forged with these countries, are receiving increasing attention.

2. Major Security Issues

The proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as well as ballistic missiles and their means of delivery constitute a continued and significant threat to the international community. In particular, the proliferation of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles and Iran's nuclear program pose a concern. Also, concerns remain over the acquisition or use of WMD by non-state actors, including international terrorist organizations, against which deterrence works less effectively.

Globally dispersed cells of international and local terrorist organizations as well as their ideological sympathizers continue to resort to acts of terrorism, which have been occurring in Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The United States and other countries are continuing their efforts in the fight against terrorism, but it is becoming a long-standing issue.

Regional conflicts with diverse and complex backgrounds are still present in every part of the world and proactive efforts are being made to manage and resolve conflicts through Peace Keeping Operations (PKO), regional frameworks and multinational forces, mainly in the Middle East and Africa. It has also been pointed out that new factors that influence the global security environment may possibly emerge when competition for energy resources between sovereign states and climate change become more prominent issues in the future.

Ensuring the safety of maritime transportation, which, as the cornerstone of the international distribution of goods, has always been considered imperative, is becoming increasingly important in light of the recent increase

in acts of piracy. United Nations Security Council resolutions against acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden have been adopted, and the international community is making efforts to combat piracy by dispatching ships. Reflecting further advances in military science and technology, activities in areas that cannot be understood from a conventional geographic viewpoint, such as outer space and cyber space, are tending to be seen as security issues. Furthermore, it is being suggested that various functions of military forces should be used to deal with large-scale disasters and outbreak of epidemics such as the new strain of swine influenza.

As seen above, today's international community confronts a range of issues from traditional inter-state relations to the new threats and diverse contingencies. These issues could arise independently or in combination. In order to respond to such issues, the roles of military forces are diversifying beyond deterrence and armed conflicts to include a broad spectrum of activities from conflict prevention to reconstruction assistance. Moreover, unified responses that incorporate military as well as diplomatic, police, judicial, information and economic measures are becoming necessary. Accordingly, each state continues to enhance its military capabilities in line with its resources and circumstances, and pursue international cooperation and partnership in security areas.

2. Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region has been getting more global attention, due to the rapid development of economies such as China and India resulting in enhanced coordination and cooperation among countries, mainly in economic affairs. On the other hand, this region is considerably rich in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity, and conflicts between countries/regions remain even after the end of the Cold War, unlike Europe. Because of these reasons major changes in the security environment have yet to emerge and long-standing issues of territorial rights and reunification continue to plague the region.

On the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people have been divided for more than half a century, and the face-off continues between the military forces of North Korea and the Republic of Korea. There are issues concerning Taiwan and the overlapping territorial claims on the Spratly Islands. Japan also confronts unresolved territorial disputes over the Northern Territories and Takeshima, both of which are integral parts of Japanese territory.

Concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles have grown more serious, and in 2006, its ballistic missile launch and the announcement of an underground nuclear test further underscored the threat posed by North Korea, not only to the peace and security of Japan, but also to that of the international community. In response to these actions, the international community has adopted U.N. Security Council resolutions 1695 and 1718, imposing sanctions on North Korea. At the same time, although six-party talks were being carried out with the aim of achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a complete disablement of the Yongbyon nuclear facilities is still pending. In response to North Korea's missile launch¹ of April 5, 2009, the U.N. Security Council issued a presidential statement condemning North Korea's launch, which is in contravention of Security Council resolution 1718, and demanding that North Korea not conduct any further launch. North Korea announced boycotting the six-party talks and restarting the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rod, and then announced that it would take strong steps unless the Security Council apologizes, including nuclear tests and test launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles as self-defensive measures, and that the second nuclear test was conducted on May 25, 2009. On June 13, the international community adopted U.N. Security Council resolution 1874 condemning North Korea's nuclear test in the strongest terms and imposing additional measures against North Korea. In response to the UNSC resolution, North Korea announced that the whole amount of the newly extracted plutonium would be weaponized, that the process of uranium enrichment would be commenced, etc. Developments in North Korea need to be closely monitored including the possible impact on the regime of the health issues of Kim Jong-il and the issue of his successor. North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals is also yet to be resolved. It is a major threat to the lives and security of the Japanese public and its solution will require concrete actions by North Korea.

Many countries in this region have taken advantage of economic growth to expand and modernize their military forces by increasing their defense budgets and introducing new weapons systems.

In particular, China, a major political and economic power in the region with important clout, is drawing the close attention of many countries. China has been modernizing its military forces, with the rapid and continuous increase in its total defense spending. However, with clarity on neither the present condition nor the future of its military power, there is concern how the military power of China will influence the regional state of affairs and the security of Japan. Moreover, due to the insufficient transparency, it is noted that other nations might have distrust and misunderstandings about China's decision-making processes concerning the security and the military. For these reasons, improved in the transparency relating to China's national defense policies are needed, and it has become an important task to promote dialogues and exchanges, and further strengthen the mutual understanding and trust relationship with China. Furthermore, several senior military officials recently made positive remarks on the possession of an aircraft carrier, and maritime activities in the sea surrounding Japan have been intensifying. Such events happened that Japan should keep a careful watch over .

Under the administration of former President Vladimir Putin, Russia reemerged in the international community as a "strong state," and backed by recent economic development under the administration of President Medvedev, Russia is developing a military posture appropriate to its national strength. The relationship between Russia and the United States and Europe deteriorated following the conflict in Georgia last year, but it appears that relations shaped by confrontation and cooperation will continue between Russia and the West. Recently, Russia has exhibited global development of military deployment, particularly of its Navy and Air Force, possibly as a means to improve its operational proficiency level and to strengthen its presence on the high seas. In the Far East, too, Russia continues to revitalize activities of its vessels and aircraft, in an attempt to recover its operational proficiency level. (See Fig. I-0-0-1)

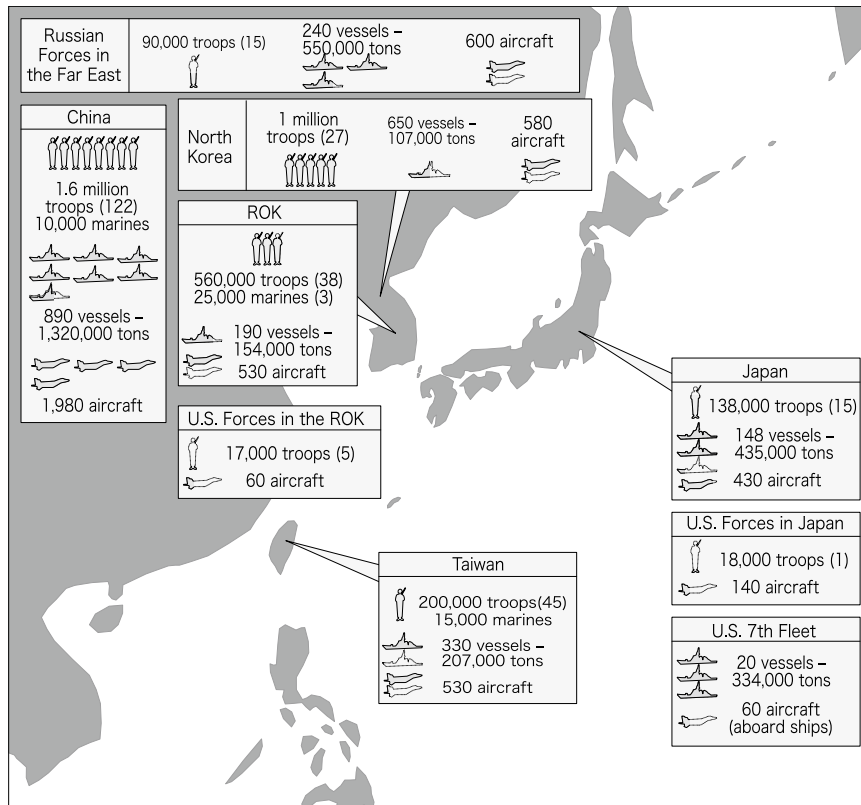
In the Asia-Pacific region, where elements of uncertainty and a lack of transparency still exist as described above, the presence of the U.S. military remains extremely important in order to achieve regional stability. Japan and other countries have established bilateral alliances and friendly relations with the U.S. and, accordingly, they allow the stationing or presence of U.S. forces in their territories.

In addition, recent years have also seen an increase in opportunities for bilateral defense exchanges between countries in the region. Efforts are being made to engage in multilateral security dialogues, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and conferences hosted by non-governmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers, as well as bilateral and multilateral joint exercises. Japan hosted the Meeting for Defense Authority Senior Officials at the vice-ministerial level with Southeast Asian countries for the first time in March 2009. Promoting and developing such multi-layered approaches among countries is important to ensure security in the region.

Notes:

- 1) The government regarded the launch by North Korea on April 5 as an activity related to the ballistic missile program that violates the U.N. Security Council resolutions, and decided to refer to said launch as the "missile launch by North Korea."

Fig. I-O-0-1 Major Military Forces in the Asia-Pacific Region (Approximate Strength)



Notes: 1. Source: "The Military Balance 2009" publications of the U.S. Department of Defense and others (actual numbers as of the end of FY 2008 are shown for Japan)
 2. U.S. ground forces in Japan and the ROK are combined figures of Army and Marine Corps personnel
 3. Combat aircraft includes Navy and Marine aircraft
 4. Total Number of Major Units, such as Divisions and Brigades. For North Korea, divisions only including military police for Taiwan
 5. U.S. 7th Fleet is the number of forward deployment to Japan and Guam

Legend

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