

Part II

The Basics of Japan's Defense Policy and Build-up of Defense Capability

Chapter 1

The Basic Concepts of Japan's Defense Policy and Related Issues

Section 1. Measures to Ensure Japan's Security

Section 2. The Constitution and the Right of Self-Defense

Section 3. The Basis of Defense Policy

Section 4. New Approaches to Space and Ocean



Section 1. Measures to Ensure Japan's Security

The peace, security and independence that are indispensable for a country do not happen of their own accord. As countries become increasingly interdependent on one another, attaining peace, security and independence requires a comprehensive approach that includes diplomatic measures, cooperation with allies, as well as the nation's own defense system. As Japan is heavily dependent on other countries for many resources and its development and prosperity depends on free trade, sustained peace and cooperation with the international community is of vital importance.

For this reason, Japan is pursuing both regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and cooperation through organizations such as the United Nations, while strengthening bilateral cooperation with other countries through such measures as the Japan-U.S. Alliance¹. Japan is thus working to prevent and resolve disputes and hostilities, encourage economic development, promote arms control and disarmament, ensure maritime security, and increase mutual understanding and trust.

Japan has also been making the country itself more secure by making society more stable, fostering a willingness to defend the country, and through various economic and educational measures. The objective is to avoid being unguarded, which could lead to foreign aggression.

In today's world, however, such measures may not deter real aggression by an outside force, and in the worst case, might not be sufficient to repel an attack on Japan. It is indeed difficult to guarantee national security purely by non-military means.

Defense capability is in itself an expression of a nation's will and ability to repel aggression. It provides the ultimate guarantee of a country's security, and cannot be replaced by other means. Therefore, preparation for full-scale aggression is essential, which is the basic role of defense capability. Moreover, the current security environment requires a defense capability that can effectively respond to new threats and various circumstances such as international terrorism and the proliferation and transfer of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. Therefore, the Government has been strengthening its defense capabilities and upholds the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, thereby improving the credibility of such arrangements and bolstering its defense measures. In addition, defense capabilities have become increasingly important for international peace cooperation activities and other efforts to improve the international security environment in order to avoid any threat to our country. Recognizing the important role played by its defense capabilities, Japan continues to do its utmost to protect national security, while working to achieve security in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.



Prime Minister Aso making a speech at the 2009 National Defense University graduation ceremony