

# Part III

## Measures for Defense of Japan

### Chapter 2

#### Strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

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## Section 1. The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

Based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty<sup>1</sup>, the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements constitute a central pillar of Japan's national defense. The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements also serve as the foundation of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and are indispensable not only to maintaining the peace and security of Japan, but also the entire Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the close cooperative relationship between Japan and the U.S. resulting from their alliance is proving to be extremely significant for effective responses to the diverse security challenges occurring throughout the world. Furthermore, the Japan-U.S. Alliance is playing an increasingly important role by advancing the shared fundamental values in the international community such as respect for human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. The significance of the Japan-U.S. Alliance continues to grow, and Japan will resolutely strive to maintain and strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements. (See Fig. III-2-1-1)

This section explains the significance of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements for Japan's security today.

Fig. III-2-1-1 Major Milestones in Security Cooperation between Japan and the U.S.

1951		The former Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is signed
1952	The era of the former Japan-U.S. Security Treaty	The treaty enters into force
1958		Fujiyama-Dulles Talks (agreement on the revision of the treaty)
1960	Revision of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the new Japan-U.S. Security Treaty	The new Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is signed, and enters into force
1968		Ogasawara Islands are returned to Japan
1969		Sato-Nixon Talks (agreement on the renewal of the new Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the return of Okinawa to Japan)
1972		Return of Okinawa to Japan
1976	Establishment of the former guidelines and enhancing Japan-U.S. Security Treaty	Agreement on the establishment of Sub-Committee for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation
1978		Establishment of the Former Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the Former Guidelines)
1991		Collapse of the former USSR and end of the Cold War
1993	End of the Cold War and establishment of the new guidelines	North Korea withdraws from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)
1996		Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security (Hashimoto-Clinton Talks)
		SACO Final Report
1997		Establishment of the New Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the New Guidelines)
2001	Japan-U.S. relations since terrorist attacks in the United States	Terrorist attacks in the United States
2003		Japan-U.S. Global Alliance (Koizumi-Bush Talks)
2006		Formulation of the United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation
		Japan-U.S. Alliance of the New Century (Koizumi-Bush Talks)
		North Korea declared implementation of nuclear test
		Japan-U.S. Alliance for the World and Asia (Abe-Bush Talks)
2007		Irreplaceable Japan-U.S. Alliance (Abe-Bush Talks)

## 1. The Significance of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

### 1. Maintenance of Japan's Security

In today's international community, any country seeking to secure its peace and independence must construct a watertight defense system capable of responding to every contingency, ranging from all types of armed attacks – including by nuclear weapons – to military threats or intimidation. In today's globalized international community, it is impossible even for a superpower like the U.S. to guarantee its security by acting alone. Therefore, it would be practically impossible for Japan to ensure its national security by solely independent efforts given its population, land and economy. Moreover, such a strategy would not be politically appropriate and would not necessarily contribute to the regional stability.

Consequently, Japan maintains an alliance with the world's dominant military superpower, the U.S., with whom it shares basic values such as respect for freedom, human rights and democracy, and the desire to maintain peace and security. In addition, the U.S. has strong economic ties with Japan and is also widely accepted by countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Further, the overwhelming military strength of the U.S. functions as an effective deterrent against threats to Japan's security. When combined with Japan's own considerable defense capabilities, it creates an absolute defense structure fully capable of maintaining the security of our nation.

Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty designates that Japan and the U.S. will take bilateral action in the event of an armed attack against Japan. The U.S. obligation to defend Japan in the event of an armed attack means that an attacker must be prepared to confront not only the military power of the SDF, but also the overwhelming military strength of the U.S. This serves as an effective deterrence to potential attacks.

### 2. Maintenance of Peace and Stability in the Region Surrounding Japan

Article 6 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty provides for the use of facilities and regions by the U.S. forces within Japan for the purpose of maintaining the security of Japan, and also for the maintenance of international peace and security in the Far East. This provision is based on the recognition that the security of Japan is closely tied to the peace and security of the Far East region to which Japan belongs.

Even in the post-Cold War era of today, the region is still facing elements of instability including North Korea's development and deployment of WMD and missiles, the division of the same race in the Korean peninsula, as well as the Taiwan problem. In such a security environment, the close bonds of cooperation based on the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, as seen in the presence of U.S. forces in Japan, also constitutes the essential foundation for the maintenance of peace and security in the region. These arrangements are complemented by the alliances the U.S. has built with other countries such as South Korea and the Philippines as well as the friendly relations it has developed with other countries in the region, and continue to play an important role in preserving the peace and security of the region in the post-Cold War security environment.



MSDF vessels conducting a joint exercise with the U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington

### 3. Improvement of International Security Environment

The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements are the foundation for a comprehensive and friendly cooperative relationship between the U.S. and Japan, not only in the defense area but also in a wide range of areas, including

political, economic and social aspects. The friendly relationship between Japan and the U.S., founded on their security arrangements, also forms the basis for Japan's foreign policy. It contributes to Japan's ability to implement positive measures to maintain the peace and security of the international community, including promoting dialogue and cooperation on multinational security and cooperating with the United Nations in all areas of its operations.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the international community has been increasingly concerned about new kinds of threats and diverse contingencies, such as international terrorist attacks and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this international environment, the strong bonds forged between Japan and the U.S. are playing an important role in achieving effective cooperative measures that can improve the security of the international community.

In particular, under the auspices of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, the SDF and U.S. forces are working together in peacetime in a variety of areas to improve the levels of coordination. This kind of close coordination forms the foundation for every kind of international collaboration undertaken by the SDF and U.S. forces, and is resulting in their heightened operational effectiveness.

Peace and prosperity of the international community is closely linked to that of Japan. Accordingly, by cooperating with the U.S., which possesses preeminent international operational capabilities, Japan is able to advance its measures to improve the international security environment. This in turn is enhancing the security and prosperity of Japan.

## **2. Presence of U.S. Forces in Japan**

### **1. Significance of Presence of U.S. Forces in Japan (USFJ)**

Based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the United States stations its armed forces in Japan. Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty obliges the United States to defend Japan, while Article 6 grants the United States the use of facilities and areas in Japan. Taken as a whole, the obligations of both countries form a balance. This differs from the North Atlantic Treaty, which provides only for shared defense by the contracting states.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Security Treaty, the U.S. forces in Japan have stable access to facilities and areas in Japan. This access plays a key role in enabling a swift bilateral response by the SDF and U.S. forces in the event of an armed attack against Japan, and constitutes a crucial element of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements.

In addition, as previously stated, an attacking force will confront not only the SDF, but also the USFJ. Therefore, the USFJ functions as an effective deterrent against an armed attack.

Moreover, the actions of USFJ in the defense of Japan will be assisted by the timely reinforcement of other U.S. forces. The USFJ also functions as the foundation for the reinforcement actions of U.S. forces.

These USFJ functions play a vital role in maintaining the security of Japan. In addition, the U.S. military presence in Japan constitutes the basis for the actions of U.S. forces in the region, and is a vital factor in maintaining peace and security in the region. (See Fig. III-2-1-2)

### **2. USFJ Facilities and Areas and the Local Japanese Communities**

In order for USFJ facilities and areas to fully exert their capabilities, it is vital to gain the cooperation and understanding of the local communities. Meanwhile, the social environment in the surrounding areas has changed a lot through, for example, their urbanization over the past several decades since the conclusion of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. In light of such changes, it is necessary to reduce the impact of the facilities and areas as much as possible in order to gain the acceptance and support of the public in the true sense as well as to allow them to perform to the best of their capabilities.

Our national land is narrow with limited plains and there are many cases where USFJ facilities and areas are located close to urban and business areas. In such areas, factors including the existence of those facilities and areas and the takeoff and landing of U.S. forces' aircraft have a considerable impact on the residents' living environment and local development. It is therefore considered necessary to make efforts to reduce the burden according to the real situation of each local area. (See Chapter 4, Section 2-3)

### 3. USFJ in Okinawa

In comparison to areas such as the U.S. mainland and Hawaii, Okinawa is located closer to countries in East Asia. Consequently, U.S. forces stationed in Okinawa are able to respond rapidly to needs for urgent deployment within the region. In addition, Okinawa has its geographic advantage that it has a certain distance from countries neighboring Japan. These are considered as the major reasons why U.S. forces are stationed on Okinawa including the U.S. Marine Corps, the first responders to emergencies.

The facilities and areas used by U.S. forces in Okinawa were provided to U.S. forces under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) in May 1972, when the U.S. returned Okinawa to Japan. At present, many USFJ facilities and areas are located within Okinawa Prefecture, including airfields, maneuver areas and logistics support facilities. As of January 2009, about 74 percent in square measure of the USFJ facilities and areas nationwide (for their exclusive use) was concentrated in Okinawa. Special consideration must therefore be paid to easing the burden on Okinawa.

Fig. III-2-1-2 Deployment Map of USFJ

