Part I

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Overview

Chapter 1
Issues in the International Community

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Defense Policies of Countries
Overview

1 Trends in the International Community

With regard to Japan’s security environment, in the past one year, continued provocation by North Korea such as the disclosure of a uranium enrichment facility and the artillery firing at Yeonpyeong Island, as well as various notable military movements by China and the continued growing military activities in Russia, have been observed.

On the other hand, notable phenomenon have also continuously been observed with regard to global security issues including cyber attacks, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means, as well as international terrorism and the weakening of governing systems. Furthermore, as a result of the mutual interdependence among countries that has contributed to the stability and prosperity of each country, it is also possible for security issues and instability arising in one country to go beyond national borders and affect other countries. As such, the international security environment remains complex and uncertain.

Under such a security environment, it has become extremely difficult for one country to deal with issues confronting the international community. It is also increasingly important for countries with common interests in the resolution of issues to work together, as countries gain shared benefits by ensuring regional and global peace, stability and prosperity through the establishment of a more stable international security environment.

Due to the difficult fiscal conditions following the economic crisis, in some countries in Europe and the United States, steps have been taken to curtail or reduce defense expenditures. However, trends toward taking appropriate measures have been observed in such countries, focusing on international cooperation with alliance and partner countries while reviewing priority for more diversified security-related tasks and issues.

It is thought that even as the comparative influence of the United States changes, it will continue to be the most influential nation in the international community in the future. On the other hand, as a result of their significant economic growth in recent years, countries such as China, India, and Russia are growing in national power, and it is believed that their relative international influence, which is oriented toward multi-polarity, will grow. The increase in national power for these countries should be captured as a good opportunity for international coordination and cooperation. At the same time, however, there is a possibility that they will exert a significant influence on the security environment, and are thus being watched closely by the international community.

The trends toward democratization and regime change in North Africa and the Middle East, sparked by events in Tunisia, must also be closely watched with a view to the impact these events could have on the regional security environment, energy supplies, and other aspects.
2 Major Security Issues in the International Community

In recent years, the risks to the stable access to Global Commons such as the seas, space, and cyberspace, have become a new issue in security. The Global Commons described here generally do not come under the exclusive jurisdiction of a country. Rather, they belong in the connected and shared domains of the world that all countries are dependent upon for national security and prosperity.1 As part of the background for the attention paid to this issue from the perspective of security, reflecting the further progress of military science and technology and the significant advancement of information and communications technology (ICT) in recent years, activities in domains that cannot be captured from a conventional geographical viewpoint such as space and cyberspace are becoming an important platform for national security and in people’s lives. Also, ensuring safety for marine transportation, which has been viewed as an important foundation supporting global logistics, has become even more important as stable access to the seas may get disputed as pointed out with regard to the large number of piracy acts occurring in recent years and discussions over the freedom of navigation. From this perspective, with regard to cyber attacks on information and telecommunications networks, which have a serious impact on national activities and people’s daily lives, specific countermeasures have been put in place in the respective countries in recent years. These include organizational restructuring within the government and related organizations. The international community is also taking steps toward enhancing marine security, such as by dispatching vessels and aircraft to counter piracy activities off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and also by reaffirming the importance of the freedom of navigation.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons, as well as that of ballistic missiles that serve as delivery means, remains a serious threat to the international community. In particular, it has been pointed out that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by North Korea, nuclear development by Iran, and acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors including international terrorist organizations continue to be cause for concern. On the other hand, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts are underway, taking forms such as the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the U.S. and Russia, which took effect in February 2011.

The international terrorist elements located throughout the world and the regional terrorist organizations and individuals that are sympathetic to the terrorist ideology have continued with their activities, and continue to threaten security even after the death of Osama bin Laden. It has been pointed out that those international terrorist organizations use countries with weak governance, such as Afghanistan and Yemen, as their activities and training bases.

Regional conflicts with diverse and complex backgrounds and forms are still present in many parts of the world, but the international community is taking active efforts to counter and resolve these conflicts with its focus especially on the Middle East and the Africa region. Gray-zone conflicts — conflicts arising over territory, sovereignty, and economic interests, but which do not reach the level of armed military conflicts — are also increasing in incidence. It has been pointed out that climate issues and the competition among sovereign states over energy sources will become even more apparent in the future and lead to regional conflicts, thereby possibly becoming a new factor impacting on the global security environment. Furthermore, the military has also been tasked to take on various functions, such as for speedy response in disaster relief in the event of large-scale disasters and epidemics.

As seen above, today’s international community confronts diverse, complex, and multi-layered security issues and unstable elements. These issues could arise independently or in combination. In order to respond to such issues, the roles of military forces are also diversifying beyond deterrence and handling of armed conflicts to include a broad spectrum of activities from conflict prevention to reconstruction assistance. Moreover, while there are increasing opportunities for the military to take on important roles, unified responses that incorporate military as well as diplomatic, police, judicial, information, and economic measures become more necessary.

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1 For example, refer to the U.S. National Security Strategy (NSS) (released in May 2010) and so forth.
In the Asia-Pacific region, alongside the various changes that have taken place in tandem with the growing power of China, India, and Russia, efforts are being made to enhance and strengthen coordination and collaboration among countries in the region with a particular focus on non-traditional security sectors such as humanitarian aid and disaster relief and counter-piracy measures. 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 faceoff continues between the military forces of the Republic of Korea and North Korea. There are issues concerning Taiwan and the South China Sea. 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. In November 2010, North Korea revealed a uranium enrichment facility to a visiting U.S. expert, and further announced that the uranium enrichment plant equipped with thousands of centrifuges, used for LWR fuels, was in operation. This indicates possible nuclear development by North Korea, based on highly enriched uranium. Taking into consideration the series of declarations and actions by North Korea since the past two announcements of nuclear tests (October 2006 and May 2009), it is likely that North Korea has made significant advancements in its nuclear plan. In addition to conducting nuclear tests, steps taken by North Korea to enhance its ballistic missile capability pose a significant threat to Japan’s security, and are absolutely unacceptable as they are significantly detrimental to peace and stability in Northeast Asia and the international community. There is great concern toward such movements by North Korea. Moreover, North Korea has repeatedly carried out military provocations, such as the artillery firing at Yeonpyeong Island (South Korea) in November 2010. Developments in North Korea continue to be unpredictable and 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 modernize their military forces by increasing their defense budgets and introducing new weapons systems.

In particular, China, a major political and economic power with important clout, has taken active part in international initiatives in non-traditional security fields, and is playing an increasingly important role in the region and the world. Although it is welcome by the international community, it is also promoting the extensive and rapid modernization of its military capabilities against the backdrop of the continuing rapid growth of its defense budget. China has not clarified the current status of its future vision for the modernization of its military capabilities, and since transparency is not sufficiently ensured regarding its decision-making processes for security and military matters, it has been pointed out that there is a possibility that this could lead to a sense of distrust and misunderstandings in other countries. Furthermore, China is expanding and increasing its activities in waters close to Japan. The lack of transparency of its national defense policies, and the military activities are a matter of concern for the region and the international community, including Japan, and need to be carefully analyzed. Based on this situation, there is a need for further improvements in transparency regarding China’s military, and promoting dialogues and exchanges with China and further strengthening mutual understanding and relations of trust are important issues.

Russia, under President Medvedev, is pursuing its national interests as a country with global influence, and it is developing its military posture in line with its resources against the backdrop of its economic development to date. Currently, it is moving toward downsizing its troops, reforming its organizational aspects, rebuilding its readiness postures, modernizing its military, including the development and introduction of new equipment, and so forth. Recently, there has been global deployment of its military, navy and air force in particular, including joint training accompanying long-term voyages, anti-piracy activities, and patrol activities by strategic bombers. In the Far East, too, Russia continues with active operations of its vessels and aircraft, and large-scale exercises, and moves toward modernization of its equipment have been observed.

(See Fig. I-0-0-1)

In the Asia-Pacific region, where a lack of transparency and elements of uncertainty still exist, 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 United States and, accordingly, they allow the stationing and deployment 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), the ASEAN Defense Minister’s Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and conferences hosted by nongovernmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers, as well as bilateral and multilateral joint exercises. Japan has been hosting the Meeting for Defense Authority Senior Officials at the vice-ministerial level with Southeast Asian countries. Promoting and developing such multi-layered approaches among countries is also important to ensure security in the region.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Ground Forces</th>
<th>Naval Vessels</th>
<th>Combat Aircraft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
<td>1.6 million</td>
<td>270,000</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>troops (121)</td>
<td>107,000 tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,000 marines</td>
<td>2,040 aircraft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Korea</strong></td>
<td>1 million</td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>troops (27)</td>
<td>107,000 tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27,000 marines</td>
<td>620 aircraft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROK</strong></td>
<td>520,000</td>
<td>208,000</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>troops (42)</td>
<td>208,000 tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27,000 marines</td>
<td>530 aircraft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Japan</strong></td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>448,000</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>troops (15)</td>
<td>448,000 tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Forces in Japan</strong></td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>60 aircraft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>troops (5)</td>
<td>60 aircraft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. 7th Fleet</strong></td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>336,000</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>troops (1)</td>
<td>336,000 tons</td>
<td>(aboard ships)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- Ground forces (200,000 troops)
- Naval vessels (200,000 tons)
- Combat aircraft (500 aircraft)

**Notes:**
2. U.S. ground forces in Japan and the ROK are combined figures of Army and Marine Corps personnel.
3. Combat aircraft include Navy and Marine aircraft.
4. Figures in parentheses show the total number of major units, such as divisions and brigades. Only divisions are included for North Korea. Military police are included for Taiwan.
5. U.S. 7th Fleet is the number of forward deployment to Japan and Guam.
6. Russian troops in the Far East are the estimated number of troops in the former Far Eastern Military District and the former Siberian Military District. Major units are the number of divisions and brigades in the Eastern Military District. The number of aircraft represents the number of aircraft deployed in the Eastern Military District.