



U.S. President Obama announcing the defense strategic guidance [U.S. Department of Defense]

Part I Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Overview

Chapter 1 Defense Policies of Countries

Chapter 2 Issues in the International Community



Overview

1 Trends in the International Community

With regard to Japan's security environment over the past year, various movements have been observed including the transition of power to Kim Jong-un as the new leader of North Korea, and act of provocation such as launching a missile, which North Korea calls "Satellite", various notable military movements by China and continued growing military activities by Russia. In the meantime, against the background of progress in the U.S. force's drawing down from Afghanistan and Iraq and the serious fiscal circumstances of the U.S. Government, the U.S. released a new defense strategic guidance, showing policies to rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region in its security strategy, and to emphasize its existing alliances in the region and to expand its networks of cooperation with emerging partners.

In the international community, notable phenomena 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 transcend national borders and affect other countries.

As such, the international security environment remains complex and uncertain.

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

It is thought that even as the comparative influence of the U.S. has been changing, it will stay as 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, national power of countries such as China, India, and Russia are growing, and it is believed that their relative international influence, which is oriented toward multi-polarity, will also 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.

2 Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region

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. Because of these reasons, major changes in the security environment have yet to emerge even after the end of the Cold War, unlike Europe 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.

In North Korea in December 2011, Kim Jong-il, its leader and Chairman of the National Defence Commission, died, and a new framework was established with Kim Jong-un as the new leader, who is believed to be his third son. Concerns over North

Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles have grown more serious, as was seen in North Korea's provocation such as the missile launch, which it calls "Satellite" in April 2012. The Six-Party Talks aimed at the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner has been suspended since December 2008, but in light of the series of North Korean announcements and actions including two previous announcements (in October 2006 and May 2009) of nuclear tests, the possibility that North Korea has already made considerable progress in its nuclear weapons program cannot be dismissed. Furthermore, there is a possibility that the country is developing nuclear weapons using Highly-Enriched Uranium. 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, and developments in North Korea continue to be unpredictable and need to be closely monitored. 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, as China became an influential country both politically and economically, its military trends draw attention from other countries. On the one hand, the international community welcomes the fact that China has started playing a major role in the region and the world as illustrated by its active participation in international activities in non-traditional security areas. On the other hand, China has been broadly and rapidly modernizing its military forces, backed by the high and constant increase in its defense budget. China has not clarified the current status and future vision of its military modernization, and the transparency of its decision-making process in military and security affairs is not enough. These are why it has been pointed out that there is a possibility that this could lead to a sense of distrust and misunderstandings by other countries. Furthermore, China has been expanding and intensifying its activities in waters close to Japan. These moves, together with the lack of transparency in its military and security affairs, are a matter of concern for the region and the international community,

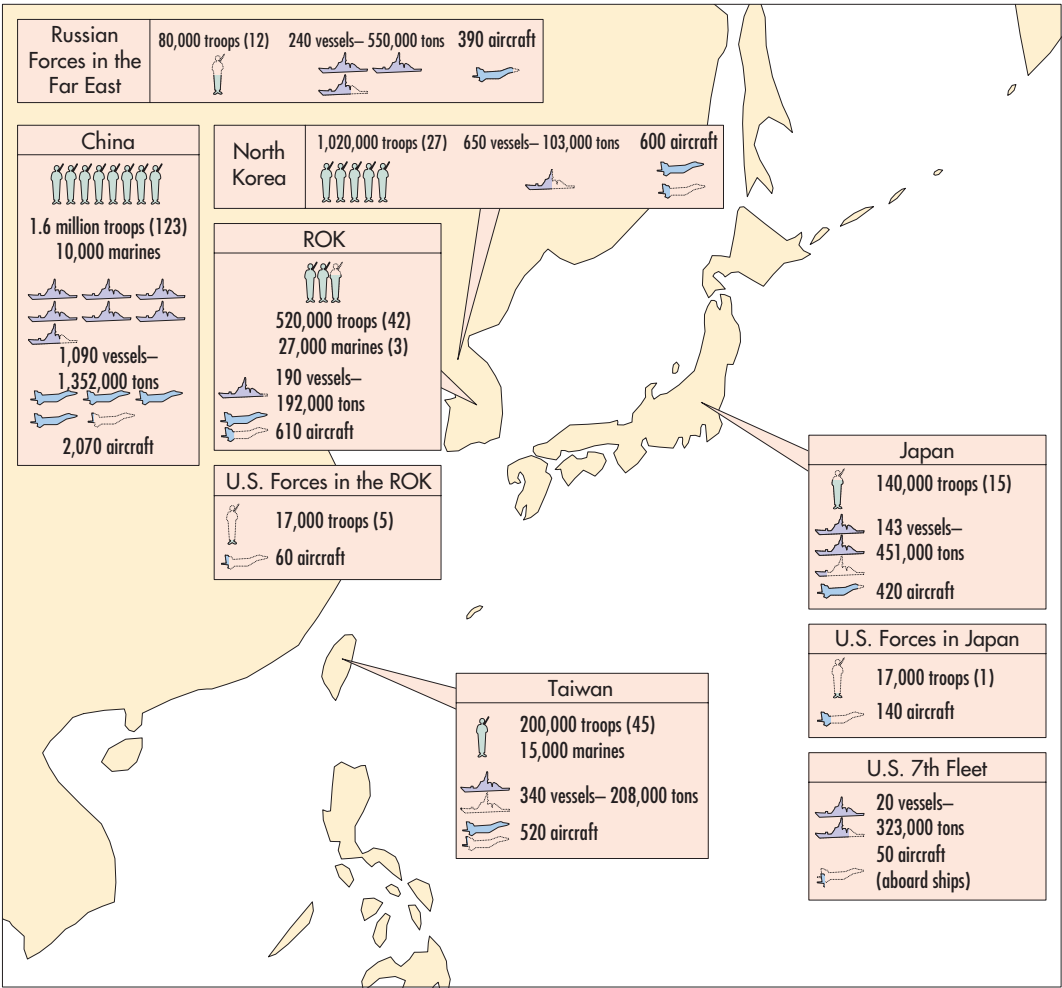
including Japan, which should require prudent analysis. These are why China is asked to further improve transparency regarding its military, and further strengthening mutual understanding and trust by promoting dialogues and exchanges with China is an important issue. While a substantial reshuffle in the Chinese Communist Party leadership is expected after the autumn of 2012, the environment surrounding the next administration would not be rosy due to its various domestic problems. How the next administration would deal with various challenges attracts attention.

Russia is pursuing its national interests as a country with global influence, and it is seeking to develop its military posture in line with its resources against the backdrop of its economic development to date. Currently, it is moving forward with downsizing its troops, reforming its organizational aspects, improving the effectiveness of 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, naval and air forces in particular, including joint training on voyages at long duration, 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.

As seen above, in the Asia-Pacific region, where a lack of transparency and elements of uncertainty still exist, the presence of the U.S. forces 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 they allow the stationing and deployment of U.S. forces in their territories. In addition, measures have recently been taken to further strengthen the presence of the U.S. forces.

Moreover 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 Defence Minister's Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and conferences hosted by non-governmental 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)



Notes: 1. Source: “The Military Balance 2012”, publications of the U.S. Department of Defense and others.
2. Figures for Japan, as of the end of 2011, indicate each SDF strength; the number of combat aircraft is the sum of ASDF aircraft (excluding transport aircraft) and MSDF aircraft (fixed-wing aircraft only).
3. Figures of U.S. ground forces in Japan and the ROK are combined those of Army and Marine Corps personnel.
4. Combat aircraft include Navy and Marine aircraft.
5. Figures in parentheses show the total number of major units, such as divisions and brigades. Only divisions are included in North Korea. Military police are included in Taiwan.
6. The number of the U.S. 7th Fleet’s vessels and aircraft indicates those which are forward deployed to Japan and Guam.

Legend:

Ground forces (200,000 troops)	Naval vessels (200,000 tons)	Combat aircraft (500 aircraft)
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In recent years, risks relating to the stable access of Global Commons¹, such as sea, space and cyberspace, have become a new security challenge.

These issues have been focused on from the security perspective activities in such domains as space and cyberspace, which cannot be fully grasped from a conventional geographical viewpoints, form a crucial platform for national security and people's daily lives, reflecting further progress in the field of information and communications technology (ICT) in recent years, as well as further advances in military science and technology. Moreover, ensuring the safety of maritime traffic, which has come to be emphasized as the cornerstone supporting global logistics, has attracted more attention, as the possibility that stable access to the seas may get inhibited, with regard to the large number of piracy acts occurring in recent years and discussions about the freedom of navigation, has been indicated. From this perspective, in recent years, various countries have been implementing concrete initiatives, including the reorganization of governments and related institutions, in order to deal with cyber attacks on a range of information and communications networks, which could have a serious impact on the function of a state and people's daily lives. Moreover, with regard to the seas, the international community has also been dispatching naval vessels, etc. to conduct anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia/Gulf of Aden, as well as implementing initiatives such as taking the opportunity presented by international conferences to affirm the importance of the freedom of navigation.

The problem of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons, and the ballistic missiles that serve as their delivery means remains a significant threat to the international community. In particular, there are continuing concerns about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by North Korea and the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors such as international terrorist organizations. Moreover, in November 2011, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expressed its concerns about nuclear development by Iran, giving details of the possibility that its activities may have military dimensions, but although the U.S. and the European Union (EU) has strengthened their sanctions against the country, Iran has moved forward with and expanded its uranium enrichment. On the other hand, initiatives are progressing

focused on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, with the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) entering into force between the U.S. and Russia in February 2011.

There is an ongoing tendency for the offshoots of international terrorist organizations dispersed across the globe, as well as regional terrorist organizations and individuals sympathetic to their ideologies, to carry out their activities, and there is no change in the fact that they remain a security threat, even after the death of Osama bin Laden. There are also indications that such international terrorist organizations, etc. are using countries that are vulnerable in terms of their governance capacity, such as Afghanistan and Yemen, as a base for their activities and training.

There is still a diverse range of regional conflicts across the globe, with complex backgrounds and taking complicated forms, so the international community is undertaking intensive efforts aimed at dealing with these conflicts and resolving them with its focus especially on the Middle East and the African region. Moreover, there is a growing tendency towards so-called "gray-zone" conflicts, which relate to territory, sovereignty or economic interests but do not reach the stage of armed conflict. At the same time, the problems of climate change and competition between sovereign states to secure resources and energy are becoming increasingly apparent, and the possibility has been indicated that they could become a cause of regional disputes, thereby becoming a new factor with an impact on the global security environment. Furthermore, military forces have also been tasked to take on various functions, such as for prompt response in disaster relief in the event of large-scale disasters and epidemics.

As seen above, the international community today faces diverse, complex and multilayered security issues and unstable factors. Such challenges could even occur simultaneously or compound each other. In addition to deterrence and handling of armed conflicts, the roles of military forces in responding to these are becoming more diverse to include a broad spectrum of activities from the conflict prevention to reconstruction assistance. Moreover, as the opportunities for military forces to play such an important role are increasing, comprehensive responses are required that seek to combine military capacity with methods focused on diplomacy, law enforcement and justice, intelligence and the economy.

¹ The global commons, in this context, refers to territories and other entities not bound to exclusive jurisdiction that are connected and shared globally, on which security and prosperity of all nations are depended. The U.S. "National Security Strategy" (released in May 2010), etc.