

Overview



Section 1

Trends in the International Community

Japan's security environment is encompassed by various issues and destabilizing factors, some of which are becoming increasingly tangible, acute, and serious.

Above all, as conflicts between countries etc. remain, major changes in the security environment in the vicinity of Japan have yet to emerge even after the end of the Cold War, unlike Europe. Factors in opacity and uncertainty such as issues of territorial rights and the reunification remain, and neighboring states are continuing to modernize their military capacity. Furthermore, over the past year, North Korea has taken such provocative actions as its launch of the missile, which it called "Satellite" and its nuclear test, China has rapidly expanded and intensified its activities in the waters and airspace surrounding Japan as exemplified by its intrusion into Japan's territorial waters and airspace, and Russia continues to intensify its military activities. Thus, security environment in the vicinity of Japan has increasingly grown severe. In the meantime, in its new defense strategic guidance, the U.S. presented policies emphasizing a rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region in its security strategy, as well as strengthening its existing alliances in the region and expanding its networks of cooperation with emerging partners, but attention will be paid to the impact of its harsh financial situation on efforts toward shaping these policies.

Moreover, security issues beyond a geographically-limited area continue to be crucial because the risk is growing that a disorder or a security problem in a single country spreads worldwide. With regard to such global security issues, while the

international community is undertaking initiatives to deal with cyber attacks, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, international terrorism, and the increasing vulnerability of governance systems, some problems are being exacerbated and new problems are also becoming tangible.

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

Even U.S. influence has been changing relatively, it will remain the most influential country in the international community in the future. On the other hand, as a result of their high economic growth in recent years, the national power of countries such as China, India, and Russia is growing. It is believed that international influence of these countries which are oriented toward multipolarity will relatively increase. The increase in national power of these countries should be perceived as a good opportunity for more international coordination and cooperation, but at the same time, there is a possibility that they will significantly influence the security environment. Accordingly, the increase in their national power continue to be scrutinized by the international community.

Section 2

Security Environment in the Vicinity of Japan

In the Asia-Pacific region, alongside the various changes that have taken place in tandem with the increase in power of China, India, and Russia, countries in the region have made efforts to enhance and strengthen intra-regional coordination and collaboration 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 abounds in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity, conflicts between countries/regions remain even after the end of the Cold War, and their views on security and threats are different. Accordingly, major changes in the security environment have yet to emerge even after the end of the Cold War, unlike in 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 inherent part of Japanese territory.

In North Korea, following the death of Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-il in December 2011, a regime led by First Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-un was put in place. The launch of a missile, which North Korea called “Satellite,” in December 2012 showed that North Korea has advanced its ballistic missile technology, and we assess that North Korea’s ballistic missile development is considered to have entered a new phase. There is great concern about North Korea’s ballistic missiles from the perspective of their development and deployment, as well as their transfer and proliferation. With regard to nuclear development by North Korea, the Six-Party Talks, which aims 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 to date, including the implementation of a nuclear test in February 2013, as well as the timing of its nuclear tests, the possibility cannot be dismissed that North Korea has already made considerable progress in its nuclear weapons program. Moreover, there is a possibility that the country is developing nuclear weapons using highly-enriched uranium. Considered in conjunction with its efforts to enhance its ballistic missile capability, the nuclear tests by North Korea pose a significant threat to Japan’s security, and they are significantly detrimental to peace and stability in Northeast Asia and the international community. Therefore, they are absolutely unacceptable. Future actions by North Korea continue to be unpredictable and Japan needs to pay utmost attention to them. North Korea’s abduction of Japanese nationals, which it poses a major threat to the lives and security of the Japanese public, is yet to be resolved. A 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 military equipment.

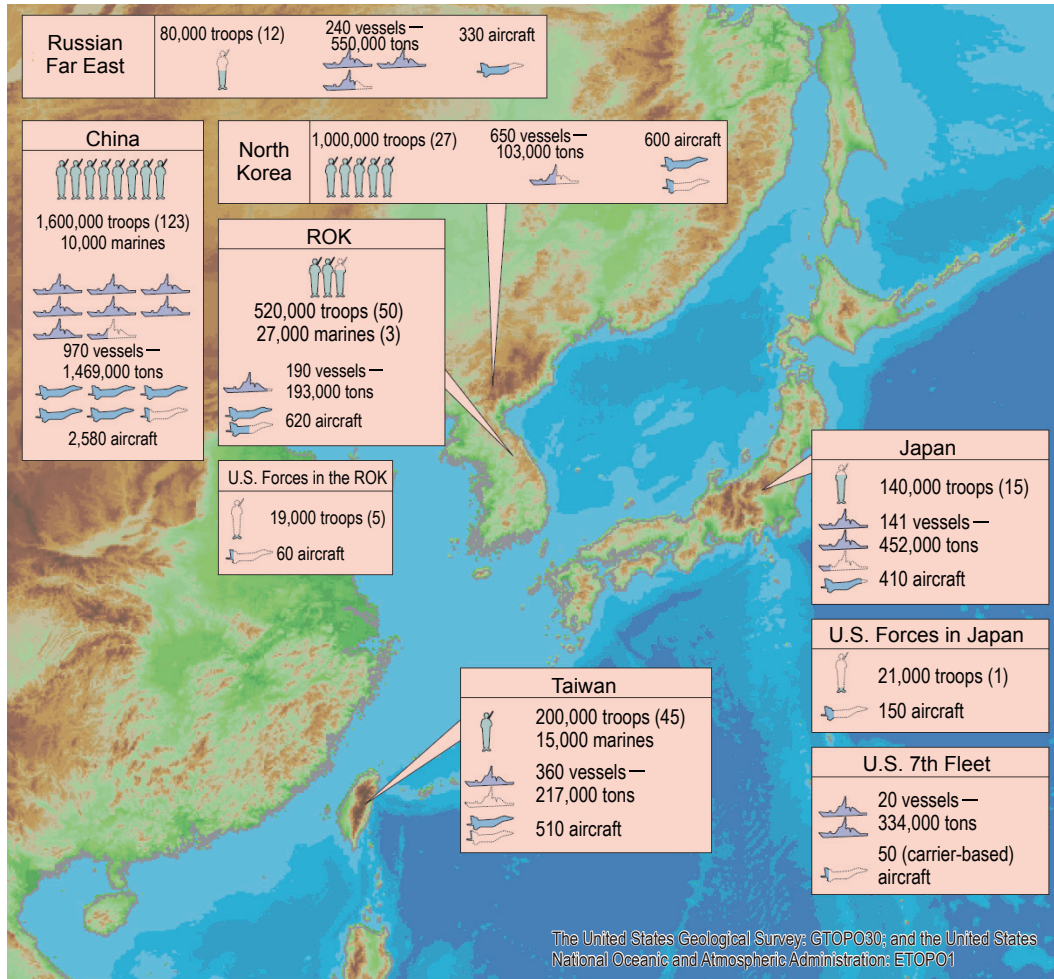
In particular, China has now become an influential country both politically and economically, and its military developments also draw attention from other countries. Accordingly, China is strongly expected to recognize its responsibility as a major power, accept and stick to the international norms, and play a more active and cooperative role in regional and global issues. On the other hand, China has been engaging in extensive, rapid modernization of its military forces, backed by continual substantial increases in its defense budget. China has not clarified the current status and future vision of its military mod-

ernization initiatives, while its decision-making process in military and security affairs is not sufficiently transparent: Hence it has been pointed out that this could potentially lead to a sense of distrust and misunderstanding by other countries. Furthermore, China has been rapidly expanding and intensifying its maritime activities. In particular, in the waters and airspace around Japan, it has engaged in dangerous acts that could give rise to a contingency situation, such as Chinese naval vessel’s direction of its fire-control radar at a JMSDF destroyer in January this year. In addition, Chinese aircraft and surveillance ships affiliated to China’s maritime law enforcement agencies have intruded into Japanese territorial waters and airspace. Coupled with the lack of transparency in its military and security affairs, these moves by China are a matter of concern for Japan and other countries in the region and the international community. Therefore, Japan needs to pay utmost attention to China’s movements. This is why China is asked to further improve transparency regarding its military and why further strengthening of mutual understanding and trust by promoting dialogue and exchanges with China is an important issue. At the same time, while a substantial reshuffle in the Chinese Communist Party leadership has taken place, resulting in the establishment of the Xi Jinping regime, the environment surrounding the next administration is certainly not rosy, due to its various domestic problems. Thus, the question of how it will deal with the challenges it faces will be the focus of attention.

Perceiving the building of an affluent nation as its task for the present, Russia believes that it must become a country with influence that can maintain its sovereignty, based on the deployment of its new economic, cultural, and military might. It is endeavoring to develop a military posture commensurate with its national power, against the backdrop of its economic development to date, while continuing to attach importance to its nuclear capability. In recent years, it has been moving forward with downsizing its troops, reforming its organizational aspects, reinforcing its readiness postures, and modernizing its military, including the development and introduction of new equipment, as well as recent global deployment of its military, particularly its naval and air forces. In the Far East, too, Russia continues active operations of its naval vessels and aircraft, conducting large-scale exercises in the region.

As seen above, in the Asia-Pacific region, where the security environment has increasingly grown severe, the presence of the U.S. military remains extremely important in order to achieve regional stability. Accordingly, Japan and other countries, such as Australia and South Korea, have established bilateral alliances and friendly relations with the U.S., and allow the stationing and deployment of U.S. forces in their territories. In addition, U.S. military has recently taken measures to further strengthen its presence. (See Fig. I-0-0-1)

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



Notes

1. Source: "The military Balance 2013" published by the U.S. Department of Defense, and others.
2. Figures for Japan, as of the end of 2012, indicate the strength of each SDF; 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 those of Army and Marine Corps personnel combined.
4. Combat aircraft include Navy and Marine aircraft.
5. Figures in parentheses show the total number of central 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 vessels and aircraft indicates those which are forward-deployed in Japan and Guam.

Legend



Moreover, opportunities for bilateral defense exchanges between countries in the region have increased in recent years. Multilateral security dialogues, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), conferences hosted by non-governmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers, bilateral and multilateral joint exercises are held. Promoting and developing such multi-layered approaches among countries is also important to ensure security in the region.

In addition, there have been major national elections and changes in political leadership between 2011 and 2013 in such

countries as the U.S., China, Russia, and South Korea, all of which are influential in terms of security in the Asia-Pacific region. Attention will be paid to security strategy and military posture by the new regimes, which are facing diverse, complex domestic challenges, and how they tackle the various issues and destabilizing factors in the region and the international community.