

Chapter 1

The Basic Concepts of Japan's Security and Defense Policy

In this chapter, Section 1 explains the significance of defense capabilities as the means of ensuring the security of Japan, Section 2 explains the relationship between the Constitution and the right of self-defense, Section 3 explains the basics of Japan's defense policy including the Basic Policy for National Defense, and Section 4 explains the establishment of the National Security Council.

Section

1

Measures to Ensure Japan's Security

The independent state of a nation must be protected in order for it to maintain the determining of its own direction in politics, economy, and society, as well as its culture, tradition, and sense of values. However, peace, safety and independence cannot be secured by simply wishing for them. In addition, the reality of the current international community suggests that it is not necessarily possible to prevent invasions from the outside by only nonmilitary means such as diplomatic efforts, and in the event that the nation were to be invaded it would not be able to remove such a threat. Defense capabilities are the nation's ultimate guarantee of security, expressing Japan's will and capacity to defend against foreign invasions, and they cannot be replaced by any other means.

For this reason, Japan is striving to develop proper defense capabilities to protect the lives and assets of the public and to defend the territorial land, sea and airspace of Japan. At the same time, it is strengthening the Japan-U.S. alliance¹ with the United States, which shares basic common values and interests with Japan. The peace and security of Japan is ensured through developing seamless defense measures by coupling Japan's own defense capabilities with the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements.

In addition, Japan also works domestically to enrich the backbone of the people, which is characterized by ensuring stable lifestyles for the people and protecting the country, while also working to establish a security founda-

tion by implementing various measures in such sectors as the economy and education so as not to allow the chance of an invasion.

Moreover, from the perspective of improving the security environment surrounding Japan and preventing the emergence of threats to Japan, the importance of the role played by defense capabilities is increasing in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in cooperative efforts as a member of the international community.

Upon recognizing the role of defense capabilities, Japan aims to ensure national security as well as bringing peace and safety to the Asia-Pacific region, and eventually to the entire world through making its utmost efforts in a variety of fields.



Prime Minister Abe and Minister of Defense Onodera escorted by the Honor Guard of SDF

¹ In general, this refers to the relationship, based on the Japan-U.S. Security System, whereby both nations, as countries sharing fundamental values and interests, coordinate and cooperate closely in a range of areas in security, politics and economics.