

Section 2

Status of Deliberations Concerning the Revision of the 2010 Guidelines

1 Background to the Revision

Since the 2010 Guidelines were formulated, the security environment surrounding Japan has deteriorated. For example, in April and December 2012, North Korea launched a missile purported to be a satellite. Moreover, there has been a rapid expansion in China's activities in the waters and airspace surrounding Japan, including incursions into Japanese territorial waters and airspace. (See Fig. II-2-2-1)

At the same time, based on its new defense strategic guidance, the U.S. is asserting its presence in the Asia-Pacific region and demonstrating its willingness to strengthen partnerships and cooperation with allied nations, including Japan. In addition, SDF activities during the Great East Japan Earthquake, have presented lessons that need to be addressed.

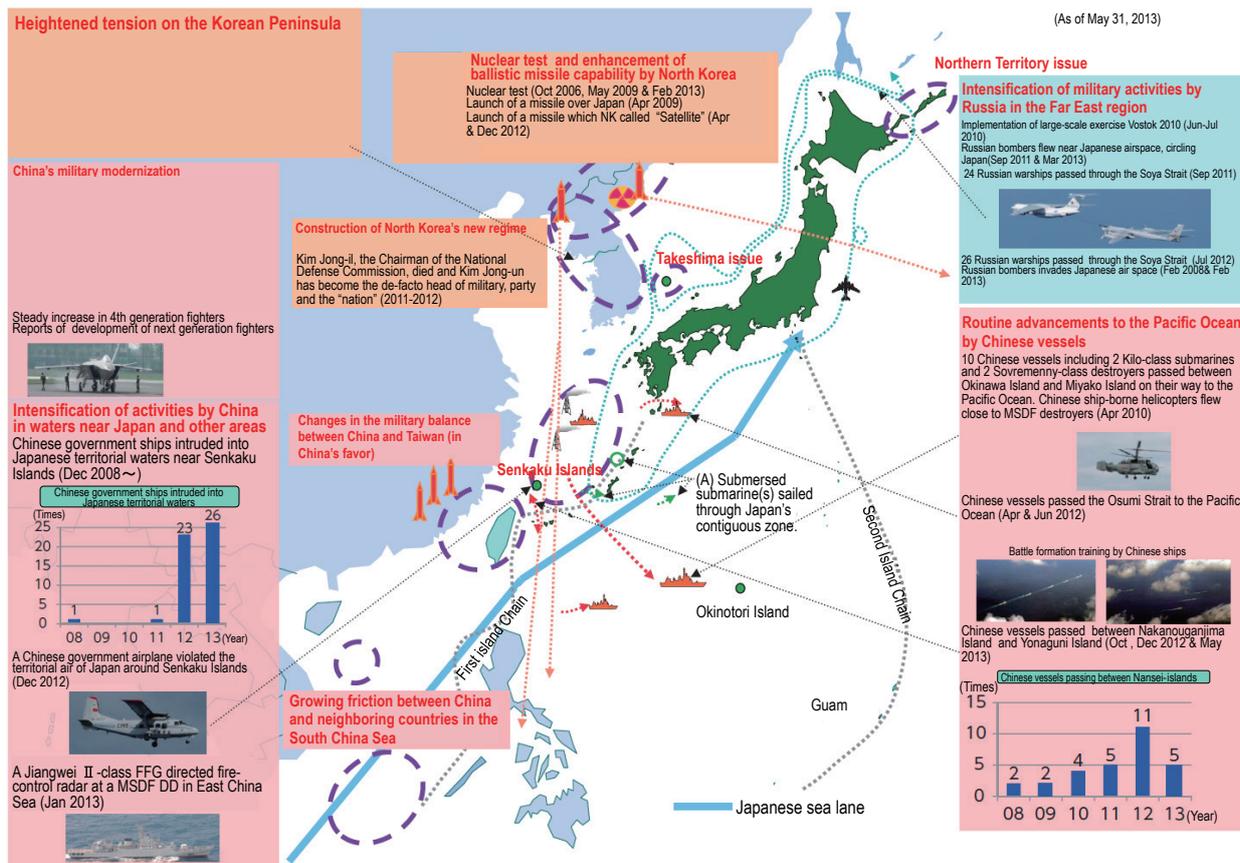
In light of such changes, it is necessary to respond promptly to the current situation and reinforce Japan's defense readiness,

as well as further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Accordingly, in the document Defense Capability Build-up in FY2013 (approved by the Cabinet on January 25, 2013), the government stated that it would review the 2010 Guidelines and work on the efficient development of effective defense capability that could respond adequately to the roles required of the SDF, with a conclusion to be reached during 2013.

Moreover, with regard to the abolition of the Mid-Term Defense Program (FY2011-FY2015), it was decided to take the requisite measures after considering future mid-term defense planning in conjunction with the revision of the 2010 Guidelines.

See ▶ Reference 10

Fig. II-2-2-1 Security Issues Observed Around Japan



2 Deliberations by the Ministry of Defense

Immediately after the aforementioned Cabinet decision, the Ministry of Defense held a defense meeting and decided to establish the Defense Posture Review Commission, to examine future defense posture.

The instructions given by Defense Minister Onodera at this meeting included the following:

- To engage in a full review of Japan's defense force structure, in light of the increasingly harsh security environment surrounding the nation, and to consider the level of defense readiness required in order to staunchly protect our land, sea, and airspace, as well as the lives and property of our people; and
- In strengthening SDF force structure, to attach particular importance to assessing its defense capabilities in terms of joint operations, with the Internal Bureau and Joint Staff playing a key role in such an assessment.

Subsequently, under the leadership of Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Eto, the Defense Posture Review Commission has been discussing such topics as the international environment, the role of defense capability and its assessment, the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and the current situation and issues associated with SDF operations. The Ministry of Defense has been vigorously considering functions

required for responding to various contingencies, including effective deterrence and response capabilities against the threat of ballistic missiles and effective off-shore island defense including transport capabilities and mobility while considering discussions conducted by the Diet and others.

(See Fig. II-2-2-2)



The 1st Meeting of the Defense Posture Review Commission hosted by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense Eto.

Fig. II-2-2-2 Meetings of the Defense Posture Review Commission (As of May 31)

No.	Date	Topic
1	January 25	Way forward on defense posture review
2	January 31	Review of past NDPGs and points of current NDPG
3	February 7	International environment
4	February 15	Role of defense forces and capability assessment
5	February 21	U.S. security policy and Japan-U.S. alliance
6	March 4	Significance of NDPG and MTDP
7	March 7	Current status of SDF operations and issues
8	March 18	Information and communications (including cyber issues)
9	March 21	Efforts to improve the international environment
10	April 3	Domestic and surrounding environment
11	April 15	Space policy, UAVs, ballistic missile defense
12	April 19	Acquisition policy and research and development
13	April 24	Intelligence
14	May 13	Personnel management, training, and health policy
15	May 15	Role of defense forces and capability assessment
16	May 27	Direction of joint operations

[Reference] Defense Posture Review Commission Members

Commission Chair:
Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense

Alternate Commission Chair:
Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense

Deputy Commission Chair: Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense

Commission members:
Director General, Minister's Secretariat
Bureau Director Generals
Chiefs of Staff
Director General, Defense Intelligence Headquarters

Column

Discussion on the Ideal Functions of the Defense Force

As the security environment surrounding Japan has become more severe, discussions on the ideal defense force are under way at the Defense Posture Review Board. Also, there have been debates in the Diet on the conventional strike and amphibious operation capabilities.

Conventional strike capabilities against adversary's military facilities

Conventional strike against an enemy's military facilities is permitted under the Constitution to the extent that the three conditions of self-defense are met, and if no other suitable means are available. The Self-Defense Forces do not possess a weapons system for conventional strike, and Japan relies on the U.S. for the "strike power." However, there have been discussions on achieving strike capabilities with the security environment surrounding Japan becoming more severe. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his views, saying, "The Liberal Democratic Party has discussed this issue, that is, whether it is appropriate for Japan to ask the U.S. Forces to destroy missiles about to attack Japan. ... I believe that we need to thoroughly discuss what we should do in exercising deterrence in terms of making other countries think that attacking Japan will result in a large negative impact on their national interests or even their people's lives, and discouraging them." (From the Prime Minister's answer to questions at the Budget Committee of the House of Councillors on May 8, 2013.)

Amphibious operation capabilities of the Self Defense Forces

Although the affiliation and size of marine forces differ by country, a marine force can be generally explained as a military unit that integrally combines the various functions required for ground and maritime operations, with superior mobility and readiness. The defense of islands requires agile transportation and deployment of units under joint operation, and it is essential that ground, maritime, and air units closely collaborate in thwarting and obliterating invading troops. Depending on the situation, it may become necessary to recapture an island, so argue for the necessity of marine capabilities. On this point, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his view that, "With regard to the defense of islands, I do believe that we should discuss the necessity of Japan possessing amphibious operation capabilities." (Same as above)