

Section 2 Initiatives to Strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance

Japan and the United States have maintained close coordination at multiple levels, including at the summit-level and ministerial level, and have uninterruptedly strengthened and expanded cooperative relations for the peace, stability and prosperity of not only the two countries but also the entire international community, including the Asia-Pacific region.

1 Initiatives to Build the Foundation for Strengthening the Alliance

1 Policy Consultations between Japan and the United States

Close policy consultations on security are conducted through diplomatic channels as well as between officials in charge of defense and foreign affairs at multiple levels in the Governments of Japan and the United States through meetings such as the Japan-United States Security Consultative Committee (SCC) (“2+2” Meeting), the Security Subcommittee (SSC) and the Subcommittee for Defense Cooperation (SDC).

See ▶ Fig. III-2-2-1 (Major Consultations on Policies Held Between Japanese and U.S. Government Officials)

In addition, the Ministry of Defense organizes Japan–U.S. defense ministerial meetings between the Japanese Defense Minister and the U.S. Secretary of Defense as necessary where discussions are made with a focus on the defense policies of the respective governments and defense cooperation. Furthermore, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense, Chiefs of Staff of SDFs, and other MOD officials have working level meetings when necessary and exchange information with the U.S. Department of Defense and others under the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements. Furthermore, in recent years, the Chairman of the Joint Staff Council of the SDF and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff held the strategic dialogue for the first time ever in April 2014. The importance of these opportunities has been further increased as Japan–U.S. defense cooperation has been enhanced.

The sharing of information and views at every opportunity and level between Japan and the United States is undoubtedly conducive to the increased credibility of the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements, and results in further enhancement of close collaboration between the two countries. Therefore, the MOD is proactively engaging in these initiatives.

See ▶ Reference 28 (Japan–U.S. (Minister-Level) Consultations (Since 2010))

2 Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation

(1) Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation and Policies to Ensure Their Effectiveness

It is necessary for both Japan and the United States to discuss and decide the roles each will fulfill in case of an armed attack on Japan or other situation in advance in order to respond rapidly in such an event. There is a framework pertaining to those roles between Japan and the United States, the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (Guidelines) and the various policies for ensuring their effectiveness. Based on that framework and the changing security environment surrounding Japan, both Japan and the United States continuously study bilateral cooperation plans for the two countries, and hold consultations on them. In addition, they have been working on the revision of the Guidelines to adapt to the current situations.

A. Previous Guidelines (1978)

Following consultations between the two countries, the Japan-U.S. SCC (“2+2” Meeting) held in 1978 approved the previous Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation. The previous Guidelines focused on responses to an armed attack against Japan. The outline of the previous Guidelines is given below:

a. Posture for Deterring Aggression

○ Japan, as its defense policy, will possess defense capability on an appropriate scale within the scope necessary for self-defense, and assure the stable and effective utilization of facilities and areas in Japan by the U.S. Forces. The United States will maintain a nuclear deterrent capability, and the forward deployments of combat-ready forces and other forces capable of reinforcing them.

○ In order to be able to take coordinated joint action smoothly in the event of an armed attack against Japan, Japan and the United States will endeavor to achieve a posture for cooperation between the SDF and the U.S. Forces in such areas as operations, intelligence and logistics.

b. Actions in Response to an Armed Attack against Japan

1) When an armed attack against Japan is imminent:

○ As deemed necessary, a coordination center will be established between the SDF and the U.S. Forces.

○ The SDF and U.S. Forces will establish in advance a common standard as regards preparations which will be respectively conducted by the two forces so that the two nations may select coordinated common readiness stages, and ensure that effective preparations for operations can be cooperatively undertaken by the SDF and the U.S. Forces respectively. The JSDF and the U.S. Forces will respectively conduct defense preparations considered necessary according to the readiness stage selected by mutual agreement between the two governments.

2) When an armed attack against Japan takes place:

- In principle, Japan by itself will repel limited, small-scale aggression. When it is difficult to repel aggression alone due to the scale, type and other factors of aggression, Japan will repel it with the cooperation of the United States.
- The SDF will primarily conduct defensive operations in Japanese territory and its surrounding waters and airspace. The U.S. Forces will support SDF operations and will also conduct operations to supplement functional areas which exceed the capacity of the SDF.

c. Japan-U.S. cooperation in the case of situations in the Far East outside of Japan which will have an important influence on the security of Japan:

- The Governments of Japan and the United States will consult together from time to time whenever changes in the circumstances so require. The Governments of Japan and the United States will conduct studies in advance on the scope and modalities of facilitative assistance to be extended to the U.S. Forces by Japan under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, its related arrangements, other relevant agreements between Japan and the United States, and the relevant laws and regulations of Japan.

B. Current Guidelines (1997)

After the development of the previous Guidelines, despite the end of the Cold War, the potential for instability and uncertainty persisted in the Asia-Pacific region. Accordingly, the maintenance of peace and stability in this region assumed greater importance for the security of Japan. and the maintenance of peace and stability in the region has become all the more important for Japan's security. Thus, Japan and the United States made a review of the previous Guidelines in order to further enhance the credibility of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, and the Japan-U.S. SCC ("2+2" Meeting) approved the current Guidelines in 1997. The current Guidelines extend the scope of Japan-U.S. cooperation to cover situations in areas surrounding Japan. The outline of the current Guidelines is shown below:

See ▶ Reference 29 (Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (September 23, 1997))

a. Objectives of the Guidelines

The Guidelines aim to create a solid basis for more effective and more credible Japan-U.S. cooperation in peacetime, as well as in the event of an armed attack against Japan and in situations in areas surrounding Japan¹.

¹ Situations that will have a serious impact on Japan's peace and security, including situations that could develop into a direct armed attack against Japan if left unaddressed. (Article 1 of the Law Concerning the Measures for Peace and Safety of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan)

b. Cooperation Items Prescribed in the Guidelines

○ Cooperation in Peacetime

Both governments will maintain close cooperation for the defense of Japan and for the creation of a more stable international security environment, and will promote cooperation in various fields in peacetime. Such cooperation includes information sharing and policy consultations; security dialogues and defense exchanges; U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO) and international humanitarian operations; bilateral defense planning, and mutual cooperation planning; enhancing bilateral exercises and training; and establishing a bilateral coordination mechanism.

○ Actions in Response to Armed Attack against Japan

Bilateral actions in response to an armed attack against Japan remain a core aspect of Japan–U.S. defense cooperation. The SDF will primarily conduct defensive operations² while the U.S. Forces conduct operations to supplement and support the SDF's operations. Both parties will respond based on respective concepts of operations in a coordinated manner.

○ Cooperation in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan

The Governments of both Japan and the United States will make every effort, including diplomatic means, to prevent situations in areas surrounding Japan from occurring.

See ▶ Reference 30 (Function and Fields and Examples of Items for Cooperation in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan)

c. Bilateral Programs under the Guidelines

In order to promote Japan–U.S. cooperation under the Guidelines in an effective manner and to ensure successful bilateral defense cooperation, the two countries need to conduct consultative dialogue in peacetime throughout the spectrum of security conditions, including the event of an armed attack against Japan and situations in areas surrounding Japan. In addition, both sides must share information adequately at multiple levels to accomplish such objectives.

To that end, the two governments will strengthen their information and intelligence sharing and policy consultations by taking advantage of all available opportunities, and will establish the following two mechanisms to facilitate consultations, coordinate policies, and operational functions.

² Operations conducted to interdict an enemy's offensive and to prevent their purpose from being achieved. Offensive operations mean aggressive forms of operations to search for and defeat enemies.

○ Comprehensive Mechanism

The comprehensive mechanism has been created so that not only the SDF and the U.S. Forces but also the relevant agencies of the respective governments conduct bilateral work under the Guidelines in peacetime. In the comprehensive mechanism, bilateral work such as bilateral defense planning and mutual cooperation planning will be conducted so as to be able to respond smoothly and effectively to armed attacks against Japan and to situations in areas surrounding Japan.

○ Coordination Mechanism

The coordination mechanism is set up in peacetime so that the two countries may coordinate their respective activities in the event of an armed attack against Japan and in situations in areas surrounding Japan.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-2-3 (Framework of Coordination Mechanism)

C. Policies for Ensuring the Effectiveness of the Guidelines

a. Measures for Ensuring the Effectiveness of the Guidelines

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the Guidelines, it is important to properly take necessary measures, including legal ones, regarding Japan–U.S. cooperation from peacetime to armed attack situations and situations in areas surrounding Japan. From this perspective, it is necessary for the Government of Japan as a whole from peacetime to collaborate in advancing bilateral work between Japan and the United States, including examination of bilateral defense planning and mutual cooperation planning of the Guidelines.

Based on this, laws such as the Act Concerning the Measures for Peace and Safety of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan (1999) and the Ship Inspection Operations Act (2000) were established from the standpoint of Japan–U.S. cooperation in areas surrounding Japan.

Also, measures are being taken to facilitate the U.S. Force operations as part of the strengthening of security cooperation legislation for situations such as armed attacks.

See ▶ Part III, Chapter 1, Section 2 (Frameworks for Responses to Armed Attack Situations)

b. Outline of the Law Concerning the Measures for Peace and Safety of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan and the Ship Inspections Operations Law

The Law Concerning the Measures for Peace and Safety of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan establishes the measures (response measures)³ that Japan will implement in

³ Law stipulating ship inspection operations and other necessary measures to respond to situations in

response to situations in areas surrounding Japan and the actual implementation procedures. The Ship Inspection Operations Law provides for the types, measures, and other matters of ship inspection operations implemented by Japan in response to situations in areas surrounding Japan.

○ The Prime Minister, facing a situation in areas surrounding Japan and deeming it necessary to adopt measures including such SDF activities as rear area support⁴, rear area search and rescue operations, and ship inspection operations, must request a Cabinet decision on such measures and on a draft basic plan of response measures. The Prime Minister must obtain prior approval, or ex post facto approval in case of emergency, from the Diet in order for the SDF to conduct response measures. Furthermore, the Prime Minister reports to the Diet without delay when the Cabinet has made a decision or approved a revision, or when the response measures have been completed.

○ In accordance with the basic plan, the Minister of Defense will draw up an implementation guideline (including designation of implementation areas), obtain approval for the guideline from the Prime Minister, and give the SDF orders to conduct rear area support, rear area search and rescue activities, and ship inspection operations.

○ Heads of relevant administrative organizations will implement response measures and may request the heads of local governments to provide the necessary cooperation for the organizations to exercise their authorities in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and the basic plan. In addition, the heads of relevant administrative organizations may ask persons other than those from the national government to cooperate as necessary in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and the basic plan⁵.

c. Rear Area Support

Rear area support means support measures, including the provision of goods, services, and conveniences, given by Japan in rear areas to the U.S. Forces conducting activities that

areas surrounding Japan to implement rear area support, rear area search and rescue operations, and ship inspection operations conducted in relation to situations in surrounding areas (Article 2 of the Law Concerning the Measures for Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan)

⁴ The term “rear area” refers to Japan’s territorial waters and international waters surrounding Japan (including the exclusive economic zone up to 200 nautical miles, or approximately 370 km, from the baseline of the territorial waters) in which no combat operations are conducted at that time and no combat operations are expected to be conducted throughout the period when the rear activities are carried out, and the space over these international waters.

⁵ If any person other than the central government who had been requested to cooperate suffers a loss as a result of such cooperation, the Government shall take necessary fiscal measures for the loss.

contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty in situations in areas surrounding Japan. As rear area support, the SDF provides goods and services, including supplies, transportation, repair, maintenance, medical services, communications, airport and seaport activities, and base activities.

d. Rear Area Search and Rescue Operations

Rear area search and rescue operations mean operations conducted by the SDF in situations in areas surrounding Japan to search and rescue those who were engaged in combat and were stranded in rear areas (including transporting those rescued)⁶. If there are non-combatants who face a mishap, he/she will be also rescued. In addition, if there is anyone in the territorial waters of a foreign country adjacent to the area in which the SDF is conducting activities, the SDF will also rescue that person, after having obtained approval from that foreign country. However, this is limited to cases in which no combat operations are conducted at that time and are expected to be conducted in those waters throughout the period during which the SDF conducts rescue activities.

e. Ship Inspection Operations

Ship inspection operations mean operations conducted by Japan in situations in areas surrounding Japan to inspect and confirm the cargo and destination of ships (excluding warships and others⁷) and to request, if necessary, a change of sea route, or destination port or place, for the purpose of strictly enforcing the regulatory measures concerning trade or other economic activities to which Japan is a party. These activities are conducted based on the U.N. Security Council Resolution or the consent of the flag state⁸ in the territorial waters of Japan or in the surrounding high seas (including the EEZ⁹)¹⁰.

(2) Revision of the Current Guidelines

A. Background to the Revision

The current Guidelines were developed in 1997 in light of changes in the security environment, including the end of the Cold War, by reviewing the previous guidelines formulated in 1978. The current Guidelines define the roles of Japan and the United States, and the cooperation of

⁶ Article 3, Paragraph 1, Item 2 of the Law Concerning the Measures for Peace and Security of Japan in Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan

⁷ Warships and such vessels that are possessed or operated by foreign governments that are exclusively used for non-commercial purposes

⁸ The state that has the right to fly its flag as prescribed in Article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

⁹ Article 1 of the Act Concerning Exclusive Economic Zones and the Continental Shelf.

¹⁰ Article 2 of the Ship Inspection Operations Act

the two countries under three categories: (1) in peacetime, (2) in response to an armed attack against Japan, and (3) in situations in areas surrounding Japan. They also stipulate that they will review the Guidelines in a timely and appropriate manner.

More than 16 years have passed since the establishment of the current Guidelines. During these years various issues and destabilizing factors have emerged, and become more visible and aggravated in the security environment surrounding Japan; such as more active military activities of neighboring countries, new threats including international terrorist organizations and risks against stable use of global commons such as oceans, space and cyber space. In addition, the activities of the SDF have expanded to a global scale, as exemplified by anti-piracy activities, PKO, and international disaster relief activities. As a result, it is now necessary for the Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation to adapt to these changes in the security environment and the expansion of the SDF's activities and missions.

Against the backdrop of these changes in the security environment, Prime Minister Abe ordered Minister of Defense Onodera at the end of 2012 to work on the revision of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation and others in order to strengthen the role of the SDF and enhance deterrence.” In addition, at the Japan-U.S. Summit held in February 2013, as Prime Minister Abe and U.S. President Obama exchanged views on security and the situations in the Asia-Pacific region, the Prime Minister stated to the President that, “in response to the evolving security environment, Japan would like to start reviewing the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation through discussions on the two countries' ideas of the roles, missions and capabilities (RMC).”

Against the background described above, at the Japan-U.S. SCC (“2+2” Meeting) in October 2013, Ministers directed the Subcommittee for Defense Cooperation (SDC) to draft recommended changes to the current Guidelines, and the review is to be completed by the end of 2014. Based on this, the MOD in October 2013 established a study preparatory committee regarding the revision of the Guidelines within the Ministry.

B. The Direction of the Review

The Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting identified the following seven objectives of the review of the Guidelines:

- 1) Ensuring the Alliance's capacity to respond to an armed attack against Japan, as a core aspect of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation;
- 2) Expanding the scope of cooperation, to reflect the global nature of the Japan-U.S. Alliance,

encompassing such areas as counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, peacekeeping, capacity building, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and equipment and technology enhancement;

- 3) Promoting deeper security cooperation with other regional partners to advance shared objectives and values;
- 4) Enhancing Alliance mechanisms for consultation and coordination to make them more flexible, timely, and responsive and to enable seamless bilateral cooperation in all situations;
- 5) Describing appropriate role-sharing of bilateral defense cooperation based on the enhancement of mutual capabilities;
- 6) Evaluating the concepts that guide bilateral defense cooperation in contingencies to ensure effective, efficient, and seamless Alliance response in a dynamic security environment that includes challenges in emerging strategic domains such as space and cyberspace; and
- 7) Exploring additional ways in which we can strengthen the Alliance in the future to meet shared objectives.

Based on this and in line with the new National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) and the basic approach shown in the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) of the United States, Japan and the United States will continue intensive discussions.

3 Japan–U.S. Bilateral Training and Exercises

The SDF and the U.S. Forces have been conducting various bilateral training and exercises in peacetime to strengthen Japan- U.S. joint response capabilities while improving interoperability and facilitating mutual understanding in regard to tactical aspects and closer communication. Since FY1985, mostly on an annual basis, command post exercise and field training exercise have been conducted alternately as the Japan–U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise; the command post exercise held in January 2014 was the 20th of its kind.

Such joint training and exercises in peacetime not only greatly contribute to maintaining and enhancing the Japan-U.S. joint response capabilities by deepening mutual understanding of capabilities and tactics, but also are effective for improving tactical skills on each side. In particular, the knowledge and techniques that the Japanese side can learn from the U.S. Forces, which have vast experience in actual fighting, are invaluable and greatly contribute to improving the JSDF's capabilities. In addition, holding bilateral exercises at effective times, places, and scales demonstrates the unified commitment and capabilities of Japan and the United States, which has a deterrent effect. In light of these perspectives, the MOD and the SDF are continuing their initiatives to enrich the contents of bilateral training and exercises.

See ▶ Reference 31 (Record of Japan-U.S. Bilateral Exercises in FY 2013)

4 The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement between Japan and the United States

The basic principle of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)¹¹ between Japan and the United States is that if either of the SDF and the U.S. Forces requests the provision of goods or services, the other side can provide them¹².

The Agreement is designed to positively contribute to the smooth and effective operation under the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty and to initiatives for international peace made under the leadership of the United Nations. Its scope of application includes various occasions such as bilateral training and exercises in peacetime, disaster relief activities, U.N. peacekeeping operations, international disaster relief activities¹³, situations in areas surrounding Japan, and armed attack situations.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-2-4 (*Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan and the United States*)

5 Cooperation in the Areas of Defense Equipment and Technology

Japan proactively promotes cooperation in areas of defense equipment and technology while bearing in mind the maintenance of Japan’s technology and production base and the mutual cooperation principle based on the Japan–U.S. Security Treaty and the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement between Japan and the United States of America.

In view of the progress in technological cooperation between Japan and the United States, the improvement of technological level, and other factors, Japan decided to transfer its military technology to the United States regardless of the provisions of the Three Principles on Armed Exports and related guidelines. In 1983, Japan concluded the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Military Technologies to the United States of America¹⁴. In June 2006, the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Arms and Military Technologies to the United States of America¹⁵ was concluded to replace the foregoing Exchange of Notes.

¹¹ The official title is the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Logistic Support, Supplies and Services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.”

¹² The categories of supplies and services as provided under the Agreement include: food; water; billeting; transportation (including airlift); petroleum, oils, and lubricants; clothing; communications; medical services; base support; storage; use of facilities; training services; spare parts and components; repair and maintenance; airport and seaport services; and ammunition (only in armed attack situations and anticipated situations). (Provision of weapons is not included.)

¹³ The amendment of the Self-Defense Forces Law on November 26, 2012, enabled the provision of supplies and services to the U.S. Forces by the SDF units engaging in international disaster relief activities.

¹⁴ The official title is the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Military Technologies to the United States of America under the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement between Japan and the United States of America

¹⁵ The official title is the Exchange of Notes concerning the Transfer of Arms and Military Technologies

Under these frameworks, the Government of Japan decided to provide the United States with 20 items of arms and military technology, including military technologies related to joint technological research on BMD.

Japan and the United States consult with each other at forums such as the Systems and Technology Forum (S&TF), which provides opportunities for exchanging opinions about military equipment and technology, and conduct cooperative research and development regarding the specific projects agreed upon at the forums.

See ▶ Reference 32 (Japan–U.S. Joint Research and Development Projects)

6 Cooperation in Response to Large-Scale Disasters

In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011, the SDF and the U.S. Forces demonstrated their high joint response capabilities based on the strong ties they had developed.

The success of the joint response in which the U.S. Forces provided large-scale support in disaster-afflicted areas in partnership with the SDF in “Operation Tomodachi” was the result of Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training and Exercises over many years, and will lead to the Alliance being deepened further in the future. “Operation Tomodachi,” as the U.S. Forces named its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief rescue operation following the Great East Japan Earthquake, involved the deployment of a large-scale force, at its peak including troops of approximately 16,000 personnel, around 15 ships, and around 140 aircraft; resulting in relief activities that were unprecedented in scale, contributing greatly to Japan’s restoration and reconstruction . Not only those affected but numerous Japanese at large were filled with a deepened sense of appreciation and trust for the U.S. Forces in Okinawa.

The main factors behind the success of the joint Japan-U.S. response to the Great East Japan Earthquake were the cooperation between the two countries that has been taking place even in peacetime, the swift and thorough implementation of coordination between them, and the presence of the U.S. Forces in Japan. In addition, the success of these endeavors was also due not only to the ongoing policy discussions and bilateral exercises carried out between the two countries in peacetime, but also to the fact that the stationing of the U.S. Forces in Japan means that their troops here are well-acquainted with the geography and culture of the country. On the

to the United States of America under the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement between Japan and the United States of America

other hand, some issues have emerged; such as clarifying the roles, missions and capabilities of Japan and the United States in the event of a disaster within Japan, as well as stipulating more concrete joint guidelines to facilitate greater participation by the U.S. Forces in disaster prevention drills, and examining mechanisms for the sharing of information and more effective coordination mechanism.

2 Background to the Strengthening of the Alliance

Since the conclusion of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in 1960, Japan and the United States have built a robust alliance based on democratic ideals, respect for human rights, the rule of law and common interests. During the Cold War era, the Japan–U.S. Security Arrangements ensured the safety of Japan as a country with a liberal ideology. It also contributed to peace and stability in the region.

Following the end of the Cold War, the leaders of Japan and the United States announced the Japan–U.S. Joint Declaration on Security in 1996, reaffirming the importance of the Japan–U.S. Alliance in light of the state of affairs in the Asia-Pacific region following the Cold War. Upon the Declaration, the final report was compiled at the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) at the end of that year, and as part of the promotion of cooperative relations presented in the Declaration, at the Japan-U.S. SCC (“2+2” Meeting) held the following year (1997), current Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (Guidelines) were approved, revising the previous Guidelines.

Afterwards, in light of further changes to the security environment due to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, following the “2+2” Meeting in December 2002, Japan and the United States held working-level and other consultations as part of bilateral strategic dialogue on security from the perspective of how to make the Japan-U.S. Alliance’s capacity more effective to adapt to changing times. As a result of a number of these Japan-U.S. consultations, the direction of the Japan-U.S. Alliance was arranged in three stages. These stages are: confirmation of common strategic objectives to both countries, including enhancing peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region (first stage) in February 2005; the announcement of the results of the examination of the roles, missions, and capabilities of Japan and the United States for accomplishing the common strategic objectives (second stage) in October 2005; and the formulation of the United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation, a program for implementing specific measures for the realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan, in May 2006.

See ▶ Reference 33 (United States – Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation)

Furthermore, Japan and the United States at the “2+2” Meeting in May 2007 reconfirmed and updated their common strategic objectives and reaffirmed their resolve to steadily implement the realignment plan set forth in the Roadmap. In February 2009, the two countries signed the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Implementation of the Relocation of III Marine Expeditionary Force personnel and their dependents from Okinawa to Guam (the Guam International Agreement), which entered into force in May 2009.

In 2010, Japan and the United States marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and in the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in January 2010, they reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that the Japan-U.S. Alliance continues to be effective in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century.

In the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in June 2011, the two countries revalidated and updated their common strategic objectives set forth in the Joint Statements of the previous “2+2” Meetings, including maintenance of maritime security domain by defending the principle of freedom of navigation and maintenance of bilateral cooperation with respect to protection of and access to space, and cyberspace, and covered a diverse range of areas regarding the strengthening of alliance security and defense cooperation, including an expansion of information sharing and joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) activities.

In the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in April 2012, Japan and the United States announced that they decided to adjust the plans outlined in the United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation (Realignment Roadmap) of May 2006, considering significant progress on the realignment of the U.S. Forces stationed in Japan since the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in June 2011 as well as the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-2-5 (Major Milestones in Security Cooperation Between Japan and the United States); Fig. III-2-2-6 (Overview of Japan–U.S. Consultations)

See ▶ Reference 34 (Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee)

In parallel with such bilateral political discussions, the two countries enhanced their cooperative relations in various aspects, including operations, and services in response to specific issues. For instance, as part of the cooperation in peacetime stipulated in the aforementioned Guidelines, in addition to Japan- U.S. Bilateral Training and Exercises, Japan also participates in trilateral training exercises with the armed forces of the U.S. and Australia, and in multinational exercises

such as Cobra Gold. As a result, the cooperative arrangements between Japan and the U.S. have made significant progress in a variety of fields. In recent years the U.S. Forces stationed in Japan have also participated in emergency training organized by local governments, thereby deepening cooperation with relevant institutions and local governments.

Regarding the response to ballistic missiles, bilateral response capabilities have improved, such as operational information sharing and establishing the guidelines for responding to an attack. Accordingly, Japan and the U.S. closely cooperated and coordinated in responding to the missile launches carried out by North Korea respectively in April 2009, and April and December 2012, which were purported to be a “satellite.” Also, in the systems and technology field, the cooperative development of a new ballistic missile defense (BMD) interceptor with enhanced capabilities (SM-3 Block IIA) is steadily in progress.

Concerning initiatives to improve the global security environment, through activities pursuant to the former Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Act, international disaster relief activities and international peace-keeping operations in the Philippines and Haiti, and anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, Japan is conducting activities in close cooperation with the U.S. Moreover, Japan-U.S. cooperation is also being steadily promoted through logistical support based on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) signed in 1996, as a result of increased opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

3 “2+2” Meeting (October 3, 2013)

On October 3, 2013, Japan and the United States held the “2+2” Meeting in Tokyo. This “2+2” Meeting was the historic meeting where all the four Ministers in charge of foreign affairs and defense of Japan and the United States got together in Tokyo for the first time and demonstrated the direction of strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance at home and overseas. At the meeting, while sharing anew the perception of the changing security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan and the United States, with shared values, set forth a strategic vision from the medium- to long-term perspectives in order to achieve a more robust Japan-U.S. Alliance.

The major achievement in the Joint Statement of the latest “2+2” Meeting includes (1) the agreement to complete the review of the current Guidelines by the end of 2014; (2) the agreement to further enhance and deepen bilateral security and defense cooperation, including in such areas as cyberspace and space, and to strengthen regional cooperation, including trilateral cooperation with Australia and the Republic of Korea; and (3) regarding the realignment of the U.S. Forces stationed in Japan, the underscoring of the strong determination

toward the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Camp Schwab and the agreement to steadily implement the previous agreements as early as possible and also to address a variety of new measures from the perspective of mitigating the impact on Okinawa.

The outline of the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting is given below:

1 Overview

(1) Strategic Vision of the Japan-U.S. Alliance

○The United States and Japan resolve to be full partners in a more balanced and effective Alliance

○Reflecting our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, free and open markets, and respect for human rights, the Strategic Vision will effectively promote peace, security, stability, and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region

○Initiatives providing the basis for such a vision: 1) revising the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation; 2) expanding security and defense cooperation; and 3) approving new measures to support the realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan

(2) The United States continues to implement its rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, and the two countries reiterated the ongoing mutual commitment to complete the agreements on the realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

(3) Japan’s Security Policy

○Make more proactive contributions to addressing the challenges faced by the international community

○Continue close coordination with the United States to expand its role within the framework of the Japan-U.S. Alliance

○Specific initiatives: (1) preparations to establish the National Security Council and to develop the National Security Strategy; (2) reexamination of the legal basis for its security, including the matter of exercising its right of collective self-defense; (3) expansion of its defense budget; (4) review of the National Defense Program Guidelines; (5) strengthening of its capability to defend its sovereign territory; and (6) broadening of regional contributions

○The United States welcomed these initiatives and reiterated its commitment to close collaboration with Japan

(4) Recognition of the Regional Situation

○Threats to peace and security, as well as challenges to international norms: (1) North Korea’s

nuclear and missile programs and humanitarian concerns; (2) coercive and destabilizing behaviors in the maritime domain; (3) disruptive activities in space and cyberspace; and (4) proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Japan and the United States will continue to encourage China to play a responsible and constructive role in regional stability and prosperity, to adhere to international norms of behavior, as well as to improve openness and transparency in its military modernization with its rapidly expanding military investments.

2 Bilateral Security and Defense Cooperation

○ The Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation: The revision of the Guidelines. The Ministers directed the Subcommittee for Defense Cooperation (SDC) to complete the revision task before the end of 2014

See ▶ Part III, Chapter 2, Section 2-1-2 (Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation)

○ Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Cooperation: The Ministers confirmed their intention to designate the Air Self-Defense Force base at Kyogamisaki (Kyotango City, Kyoto Prefecture) as the deployment site for a second AN/TPY-2 radar (X-band radar) system

○ Cooperation in Cyberspace: The Ministers stressed the need for close coordination with the private sector, recognized the need to promote a whole-of-government approach to shared threats in cyberspace, and welcomed the signing of a Terms of Reference for a new Cyber Defense Policy Working Group (CDPWG)

○ Cooperation in Space: The Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the Japan-U.S. Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Sharing Agreement, and welcomed the commitment of both countries to an early realization of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) provision of SSA information to the United States

○ Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Activities: The Ministers welcomed the establishment of a bilateral Defense ISR Working Group

○ Joint/Shared Use of Facilities: The Ministers welcomed the efforts of the Joint/Shared Use Working Group in order to strengthen the Self-Defense Forces posture in areas, including Japan's Southwestern Islands. Progress in realizing the joint/shared use of U.S. and Japanese facilities and areas strengthens the Alliance's deterrent capabilities while building a stronger relationship with local communities

○ Bilateral Planning: The Ministers welcomed progress on bilateral planning and reaffirmed initiatives toward refining bilateral plans

- Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation: The Ministers welcomed the new linkage established between bilateral discussions at the Systems and Technology Forum and dialogue on Roles, Missions, and Capabilities. Through collaboration such as the participation of Japanese industries in the production of the F-35 aircraft, bilateral cooperation on equipment and technology should deepen as Japan examines its Three Principles on Arms Exports and their related policy guidelines
- Extended Deterrence Dialogue¹⁶: The Ministers noted with satisfaction the meaningful outcome of bilateral Extended Deterrence Dialogues. The Ministers also confirmed their Governments' continued commitment to holding the dialogue on a regular basis
- Information Security: The SCC members welcomed the serious initiatives by Japan in establishing a legal framework for further ensuring information security
- Joint Training and Exercises: The Ministers decided to take advantage of various opportunities to increase training outside of Okinawa, including in mainland Japan, which should reduce the amount of time located and training in Okinawa of MV-22 Osprey
- Host Nation Support: The Ministers affirmed the continuing importance of the Host Nation Support (HNS) provided by Japan

3 Regional Engagement

- Regional Capacity Building: The SCC members resolved to build on early initiatives to collaborate on partnership capacity building projects in the Asia Pacific region. The Ministers welcomed the strategic use of Official Development Assistance by Japan
- Maritime Security: The Ministers affirmed their intent to cooperate further in maritime security and counter-piracy
- Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief: the Ministers encouraged initiatives to extend bilateral cooperation as well as to promote trilateral and multilateral coordination
- Trilateral Cooperation: The Ministers noted the success of the trilateral dialogues carried out regularly with Australia and the ROK
- Multilateral Cooperation: The Ministers noted the importance of working together, along with other regional partners, to strengthen institutions that promote economic and security cooperation based on internationally accepted rules and norms

4 Realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan

¹⁶ The Extended Deterrence Dialogue is designed for a frank exchange of views on ways to ensure the Japan-U.S. Alliance's deterrence capability as part of Japan-U.S. security and defense cooperation, and functions as a forum for Japan, who is being provided with the U.S. deterrence capability, to deepen its understanding of the U.S. deterrence policy and to make policy adjustments necessary to secure Japan's security.

See ▶ Part III, Chapter 3, Section 2-2 (Achievements of the “2+2” Meeting (October 3, 2013))

See ▶ Reference 35 (Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee (October 3, 2013))

4 Direction of Strengthening the Alliance

As described in the previous section, the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting in October 2013 covered joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) activities, joint training and exercises, joint/shared use of facilities, cooperation in cyberspace, etc. as the contents of bilateral security and defense cooperation in order to ensure the Alliance’s credibility into the future. The new National Defense Program Guidelines also incorporated many items of bilateral security and defense cooperation set forth in the Joint Statement as part of the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance’s deterrence and response capabilities as well as cooperating in a broad range of areas. It is important to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance through these initiatives not only for ensuring Japan’s security but also for the peace and stability of the international community, including the Asia-Pacific region.

1 Strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance’s Deterrence and Response Capabilities

The new National Defense Program Guidelines state that in order to strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, Japan will build seamless cooperation with the United States ranging from situations in peacetime to various situations, including cooperation in responding to “gray-zone” situations, while increasing the presence of Japan and the United States in the western Pacific region. To that end, as part of specific cooperation measures in peacetime, Japan and the United States continue to promote joint training and exercises, and joint ISR activities, as well as joint/shared use of facilities and areas of the two countries as a basis for these activities. The synergy effects of these three elements of cooperative initiatives can further strengthen and improve the operational efficiency of the SDF and the U.S. Forces, including efficiency, interoperability, readiness, mobility, and sustainability.

See ▶ Fig. III-2-2-7 (The Enhancement of Joint/Shared Use, Joint Training/Exercises, and Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Activities (conceptual image))

Joint training and exercises have been expanded not only within Japan but also to the United States by dispatching SDF units, and continuous initiatives are being made to improve interoperability and bilateral response capabilities at the military service and unit levels, including participation in exercises including the Japan-U.S. Bilateral Regional Army command post exercises, special anti-submarine exercises, and Japan-U.S. Bilateral Fighter combat training. Expanding joint training and exercises increases cooperative activities in peacetime,

thereby improving the readiness and operational capability of units as well as interoperability between the SDF and U.S. Forces. Moreover, conducting joint training and exercises at an effective time, venue, and scale demonstrates common intentions and unified capabilities between Japan and the U.S., and thereby serves as a deterrent.

In June 2013, the SDF sent participants from all three of the GSDF, MSDF and ASDF to the U.S. Forces' joint exercise "Dawn Blitz 2013" (field training) in the United States. In the field training with U.S. Marine Corps, "Forest Light," conducted in Japan in October 2013, the joint heliborne training was carried out using MV-22 Osprey to improve the interoperability of the SDF and the U.S. Forces. Further, in February 2014, the GSDF and U.S. Marine Corps conducted the field training "Iron Fist 2014" in an effort to enhance the amphibian operation function.

With regard to joint ISR activities, from the perspective that it is important to implement ISR activities in a broad Asia-Pacific region in cooperation between Japan and the U.S. to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities between both countries, the two countries set up the Defense ISR Working Group in February 2013 consisting of director-level defense officials from Japan and the U.S., which is further deepening the cooperation between the two countries as well as expanding bilateral exercises and training.

Expanding such joint ISR activities not only ensures that the two countries gain information superiority over other countries but also functions as a deterrent.

Expanding joint/shared use of facilities and areas increases bases for the SDF's activities such as maneuver areas, ports, and airfields, which in turn enhances the diversity and efficiency of Japan-U.S. bilateral training and expands the scope and raises the frequency of such activities as ISR. The SDF have only a limited number of facilities in Okinawa, including Naha Air Base, and most of them are located in urban areas, which results in operational limitations. The joint/shared use of USFJ facilities and areas in Okinawa will greatly improve the SDF's training environment in Okinawa, and facilitate training and interoperability between the SDF and the U.S. Forces. It will become possible to improve readiness and contribute to maintaining the safety of local people at a time of disaster. While taking enhancing of defense posture in the regions including Southwestern Islands into account, Japan and the U.S. are proactively engaged in deliberations. Furthermore, specific initiatives are steadily progressing. For example, GSDF has been using Camp Hansen since March 2008.

The relocation of the ASDF Air Defense Command to Yokota in April 2012 and the relocation of the GSDF Central Readiness Force Headquarters to Zama in March 2013 were carried out. In addition, in December 2013, the MSDF conducted the training on the ocean and training utilizing facilities in Guam and the surrounding area in cooperation with the U.S. Navy and the development of training ranges as facilities for shared use by the SDF and the U.S. Forces in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands (Tinian Island, Pagan Island, etc.) is under consideration.

In other areas, Japan will also tighten the Japan-U.S. operational cooperation and policy coordination, including ballistic missile defense (BMD), bilateral planning and Extended Deterrence Dialogue.

2 Strengthening and Expanding Cooperation in a Broad Range of Fields

The new National Defense Program Guidelines seek to strengthen cooperation in anti-piracy initiatives, capacity building assistance, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, peacekeeping and counterterrorism as well as in maritime affairs, outer space and cyberspace, and Japan will also constantly strengthen and expand the Japan-U.S. cooperative relationship over a broad range of fields, including disaster response, intelligence cooperation and information security, and cooperation in the field of defense equipment and technology.

One of the latest examples of these initiatives is bilateral cooperation in cyberspace. In October 2013, under the instructions of Minister of Defense Onodera and U.S. Secretary of Defense Hagel, the Cyber Defense Policy Working Group (CDPWG) was established as a framework between Japanese and U.S. defense officials to discuss a broad range of issues, including the sharing of information at the policy level and human resources development and technical cooperation.

In the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, Japan and the United States closely coordinated their responses to the relief of the damage caused by a major typhoon in the Philippines in November 2013, with the two countries jointly undertaking coordination at a local multilateral coordination office. In addition, contingency plans to respond to the Nankai Trough Mega quake, etc. developed in January 2014 incorporated Japan-U.S. joint response procedures, and the SDF and the U.S. Forces in February 2014 conducted the joint integrated disaster drill assuming damage from the Nankai Trough Mega quake in Kochi Prefecture. As seen in these examples, Japan and the United States are striving to further strengthen cooperation between the SDF and the U.S. Forces in disaster responses at home and abroad.

5 Recent Japan-U.S. Meetings

Regarding bilateral defense policy and defense cooperation, Minister Onodera and Secretary Hagel agreed to strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance by closely collaborating on bilateral efforts based on the new National Defense Program Guidelines of Japan and the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) of the United States released in March 2014 and steadily make progress in bilateral defense cooperation, including the revision of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, by the end of 2014 as described in the Joint Statement of the “2+2” Meeting held in October 2013. In addition, Secretary Hagel stated that the United States continues its rebalance policy which is an Asia-Pacific region oriented policy, as shown in the QDR, and as part of that policy, the United States plans to deploy two additional BMD-equipped Aegis ships to Japan by 2017. Minister Onodera explained the gist of the “Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology,” and Secretary Hagel welcomed Japan’s effort in this area. Minister Onodera and Secretary Hagel agreed to continue to deepen bilateral equipment and technology cooperation.

1 Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting (May 31, 2014)

Following the Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting on April 6, 2014, Minister of Defense Onodera and U.S. Secretary of Defense Hagel held another Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting on May 31, 2014, on the margins of the IISS (International Institute for Strategic Studies) Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) held in Singapore June 1-3.

(1) Regional Situation

Minister of Defense Onodera and U.S. Secretary of Defense Hagel exchanged views on the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region. Minister of Defense Onodera stated that Chinese fighters made unusual approaches to SDF aircrafts in May and that such dangerous acts are extremely regrettable as they could lead to unexpected accidents. The Minister and the Secretary agreed that they would oppose any attempt to alter the status quo by force in any region, including the East China Sea. They also confirmed that Japan and the United States will continue close cooperation for regional peace and stability. In this regard, Minister of Defense Onodera welcomed the temporary deployment of U.S. Air Force’s Global Hawk to Misawa Air Base which began in May and the additional deployment of a second AN/TPY-2 radar system to Japan as they contribute to Japan’s security as well as to regional peace and stability. The Minister and the Secretary agreed to continue to strengthen cooperation with Southeast Asian countries.

See ▶ Part I, Chapter 1, Section 3-2-5 (Maritime Activities)

(2) Japan's Security Policy

Minister of Defense Onodera mentioned that with the submission of a report by the Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security on May 15, and based on the basic direction of discussion process as instructed by Prime Minister Abe, the Government of Japan has begun domestic discussions. U.S. Secretary of Defense Hagel welcomed and supported such efforts by Japan.

See ▶ Part II, Chapter 1, Section 3 (Basic Policy for the Development of New Security Legal Systems)

(3) Bilateral Defense Cooperation

Minister of Defense Onodera and U.S. Secretary of Defense Hagel agreed to continue promoting the revision of the current Guidelines, which is to be completed by the end of 2014 as described in the Joint Statement of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (SCC) ("2+2" Meeting) held in October 2013, they also affirmed to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance's deterrence and response capabilities by steadily facilitating extensive bilateral defense cooperation.

(4) Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan

Minister of Defense Onodera and U.S. Secretary of Defense Hagel agreed to promptly and steadily proceed with the realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan, including construction of the MCAS Futenma Replacement Facility. Particularly in mitigating the impact on Okinawa, Minister of Defense Onodera explained again that the Government of Japan will make every possible effort in response to the requests from Okinawa Prefecture. The Minister and the Secretary confirmed that they continue close coordination to advance specific cooperation for mitigating the impact on Okinawa, including the increase of MV-22 Osprey training exercises outside of Okinawa, which should lead to strengthening of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation.

3 Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting (April 24, 2014)

Prime Minister Abe held the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting with U.S. President Obama, who visited Japan as a state guest, to exchange views on Japan-U.S. relations, the regional situation and global issues, etc.

At the Summit Meeting, Prime Minister Abe explained that Japan recently formulated the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology. Regarding the study on the relationship between the right of collective self-defense and the Constitution, he said the Japanese government will present its views upon receiving the panel report on the matter.

President Obama welcomed and expressed his support for Japan's efforts. The Prime Minister and the President confirmed that the two countries will continue to engage in a broad range of security and defense cooperation, including the revision of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation by the end of 2014.

See ▶ Part II, Chapter 1, Section 3 (Basic Policy for the Development of New Security Legal Systems)

Concerning the realignment of the U.S. Forces in Japan, Prime Minister Abe explained that the Japanese Diet ratified the Protocol amending the 2009 Guam International Agreement and stated that Japan hopes to see steady progress in the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam. Regarding the relocation of MCAS Futenma, Prime Minister Abe said: (1) Japan will start construction for the relocation of MCAS Futenma in a prompt and steady manner with a strong will; (2) since the Japanese Government's position is to do anything it can to the requests from the Governor of Okinawa, including termination of use of MCAS Futenma within five years, Japan will examine such requests through thorough communication with the United States; and (3) the Japanese Government is making efforts to increase MV-22 Osprey training exercises in areas outside of Okinawa, and U.S. cooperation is essential in progressing such efforts. In addition, on the Agreement to Supplement the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement on Environmental Stewardship, Prime Minister said it is necessary to have an agreement with sufficient content suited for a mature Alliance and sought U.S. cooperation to that end. In response, President Obama said the United States will continue its efforts to mitigate the impact on Okinawa while ensuring the smooth operation of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

On the situation of the Asia-Pacific region, the Prime Minister and the President agreed that it is important to maintain a free and open Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with other countries concerned, with Japan and the United States at its core, and also to get China involved in the process. To that end, they confirmed that it is important to fully demonstrate the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and the continuation of the U.S. rebalance policy. Regarding North Korea, Prime Minister Abe mentioned to continue the pressure on North Korea to stop them from developing nuclear weapons, and the Prime Minister and the President confirmed that Japan, the United States and the ROK will maintain close cooperation. On Japan-ROK relations, Prime Minister Abe stated that amicable Japan-ROK relations are essential for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and Japan will seek to communication with the ROK at various levels from a broader perspective and strive to build a future-oriented bilateral cooperative relations. Regarding China's continuing attempts to alter the status quo by force, Prime Minister Abe noted that Japan continues to respond to the situation of the Senkaku Islands in an unemotional manner and with a resolute attitude, and stated that it is important to

categorically oppose such coercive attempts by China including those in the South China Sea and demonstrate robust Japan-U.S. Alliance and strong U.S. commitment to Asia. U.S. President Obama stated to the effect that Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty covers the territories under the administration of Japan, including the Senkaku Islands. It was confirmed that the United States opposes any unilateral action that seeks to undermine Japan's administration of the Senkaku Islands. The Prime Minister and the President confirmed that Japan and the United States will continue to closely exchange views at multiple levels and maintain bilateral coordination regarding their policies toward China. Prime Minister Abe also mentioned that while centering on the Japan-U.S. Alliance, he would like to promote trilateral cooperation among Japan, the United States and the ROK; among Japan, the United States and Australia; and among Japan, the United States and India.