

National Defense Program Guidelines

The most consequential responsibility of the Government of Japan is to maintain Japan's peace and security, to ensure its survival and to defend to the end Japanese nationals' life, person and property and territorial land, waters and airspace. This is the foremost responsibility that Japan must fulfill as a sovereign nation. Carrying out this responsibility by exerting efforts on its own accord and initiative is at the very heart of Japan's national security. Japan's defense capability is the ultimate guarantor of its security and the clear representation of the unwavering will and ability of Japan as a peace-loving nation. And maintaining Japan's peace and security is an essential premise for its prosperity.

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

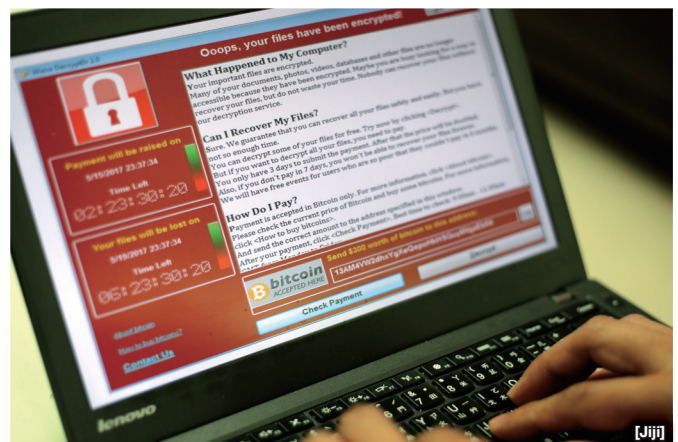
At present, security environment surrounding Japan is changing at extremely high speeds. Changes in the balance of power in the international arena are accelerating and becoming more complex, and uncertainty over the existing order is increasing.

Rapid expansion in the use of new domains, which are space, cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum is poised to fundamentally change the existing paradigm of national security, which has prioritized responses in traditional, physical domains, which are land, sea and air.

Situations in the Space, Cyberspace, and Electromagnetic Spectrum



Chinese space operations control station



Threat message from the WannaCry malware attack, which caused huge damage worldwide



[Jane's by IHS Markit]

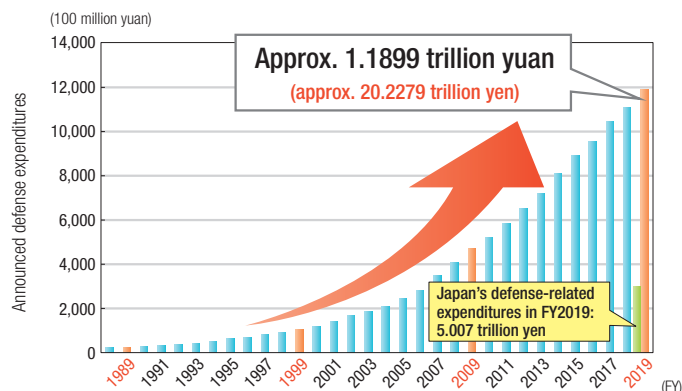
Russian Krasukha-4 electronic warfare system thought to have disrupted North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces' command and control and radar capabilities in Syria

for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG)

Qualitatively and quantitatively superior military powers concentrate in Japan's surroundings where clear trends are observed in further military build-up and increase in military activities.

Expansion and Intensification of Chinese Military Activities

High-level growth of defense expenditures (See Part I, Chapter 2, Section 2)



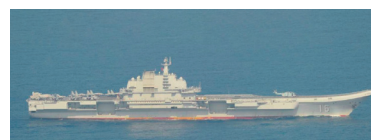
Expansion and intensification of activities by the Chinese Navy and Air Force



Su-30 fighter



H-6 bomber



Aircraft carrier "Liaoning"



Shang-class submarine

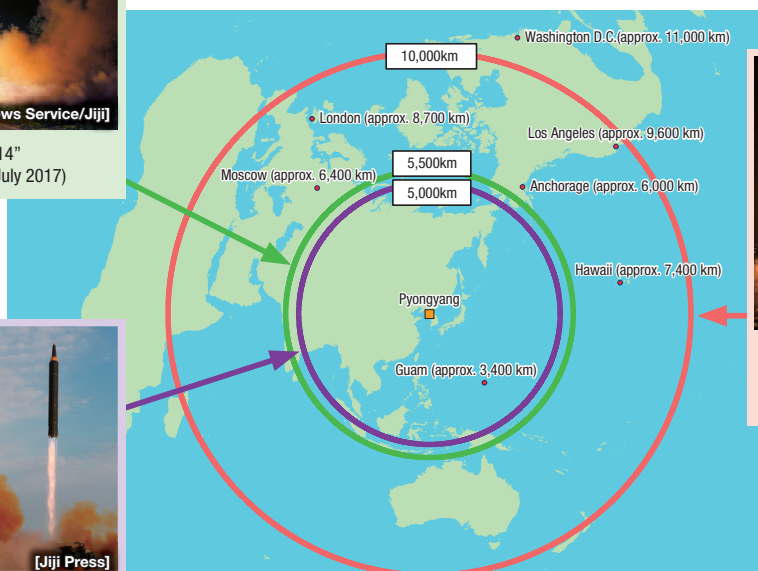
Enhancement of Ballistic Missiles by North Korea



ICBM-class "Hwasong-14"
Range: more than 5,500 km (July 2017)



Image publicly released by North Korea when it launched an IRBM-class ballistic missile (presumed) (September 15, 2017)



New-type, ICBM-class "Hwasong-15"
Range: more than 10,000 km* (November 2017)

Note 1: The figure above shows a rough image of the distance each missile can reach from Pyongyang for the sake of convenience.
Note 2: Quotation marks indicate the names used by North Korea.

Japan, amid the dramatically changing security environment, needs to fundamentally strengthen its national defense architecture with which to protect, by exerting efforts on its own accord and initiative, life, person and property of its nationals, territorial land, waters and airspace, and its sovereignty and independence, thereby expanding roles Japan can fulfill.

Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance as well as security cooperation with other countries are critical to Japan's national security, and this cannot be achieved without Japan's own efforts. The international community also expects Japan to play roles that are commensurate with its national power.

National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond (NDPG)

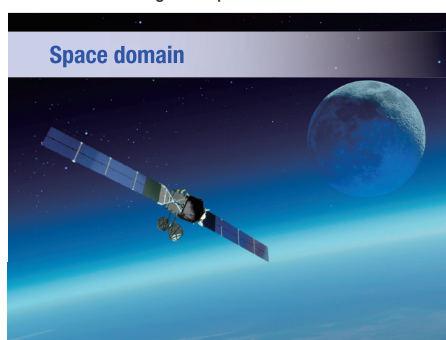
Strengthening Japan's Defense Capability

Japan must squarely face the realities of national security and ensure necessary and sufficient quality and quantity so as to build a new defense capability by a truly effective defense capability that does not lie on a linear extension of the past.

In particular, it has become essential that Japan achieve superiority in new domains, which are space, cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum. To build a new defense capability that combines strengths across all domains (Multi-Domain Defense Force), Japan needs to engage in a transformation at a pace that is fundamentally different from the past, completely shedding the thinking that relies on traditional division among land, sea, and air.

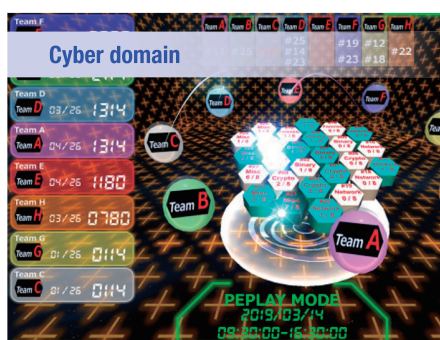
Strengthening Capabilities in the New domains of Space, Cyberspace and Electromagnetic Spectrum

In order to realize cross-domain operations, the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) will acquire and strengthen capabilities in new domains, which are space, cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum.



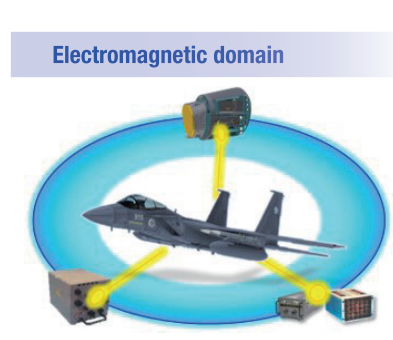
Space domain

X-band defense communications satellite (image)



Cyber domain

Cyber Competition



Electromagnetic domain

Improvement of electronic warfare capabilities of fighters (F-15) (image)

Enhancing Capabilities in Traditional Domains

The SDF will enhance capabilities to effectively counter attacks by aircraft, ships and missiles during cross-domain operations in close combination with capabilities in the new domains.



Capabilities in maritime and air domains

Destroyer JS "Izumo"



Stand-off defense capability

JASSM (image)



Comprehensive air and missile defense capability

Aegis Ashore (image)



Maneuver and deployment capability

Transport aircraft (C-2)

Strengthening Sustainability and Resiliency

To be able to sustain a range of requisite activities at all stages from peacetime to armed contingencies, the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/SDF will promote measures necessary for enhancing sustainability and resiliency of defense capability including logistics support.



Equipment maintenance



Equipment for restoring damaged runways

On the other hand, given the rapidly aging population with declining birthrates and severe fiscal situation, Japan cannot strengthen its defense capability without thorough rationalization that does not dwell on the past.

Reinforcing Human Resource Base

The MOD/SDF will make efforts to secure human resources for and improve the ability and morale of SDF personnel, which constitutes the core element of defense capability.



First Female Fighter Pilot

In strengthening defense capability, Japan will enhance priority capability areas as early as possible, allocating resources flexibly and intensively without adhering to existing budget and human resource allocation.

Reviewing Equipment Structure

The MOD/SDF will examine the existing equipment structure from a joint operation perspective and build an optimized equipment structure.



Type-12 surface-to-air guided missiles

Japan-U.S. Alliance and Security Cooperation

The Japan-U.S. Alliance, together with Japan's own defense architecture, continues to be the cornerstone of Japan's national security. Japan's fulfillment of its foremost responsibility as a sovereign nation is the very way to fulfill its roles under the Japan-U.S. Alliance and further enhance the Alliance's ability to deter and counter threats, and is a foundation upon which to strategically promote security cooperation in line with the vision of free and open Indo-Pacific.



Visiting Destroyer JS "Kaga" by Prime Minister Abe and President Trump (May 2019)

[Photo: courtesy of the Cabinet Secretariat Public Relations Office]



The 18th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) (June 2019)