

For appropriate execution of various SDF missions, it is necessary to acquire equipment such as destroyers and aircraft, and to establish a unit operation posture. However, building up defense capability cannot be achieved overtime and takes time, and therefore it needs to be planned and carried out on the basis of the medium- to long-term outlook.

For this reason, since FY1977, the Government has developed the National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG), which set forth the basic policies for Japan's security, the security environment surrounding Japan, the significance and role of Japan's defense capabilities, and basic guidelines for the building up of Japan's defense capabilities, including the specific organization of the SDF, and the deployment targets for major equipment.



Features of the past NDPGs

To date, in light of security environment of the time, the National Defense Program Guidelines were formulated in 1976, 1995, 2004 and 2010.

See Fig. II-4-1-1 (Developments in the Upgrading of Defense Capability to Date)

1976 NDPG

Formulated against the backdrop of the détente¹ of the 1970s, the 1976 NDPG were based on awareness that (1) in general, a full-scale military clash between East and West would be unlikely to occur, and (2) in the vicinity of Japan, the balanced relationship between the U.S., China, and the Soviet Union, and the existence of the Japan-U.S. security alliance would continue to play a substantial role in preventing a serious invasion of Japan.

In addition, with regard to Japan's defense capabilities, the NDPG stipulated that it should give considerations so that it can

(1) be furnished with the various functions required for defense and (2) be in a balanced posture in organization and deployment, including logistic support, (3) take adequate surveillance posture in peacetime, (4) effectively cope with situations up to limited and small-scale aggression, and (5) be capable of shifting smoothly to a new setup when an important change occurs in the situation and a new posture is necessary with regard to defense capability. The Basic Defense Force Concept introduced by the 1976 NDPG attached importance to deterrence, emphasizing measures to prevent an invasion of Japan.

2 1995 NDPG

The 1995 NDPG were formulated with consideration to the change of the international situation such as the end of the Cold War, and increasing public expectations for the SDF in the wake of the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations and response to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

The 1995 NDPG pointed out that previous Defense Programs of Japan were based on the Basic Defense Force Concept that aimed to possess a minimum-necessary defense force as an independent nation in order to prevent the country itself from becoming a power vacuum that becomes a factor

¹ This refers to the process of the easing of tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union that were in a confrontational relationship called the Cold War, triggered by the Cuban Crisis of 1962. This situation ended by Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

Fig. II-4-1-1 Developments in the Upgrading of Defense Capability to Date

1957	Basic Policy for National Defense (May 20, 1957)
1958	1958 1960 Ist Defense Program (Three-year Government Plan) (June 14, 1957)
1960 1965	1962 June 1 2nd Defense Program (Five-vear Government Plan) (July 18, 1961)
1970	1900 1967 3rd Defense Program (Five-year Government Plan) (November 29, 1966)
1975	1971 * 1972 4th Defense Program (Five-year Government Plan) (February 8, 1972)
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	- National Defense Program Guidelines formulated (October 29, 1976) -
	Concerning the Upgrading of Defense Capability for the Time Being (cap of 1% of GNP) (November 5, 1976)
1000	1980 1978 Mid-Term Program (Japan Defense Agency internal document)
1980	1984 [↓] 1983 ↑ 1981 Mid-Term Program (Japan Defense Agency internal document)
1985	1987 + 1986 ↑ 1986 Mid-Term Program (Five-year Government Plan) (September 18, 1985) (1.02% of GNP)
	1990 [Concerning the Upgrading of Defense Capability in the Future (January 24, 1987)]
1989	[Concerning the Basic Approach to the Defense Program from FY1991 (December 19, 1991)]
1993	Mid-Ierm Defense Program (FY1991-FY1995) (Hve-year Government Plan) (December 20, 1990)
	1995 ♦ Mid-Term Defense Program (FY1991-FY1995) (Five-year Government Plan) (Revised) (December 18, 1992)
	- Formulation of the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY1996 and beyond (November 28, 1995) -
1998	1996 1995 Mid-Term Defense Program (FY1996-FY2000) (Five-year Government Plan) (December 7, 1995)
	2000 * 1995 Mid-Term Defense Program (FY1996-FY2000) (Five-year Government Plan) (Revised) (December 19, 1997)
2003	2001 Mid-Term Program (Five-year Government Plan) (December 15, 2000) 2004 On Introduction of Ballistic Missile Defense System and Other Measures (December 19, 2003)
	2004 On infroduction of ballistic wissing beliefse system and other measures (becentiber 1-9, 2003)
	- Formulation of the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2005 and beyond (December 10, 2004) -
	2005 Auto-Term Defense Program (FY2005-FY2009) (Five-year Government Plan) (December 10, 2004)
2008	2009 Hid-Term Defense Program (FY2005-FY2009) (Five-year Government Plan) (Revised) (December 20, 2008)
	2010 Concerning the Upgrading of Defense Capability in 2010 (December 17, 2009)
	– Formulation of the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2011 and beyond (December 17, 2010) –
	2011 ndi-Term Defense Program (FY2011-FY2015) (Five-year Government Plan) (December 17, 2010)
	2012 *
2013	2013 Concerning the Upgrading of Defense Capability in FY2013 (January 25, 2013)
	Formulation of the National Security Strategy (December 17, 2013)
	- Formulation of the National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2014 and beyond (December 17, 2013) -
	2014 Mid-Term Defense Program (Five-year Government Plan) (December 17, 2013)
	2018 *

of instability for the neighboring region, rather than directly coping with a military threat to Japan, and basically followed the same approach.

At the same time, in terms of the content of Japan's defense bl capabilities, the Guidelines were characterized by their empha-

sis on the further utilization of SDF capabilities not only in the defense of Japan, but also in response to large-scale disasters and various other situations, and in contributions to a more stable security environment, as well as reviewing the scale and function of the defense force.

2004 NDPG

Amid the emergence of new threats and the challenges of diverse situations such as the progress in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, and the activities of international terrorist activities, the 2004 NDPG were formulated on the decision that new guidelines for the approach to Japan's national security and defense capabilities were necessary.

The 2004 NDPG established two security goals: (1) preventing direct threats from reaching Japan and, in the event that one does, repel it and minimize any damage, and (2) improving the international security environment, so as to reduce the chances that any threat will reach Japan in the first place. To this end, the Guidelines set an integrated combination of three approaches, (1) Japan's own effort, (2) Japan-U.S. Arrangements, and (3) Cooperation with the international community. Accordingly, in terms of the concept of defense capabilities, the Guidelines stipulated that a "multifunctional, flexible, effective defense force" was necessary to address new threats and diverse situations, with emphasis on response capabilities, while maintaining effective aspects of the Basic Defense Force Concept.

2010 NDPG

The 2010 NDPG were formulated in light of the recognition that (1) large-scale military capacity, including nuclear capabilities, still exists in the surrounding region, with many countries modernizing their military forces and intensifying various activities; (2) dramatic progress in such fields as military science and technology has shortened the time between the first signs of a contingency and its development making a seamless response necessary; and (3) many security issues extend across national borders, making partnership and cooperation between countries important for times of peace, so the role of military forces is diversifying and it is becoming common to continuously operate military forces from peacetime. Accordingly, the 2010 NDPG focus on SDF operations, rather than the Basic Defense Force Concept, which emphasized the existence of the defense force; as such, the Guidelines stipulate that it is necessary to ensure that future defense capabilities be dynamic and proactively conduct the various activities required to be fulfilled. Therefore, the 2010 NDPG prescribe the development of a Dynamic Defense Force that demonstrates readiness, mobility, flexibility, sustainability, and versatility, underpinned by advanced technical capabilities and intelligence skills, in light of trends in the level of military technology.

See Fig. II-4-1-2 (Changes of the Views regarding Defense Capability)

Fig. II-4-1-2 Changes of the Views regarding Defense Capability Background Basic ideas in 1976 NDPG 1976 NDPG O Détente and Cold War coexisting in global community O Balance relationships between the U.S., China and The concept of Basic Defense Capability (October 29 1976 · Maintain a minimum-necessary defense force as an independent nation Soviet Union has attained in the vicinity of Japan the National Defense Need to show the target of defense force buildup preventing a power vacuum that destabilize the region, rather than coping with Council/Cabinet Meeting) a direct military threat to Japan 19 years - Background-Basic ideas in 1995 NDPG 1995 NDPG O The end of Cold War O International situation with unpredictability and · Basically follow the concept of Basic Defense Capability (November 28, 1995 uncertainty • "Dealing with various contingencies such as major disasters" and "contributing the Security Council/ O National expectations to international contribution to building a more stable security environment" added to the roles of defense Cabinet Meeting) capability, joining the existing role of "defense of the nation" 9 years Background Basic ideas in 2004 NDPG 2004 NDPG O New threats such as international terrorism and ballistic missile attacks · Being able to work independently and proactively on implementing international (December 10 2004 O Direct connection between world peace and Japan's peace peace cooperation activities, as well as dealing effectively with new threats and the Security Council/ O Necessity to convert the policy from putting weight on diverse contingencies Cabinet Meeting) deterrence to handling the situation Maintenance of the effective aspects of the concept of basic defense capability 6 years Background Basic ideas in 2010 NDPG 2010 NDPG ○ Change in global power balance Complex military situation surrounding Japan . Build up of a Dynamic Defense Force (Not bound by the concept of Basic (December 17 2010 O Diversification of the military role in global society Defense Capability) the Security Council/ · Facilitating effective deterrence of and responses to various contingencies, and Cabinet Meeting) making it possible to proactively conduct activities to further stabilize the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and improve the global security 3 years environment in a dynamic manner Background Basic ideas in 2013 NDPG 2013 NDPG O Security situation surrounding Japan has become increasingly severe Build up of a Dynamic Joint Defense Force (December 17, 2013) ○ U.S. rebalance to the Asia-pacific region · Respond to increasingly severe security environment, and carry out various the National Security C Lessons learned from the Self-Defense forces experience activities, such as securing sea and air superiority seamlessly and flexibly Council/Cabinet Meeting) of the Great East Japan Earthquake based on joint operations in accordance with the situation through defense capability backed by the idea of joint operation