

Japan Self-Defense Force

A personal reflection

Presentation to RUSI of Tasmania

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Historical Context

Late 19th Century emergence from international isolation – Meiji Restoration

Rapid development with emphasis on militarism - “Rich Nation, Strong Army”

Colonial adventures - 1895 – 1945

Unconditional surrender - 1945

1946 Constitution

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognised.

Constitutional Interpretation

1950-4 Self Defence Forces created

1957 Basic Policy for National Defence

No right of collective self defence

No offensive capability

Three non-nuclear principles

Not possessing, producing, nor permitting introduction
of nuclear weapons

Three principles against arms exports (1967/1976)

GDP 1% spending ceiling - (1976)

Defence of 1000 miles of sea lanes (1981)



US Relationship

1945-51 Occupation

1952 First joint security treaty

1960 Japan/US Mutual Security Treaty

1972 Return of Okinawa

US maintains bases throughout Japan and Okinawa - currently 50,000



Post Cold War Environment

1st Gulf War - “Chequebook diplomacy”

N Korea

1994 Crisis

1998 Taepodong missile overflight

Coastal waters intrusion (1999 and 2001
sinking)

China - perceived expansion

Asymmetric threats



Legislative Change

1992 Peacekeeping Support Law (Gulf War)

UN Peacekeeping (UNTAC, Sinai, Gulf)

2001 Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law
(extended in 2003)

2003/4 National Emergency Bills

2003 Special Measures Law for Iraq

Change in National Mood

A traditional Chinese painting of a temple courtyard. The scene is dominated by a large, ornate pavilion with a multi-tiered, curved roof decorated with intricate carvings and colorful patterns. The structure is supported by thick, weathered stone pillars. To the right, a smaller, square bell tower with a similar architectural style is visible. The courtyard is paved with light-colored stones, and a few small figures of people in traditional attire are scattered throughout, adding a sense of scale and life to the scene. The overall style is characteristic of traditional Chinese ink and wash painting, with a focus on architectural detail and atmospheric perspective.

Pre 1990s - 40% socialist support (anti-SDF)

Now - <10% socialist support

Public opinion moved sharply right

Constitutional change on agenda

Increased support for SDF



Current Defence Developments

Creation of new Joint Staff

SDF in Iraq 04

Humanitarian and Reconstruction

BMD/TMD

Review of NDPO

Increased “International Contribution”

Impact on Capability

Review of Arms Export Principles

Collaborative development

Where to Japan?

World's 2nd largest economy

Pays for 20% of UN (P5 Aspirations)

Largest ODA contributor

Maturing alliance with US

Emergence of China

Global image

Koizumi factor



National Defence Academy March 2004 PM Koizumi



Japan is now in a position to actively contribute for International peace and prosperity. In Iraq, the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces (SDF) of Japan are working hard with sweat dripping down their foreheads on humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for the Iraqi people.

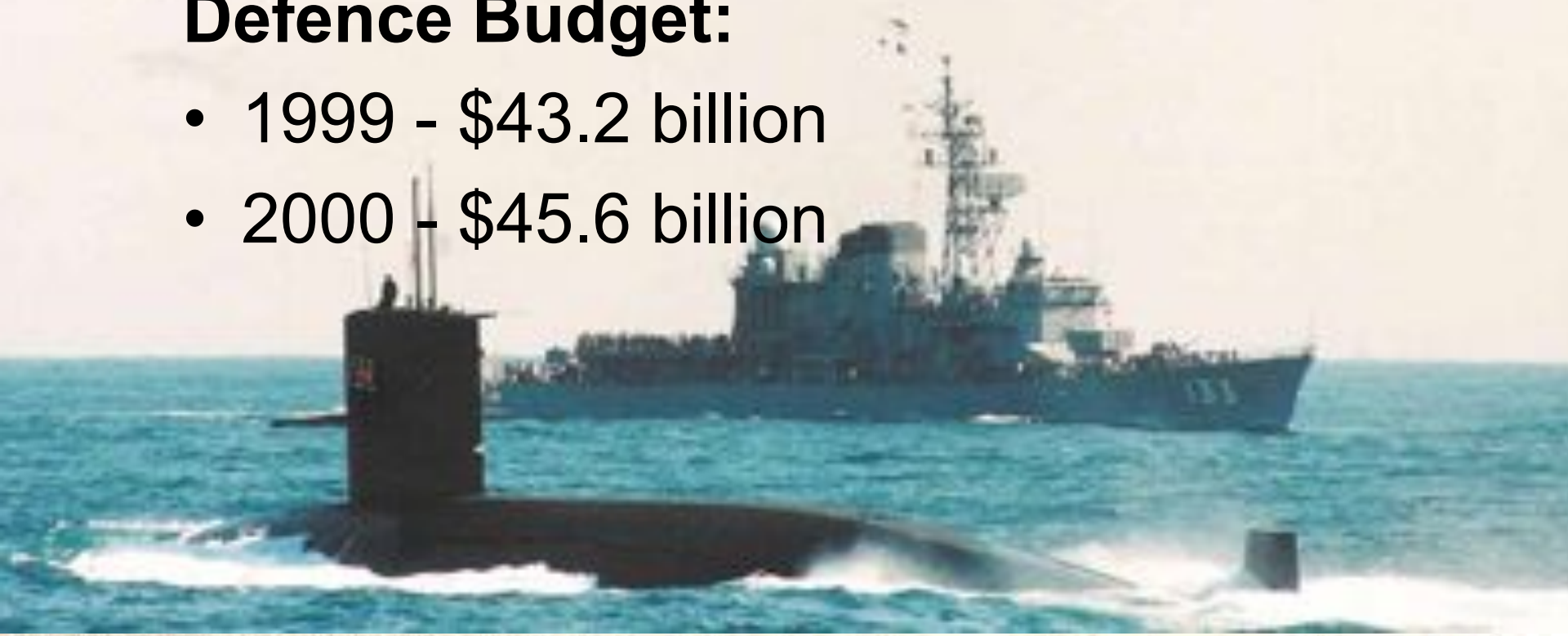
Japan Self Defense Forces

Total Armed Forces:

- Active - 236,700
- Reserve - 49,200

Defence Budget:

- 1999 - \$43.2 billion
- 2000 - \$45.6 billion



Japan Self Defense Forces

Capable of defending home islands

Capable of limited protection of sea lanes to 1,000nm

World's second largest defense budget

1,000 main battle tanks

16 Harpoon equipped SSK submarines

Surface fleet including new improved destroyers

80 P-3C anti-submarine MR aircraft

330 combat aircraft including F-15s and F-4s

Large defense industry with sophisticated capabilities

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force

- Active - 148,500
- 12 Combat Divisions
- 1070 Tanks
- 90 attack helicopters
- supporting Artillery/Air Defense Guns and Missiles



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

- Active - 42,600
- 16 SSK submarines
- 55 Principal Surface Combatants
- 3 patrol and coastal combatants
- 31 mine countermeasures
- 9 amphibious warfare ships
- 12,000-strong Air Arm with 80 combat aircraft and some 80 armed helicopters

Japan Air Self-Defense Force

A formation of Japanese fighter jets, including F-15J/DJ and F-4EJ, flying in a V-formation over a mountain range. The jets are white with blue and red markings. The background shows a large, snow-capped mountain under a blue sky with some clouds.

Active - 44,200

331 total combat aircraft

- 2 fighter/ground attack sqns (40 F-1/ 20 F-4EJ)
- 10 fighter squadrons (160 F-15J/DJ and 50 F-4EJ)
- 12 C-130J
- Supporting air-defense guns and missiles

RESERVE FORCES



Ready Reserve

- continuing service for trained Officers/SNCOs
- reduces fulltime numbers, freeing expenditure for elsewhere
- Allows for closer integration with the community.

Coast Guard

- Under MSDF command in crisis. (Many ships (albeit not built for military force) and over 100 aircraft)

JSDF TRENDS

More active role in regional and global security

U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines of 1999

Involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts

Concerns over regional defence capabilities

New Defence plans show a shift:

- more training, personnel and maintenance costs
- expansion of intelligence capabilities and contingency measures.
- expansion of surface fleet with new destroyers and an amphibious capability.

US/Japan Defence Guidelines

Interoperability with U.S. forces

- 13,000 ton replenishment ship to support U.S. naval operations
- mid-air refueling tanker planes
- AWACS
- Upgrading Aegis destroyers
- TMD Research

Comprehensive bilateral defense planning cooperation

- humanitarian relief activities
- search and rescue
- noncombatant evacuation operations
- enforcement of UN-sponsored economic sanctions
- logistic support for U.S. forces

Australia – Japan Defence Relations

Australia and Japan's strategic interests are closely aligned, and our defence relationship has been growing steadily in recent years. Enhanced strategic dialogue and increased interaction between our defence forces benefit both countries and the region.

Minister Hill 2002

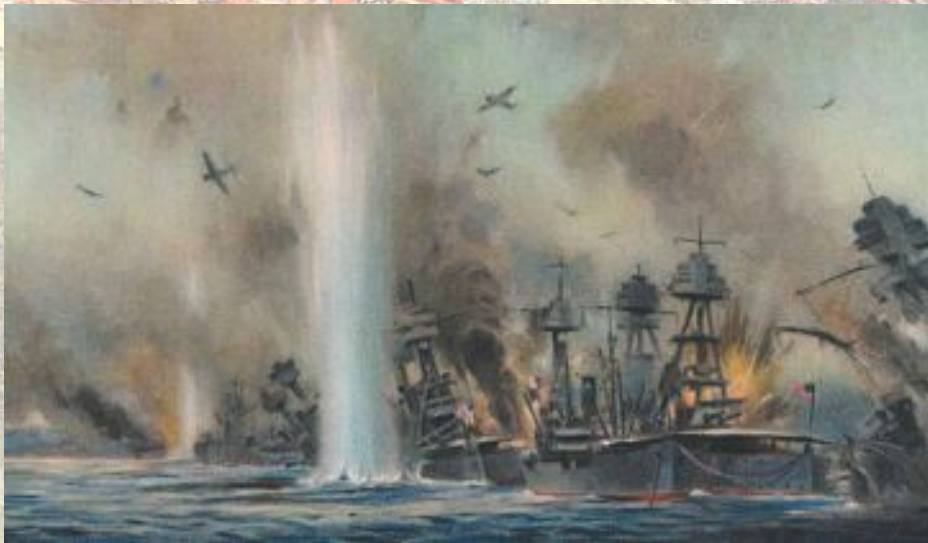


Australia – Japan Defence Relations

- Ships and aircraft visits
- Student exchanges
- Study tours
- Chiefs' visits
- Cooperation
- Politico-Military Talks



The Pacific War



Shitsumon-ga
aru n'desu ka



Questions?