

“Bottom-up Review” (Security Research Group)

1. Outline

- Since the formulation of the current National Security Strategy, the National Defense Program Guidelines, and the Mid-term Defense Program, the threats Japan faces have qualitatively changed, with North Korea’s nuclear and missile capabilities as well as China’s A2AD capabilities being further expanded and non-traditional threats becoming more serious.
- Japan’s fundamental framework for security policy changed with the passage of the 2015 Legislation for Peace & Security.
- The uncertainty surrounding the Trump administration’s policies toward Asia and toward its allies
- The expansion of China’s Belt & Road Initiative and China’s growing interest in the Indo-Pacific
- The normalization of “gray zone” threats

(First year) Review current strategies/policies, assess threats, determine any problems with defense capabilities, analyze the Trump administration’s security policies, and consider greater international cooperation

(Second year) Prepare recommendations on revamping the National Defense Program Guidelines

(Third year) Evaluate the new National Defense Program Guidelines

Seven Research Group meetings were held in FY2017 to review national security policies and the National Defense Program Guidelines as well as to discuss the nuclear/missile threat posed by North Korea, Chinese advances into waters surrounding Japanese territory, maritime and air defense capabilities, the Japan-US alliance, and issues and opportunities for international cooperation, and internal papers were prepared.

After five or so more meetings, recommendations on revamping the National Defense Program Guidelines will be prepared by October or November and submitted to the government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

2. Research Organization

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