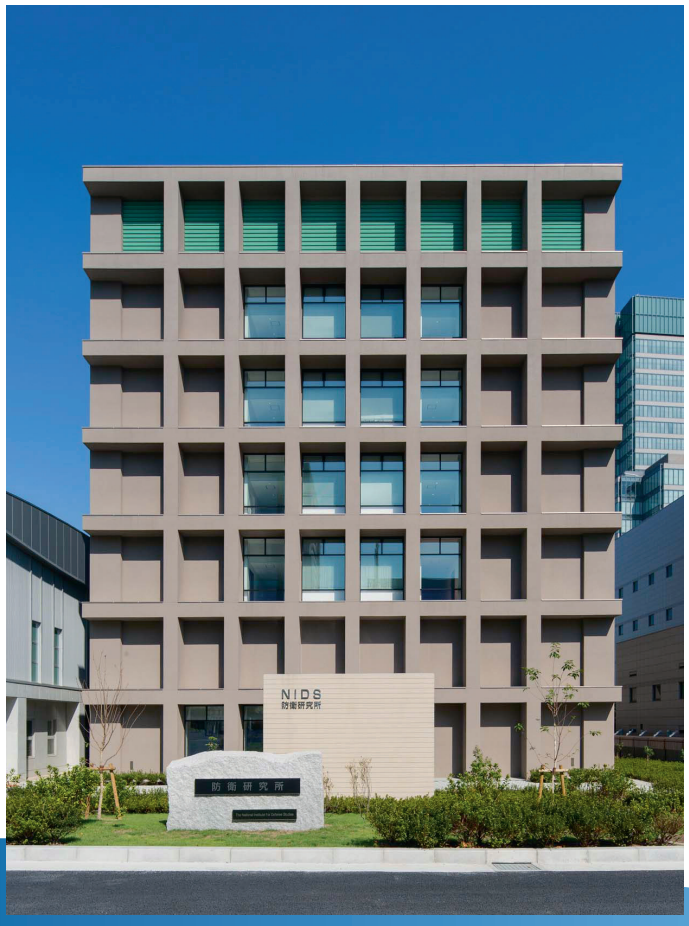
Introduction: Roles of the National Institute for Defense Studies

The National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), a think tank of the Ministry of Defense of Japan, is a unique national academic research organization founded for Japan's safety. It conducts policy-oriented research on security policies and military history, as well as providing a top-class education, which is equal to any National Defense University in other countries, to senior officers of the Self-Defense Forces and officials of the Ministry of Defense and other ministries and agencies. In addition, as Japan's foremost military history-related organization, NIDS also maintains and exhibits military history archives.

The National Defense Program Guidelines, approved by the Security Council and the Cabinet in December 2013, stipulate that "in addition to strengthening the Ministry of Defense and SDF research systems, with a particular focus on the National Institute for Defense Studies, the Ministry of Defense will promote various partnerships, including education and research exchange with other research and educational institutions within the government, as well as universities and think-tanks both within Japan and overseas." NIDS actively engages in research and education, and places importance on international interaction and dissemination of information. Through these activities, NIDS has established a firm position in the field of Japanese security policy.

NIDS plans to redouble its efforts in the areas of research and education in the future as well.



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