

## Research on National Security Issues

NIDS, as the premier think tank of the Ministry of Defense, carries out research on national security issues in order to provide timely and effective input into policy deliberations at the Ministry of Defense. In FY2011, the NIDS Research Department was reorganized into the Policy Studies Department, Security Studies Department, and Regional Studies Department to make it better prepared to engage in a wider range of security studies.

### Policy-Oriented Research

NIDS is a government agency and an academic research institute. Its characteristics, namely academic freedom, flexibility of thought, and long-term vision, are reflected in NIDS's research. At NIDS, experts with diverse academic and career backgrounds collaborate in research projects. NIDS also engages in ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Defense, the SDF, relevant ministries, academia, the business community (\*and/or financial circles), and think tanks.

### Current Research Topics

To ensure responses to fluid strategic environments currently surrounding Japan, NIDS is exploring the following themes that are closely related to Japan's national security:

#### ● Modern Conflicts and Roles of the Armed Forces

As modern conflicts become more diverse and hybrid, the role of the armed forces for managing these conflicts is also changing. NIDS analyzes the causes and characteristics of modern conflicts and studies ways to prevent such conflicts, respond to them if one breaks out, and contribute to post-conflict reconstruction and development.

#### ● Japan-U.S. Alliance

The alliance with the United States, a country which shares fundamental values with Japan, is not only essential for maintaining the peace and security of Japan but is also important for tackling challenges such as effective promotion of multilateral security cooperation and handling of global security issues. Taking this into account, NIDS is conducting research on the Japan-U.S. alliance in a new security environment.

## ● Security in the Asia-Pacific

NIDS conducts research and studies on security in the Asia-Pacific region, which has a great impact on Japan's national security, focusing on China and the Korean Peninsula. NIDS takes a broad perspective, including diplomacy, economy, domestic policy and military affairs, to produce its own original analytical output. In addition, NIDS studies the modality of multilayered security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region with a perspective to achieving regional stability.

## ● Global Security Issues

The international community faces threats such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, international terrorism, and piracy. At the same time, there are concerns that stable access to the global commons including sea, space, and cyber space is increasingly at risk. Furthermore, the effects of climate change on the security environment must be watched closely. NIDS conducts research to identify solutions to these global security issues as well as the role of military power therein.

## Support for Policy-Making

NIDS strives to provide research outcomes that support policy-making by the Ministry of Defense in a timely and effective manner. NIDS not only conducts research upon request from Ministry of Defense organizations, but also gives briefings to the Minister of Defense, senior leaders of the ministry or concerned personnel of other government agencies involving with National Security Secretariat, on significant international security developments or issues of importance for Japan's national security.