

East Asian Strategic Review 2018

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Japan-US Security Consultative Committee (2+2) (Japan Ministry of Defense)
JASDF Patriot (PAC-3) surface-to-air guided missile (JASDF Air Staff Office)
JASDF F-15 fighters and the US Navy aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson*
(JMSDF Maritime Staff Office)

Preface

This edition of the *East Asian Strategic Review (EASR)* marks the twenty-second year of the flagship publication of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan's sole national think tank in the area of security affairs. Over those years, *EASR* has built up an established reputation as the only annual report in both Japanese and English that provides domestic and international audiences with insight into Japan's security environment in the context of the increasingly challenging security issues of East Asia.

EASR comprises chapters examining trends in specific regional countries that have an impact on Japan's security, and chapters covering timely topics in East Asian security. This edition analyzes diverse themes such as North Korea's development of intercontinental ballistic missiles, the alliance politics of South Korea's new Moon Jae-in administration, the United States' new national security strategy and North Korea policy under the new Donald Trump administration, the US-Japan alliance and Japan's role amid growing uncertainty, the Xi Jinping administration's further consolidation of power in China, the quest of the People's Liberation Army to become a world-class military force, and the implications and challenges of freedom of navigation in maritime security.

As part of the NIDS editorial policy, *EASR* lists the names of the authors responsible for each chapter and provides chapter notes indicating information sources, so as to further strengthen its standing as a scholarly text founded on analyses personally made by its contributing researchers. It also adds a wide array of supplementary material to further enhance general readers' understanding of East Asian security, including figures, tables, photos, sidebars, and a list of abbreviations.

EASR 2018 represents NIDS researchers' analyses and descriptions of major security-related developments that took place mainly during the period from January through December 2017, and is based on information compiled from open sources in Japan and overseas. The statements contained herein do not necessarily represent the official position of the Government of Japan or the Ministry of Defense. The titles and ranks of people mentioned herein are, in principle, those that were current at the time of the events described.

This edition was written by: Shinji Hyodo (Introduction); Yu Harada and Seiya

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Eifuku (Chapter 1); Masafumi Iida and Hirofumi Kiriya (Chapter 2); Takeshi Watanabe and Osamu Koike (Chapter 3); Yoshihide Matsuura and Hideo Tomikawa (Chapter 4); Hiroshi Yamazoe and Shigeki Akimoto (Chapter 5); Hiromu Arakaki, Ryo Kiridori, and Shigeo Kikuchi (Chapter 6); and Tomohiko Satake (Chapter 7). It was edited by Shigeki Akimoto, Takeyuki Hasegawa, Osamu Hinata, Ryo Kiridori, Hirofumi Kiriya, Osamu Koike, Masahiro Kurita, Yuji Maeda, Yuko Manabe, Kazuya Sato, Yasuyuki Sugiura, Ichiro Takahashi, and Kiwako Tanaka.

As the world's interest gravitates toward strategic trends in East Asia, it is our hope that *EASR* will help build interest in and understanding of the East Asian strategic environment and will serve as food for intelligent discussion aimed at helping Japan to make better security policy decisions.

March 2018

Shinji Hyodo
EASR 2018 Editor-in-chief
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