

Foreword

Outer space is emerging as a critical domain for security in recent years. Driving this trend is an increasing utilization of outer space for security purposes, most notably the use of satellites for military operations, by an increasing number of countries. At the same time, there is a growing realization about the threats that could undermine the safe use of space, including intentional destruction of satellites by anti-satellite weapons and unintended destruction of satellites due to collision with space debris.

Japan has been expanding its space use in the security realm since enacting the Basic Space Law in 2008, nearly 40 years after the country launched its first satellite in 1970. The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2014 and Beyond, a basic document on Japan's defense policy released in December 2013, committed to using various types of satellites to strengthen information collection capability, as well as reinforce command and control and information-communication capability. Furthermore, Japan's latest Basic Plan on Space Policy, revised for the second time in January 2015, attached importance to the security uses of space. In addition, the April 2015 Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation set out that the two countries would engage in close cooperation to ensure the resilience of their space systems.

In light of these recent developments, the International Symposium on Security Affairs, an annual flagship event organized by the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan, in November 2015 explored the latest international trends in space security as well as the evolution of Japan's space policy. Leading experts in the field from the United States, France and Japan participated in the symposium. We are grateful that insightful and fruitful discussions were held on various aspects of space security issues. We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation for the valuable contributions made by those who attended the symposium. This volume is a collection of papers submitted for the symposium. We publish this hoping that it will help deepen our understanding of the topic and stimulate further discussions.

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