



Sasakawa USA | Quick Facts on Japan

DEFENSE & SECURITY

ARTICLE 9 of Japan's 1947 Constitution:

"Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized."

Collective Self-Defense

In 2014, the Abe government and his cabinet approved a reinterpretation of Article 9 which would allow for "collective self-defense." Japan's military could come to the aid of an ally under attack. The package of bills providing the legal basis for this has been approved by the cabinet and the 2015 Diet session has been extended to late September to vote on this legislation. It is likely to pass; however, the legislation faces criticism from opposition parties and constitutional scholars who argue that it is unconstitutional.

Unlike in the U.S. where the President serves as Commander in Chief, **Japan's Diet is supreme in making defense decisions.**

Revision of the U.S.-Japan Guidelines

The **Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation** is a document which outlines the roles and responsibilities of each country's military, including how to cooperate in the event of a contingency. The first set of guidelines was signed in 1978 and then revised in 1997. The latest round of revisions were concluded in April 2015 and aim to make the alliance **a more balanced partnership**.

The U.S.-Japan Alliance is asymmetrical; the U.S. is obligated to defend Japan but not vice versa.
The U.S. is Japan's ONLY ally.

To enhance **bilateral cooperation**, non-combatant evacuation operations overseas will be allowed.

The revised guidelines recognize the **global nature** of the Alliance by outlining measures to allow U.S. forces and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) to plan, train, and operate together.

U.S. Military in Japan

- 7** U.S. bases/ports on mainland Japan
- 8** military facilities
- 28,000** U.S. military personnel
- 43,000** dependents
- 5,000** DOD civilian employees
- 25,000** Japanese workers

Map of U.S. Forces in Japan



Source: The Asia-Pacific Journal