



News Release

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For more information:
David Bolger
dbolger@spfusa.org
703.969.7900

Sasakawa USA Releases Book on Japan's NDP Guidelines *Aligning U.S. and Japanese Defense Strategies for the Third Post-Cold War Era*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Sasakawa USA released *The New National Defense Program Guidelines: Aligning U.S. and Japanese Defense Strategies for the Third Post-Cold War Era*, a policy analysis by U.S. and Japanese scholars and former defense officials that examines implications of Japan's recently released National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG). Japan's revision of the NDPG in December 2018 represents significant defense policy changes that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe engineered during his tenure since 2012, such as liberalizing rules for military equipment exports, introducing a limited form of collective self-defense, and expanding the scope of possible Self-Defense Forces.

Dr. Sayuri Romei, Fellow for Security and Foreign Affairs, Sasakawa USA, and James Schoff, Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, edited the volume which is based on a recent Sasakawa USA-Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Symposium where scholars and defense experts assessed Japan's policy priorities and defense capabilities through the lens of the newly-revised NDPG and Japan's Mid-Term Defense Plan. The discussion also considered implications for the U.S.-Japan alliance and regional security in the future.

Sasakawa USA's Chairman, Adm. Dennis Blair (Ret.), commented "I've been deeply involved in U.S.-Japan defense cooperation for more than thirty years. That cooperation is now closer than it has ever been, and a foundation of defense policy has been established in both countries that will tighten it even more. These guidelines provide the rationale, authority, and impetus for Japan's defense forces to cooperate more effectively, and on a better-balanced basis, with the U.S. armed forces. Romei and Schoff and their fellow authors explain the significance and likely results of this important step in Japanese defense policy."

Contributors to the book include:

- **Dr. Eric Heginbotham** is a principal research scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies and a specialist in Asian security issues.
- **Lt. Gen. Koichi Isobe** retired from active duty in August 2015, after thirty-five years of service in the Japan Self-Defense Force. He is a Strategic Advisor to Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd and a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Asia Center.
- **Masanori Nishi** is currently the Executive Advisor at Nippon Life Insurance Company. He has been a Special Advisor to the Minister of Defense (2017-2018) after holding the role previously in 2015-2016.

- **Kaleb Redden** is the director for strategy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. He served previously as the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Director for Northern & Western Europe.
- **Dr. Sayuri Romei** is the Fellow for Security and Foreign Affairs at Sasakawa USA. Prior to joining Sasakawa USA, Romei spent a year at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) as a MacArthur Nuclear Security Pre-doctoral Fellow.
- **James L. Schoff** is a senior fellow in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His research focuses on U.S.-Japan relations and regional engagement, East Asian security, Japan's political economy, and alliance collaboration in high-tech fields.
- **Nina Wagner** is Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities. She previously worked on the strategy team that developed the National Defense Strategy released in early 2018.

On April 24, editors and contributors of *The New National Defense Program Guidelines: Aligning U.S. and Japanese Defense Strategies for the Third Post-Cold War Era* will participate in Sasakawa USA's Sixth Annual Security Forum. To register for this year's Forum, please register [here](#). To download *The New National Defense Program Guidelines: Aligning U.S. and Japanese Defense Strategies for the Third Post-Cold War Era*, [click here](#). To request a printed version of the book, click [here](#).

About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

[Sasakawa USA](#) is an independent American non-profit, non-partisan institution devoted to research, analysis, and better understanding of the U.S.-Japan relationship. Through research and education programs, Sasakawa USA facilitates people-to-people exchange and dialogue between American and Japanese policymakers, influential citizens, and the broader public. Follow us on Twitter, @SasakawaUSA.

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