



News Release

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2023

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Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA Publication Announcement on “Modernizing U.S.-Japan Command & Control Relationships for New Challenges”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA) is pleased to announce a new publication on “Modernizing U.S.-Japan Command & Control Relationships for New Challenges” by Sasakawa USA Senior Director James Schoff.



Japan is now a front-line state in any East Asia regional conflict, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has demonstrated the need to be truly prepared for potential conflict. Sustaining deterrence in East Asia requires more effective leveraging of U.S. *and* Japanese military capabilities in an integrated manner, but this can only happen if the allies have a sophisticated bilateral command structure that combines shared situational awareness with timely decision

making and seamless execution of well-coordinated action.

In this new publication, Mr. Schoff explores useful adjustments to alliance C2 relationships that were debated at the Spring 2023 NEXT Alliance Conference (NAC) in Tokyo. The conference involved roughly 40 American and Japanese specialists from government, the military, academia, think tanks, and the private sector engaging in a series of not-for-attribution discussions.

This reexamination of alliance C2 is driven by three trends: 1) a shifting regional military balance that make force integration more vital; 2) a combination of technological advances and operational needs driving more combined force concepts; and 3) Japan’s expanding defense capabilities and military “jointness.” Alliance C2 modernization has been piecemeal to date, but a more comprehensive update is needed. This conference summary sizes up the needs, challenges, and opportunities for the alliance on this front, and it outlines three basic options for US-Japan C2 modernization.

To read the report, click [here](#). For further information, please contact Associate Program Officer Erim Gulum at egulum@spfusa.org.

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About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA) is a non-partisan 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to deepening the understanding of and strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and Japan for the benefit of a free and open international community. Its activities mainly focus on security and diplomacy, through exchanges, dialogue, analysis, publications, and networking. Follow us on Twitter @SasakawaUSA and visit our website at [Sasakawa USA](#).