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Press Release

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Sasakawa USA Publishes Final Report on Modernization of US-Japan Command, Control and Coordination (C3) Relationships

WASHINGTON, DC – Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA) announces a new publication on "**US-Japan 'C3' Modernization: Past, Present and Future**" by Senior Director James Schoff, leader of the US-Japan NEXT Alliance Initiative; Associate Program Officer Erim Gulum; and former NEXT Summer Intern Hanah Bloom. To read the report, click here.

This comprehensive paper is the culmination of a two-year project on the modernization of US-Japan defense-related command, control, and coordination (C3) relationships. It provides historical context on alliance C3 evolution from Occupation, through the Korean War, Cold War, and beyond. In addition, this paper outlines recommendations for future development.

Key highlights of the publication include analysis, exploration, and recommendations. Analysis of Japan's new Joint Operations Command (J-JOC), launching in March 2025. Exploration of US options for creating a new USFJ/Joint Force Headquarters in Japan to be J-JOC's counterpart. Plus, recommendations for implementing the allies' pledge "to facilitate deeper interoperability and cooperation on joint bilateral operations in peacetime and during contingencies" by upgrading their command-and-control frameworks.

This paper is the result of six roundtable dialogues on the topic, two multi-day conferences in the US and Japan, archival research, and a series of event summaries and follow-up papers by its participants.

As both countries launch new administrations and begin to implement reforms to their command structures in Japan, this paper outlines practical recommendations to capitalize on Japan's new operational command and counterstrike capabilities. These recommendations were debated and developed by dozens of former and current military officers, government officials, and academic

specialists who participated in our "US-Japan Task Force on Command Relationships for New Challenges." The authors are solely responsible for the final product and aim to find the right balance between being ambitious, transformative, and effective, while ensuring the proposed changes are achievable.

To read the report, click here. For further information, please contact Associate Communications Officer Kathryn Bubolz at kbubolz@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 US and Japan for the benefit of a free and open international community. Its activities focus on security and diplomacy, through exchanges, dialogue, analysis, publications, and networking. Follow us on X @SasakawaUSA, Instagram sasakawausa, and visit our website at Sasakawa USA.