Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

Background

The total active manpower of the Japanese military is approximately 247,150 (Army 140,550; Navy 40,500; Marines 5,000; Air Force 47,100; Special Operations Forces 500; and Command and Support forces 13,500). In addition, there are approximately 56,100 reservists (Army 54,200, Navy 1,100; Air Force 800). There are a further approximately 12,650 Paramilitary personnel in active Coast Guard units.

Japan’s three services are well equipped, predominately with US or domestically produced US licensed technology systems, and train regularly in a joint environment and with US forces. Japan also has been working to forge closer defense ties with other regional powers, including Australia, since 2015.

Japan’s 2013 Mid-Term Defense Plan procurement projects for the 2014-19 period (including new destroyers, additional submarines, long-range transport aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles for long-range maritime surveillance, F-35A Joint Strike Fighters and tilt-rotor aircraft) continue, with most actual deliveries, however, yet to come. The Japanese amphibious force initiative, also begun in 2013, has completed organization and equipment fielding, and has begun combined training with USMC elements in the Western Pacific.

[continued next page]
Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

JSDF Ground Forces’ Military Districts

[continued next page]
Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

The ‘total force’ columns represent the maximum military ground/air/maritime capability resourced by the nation. The ‘max equiv potentially available expeditionary’ columns reflect the portion of the total force which reasonably could be employed outside of the national territory within the next year (taking into consideration reserve mobilization and training times, supportability with available combat service support structure and national logistics, interoperability, commitments to home defense, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>Ground Total Force</th>
<th>Ground Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
<th>Air Total Force</th>
<th>Air Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
<th>Sea Total Force</th>
<th>Sea Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese SDF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 BDE 4 PAC3B 1 ASMB 2 ASFC</td>
<td>1 BDE 2 PAC3B 1 ASFC</td>
<td>2 FS (F-15) 1 FS (F-2) 1 AWAC</td>
<td>4 NSFT</td>
<td>1 NSFT</td>
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<td>Northern Army</td>
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<td>2 FS (F-15) 1 FS (F-2) 1 AWAC</td>
<td>1 FS (F-15) 1 FS (F-2) 1 AWAC</td>
<td>2 SAG</td>
<td>1 MCMG</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 FS (F-15) 1 FS (F-2) 1 AWAC</td>
<td>1 FS (F-15) 4 SSG 2 SAG</td>
<td>2 SSG</td>
<td>1 SAG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Army</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

BDE = ground combat brigade  BS = bomber squadron (approx 10-12 planes)
FS = fighter squadron (approx 20 planes)  ALS = airlift squadron [C-5/C-17 equiv]
AWAC = Airborne Warning & Control Package  CSG = Carrier Strike Group (incl escorts & aircraft)
SSG = diesel pwrd atk submarine group (2 boats)  SSNG= nuclear pwrd atk submarine group (2 boats)
SAG = surface action and/or anti-sub group  MCMG = mine counter mine group
ARG = amphib lift group (incl escorts)  MEB = Marine/Naval Inf Amphib Brigade
UAVS(R) = Unmanned air vehicle squadron (recon)  UAVS(A) = Unmanned air vehicle squadron (attack)
NSFT = Naval Special Forces Tm (approx. 20 pers)  ASFC = Army Special Forces Com (approx. 80 pers)
SSMB = Surface-to-surface missile Bde (12 launchers)  ASMB = Anti-ship missile Bde (16 launchers)
PAC3B = Patriot PAC3 Battery (6 launchers)  THAADB = Thtr BMD Btry (6 launchers)
MDSAG = Missile defense surface action group

[continued next page]

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1 Short/medium range missiles; see strategic attack chart for long range systems.

2 PAC3 equivalent for countries not aligned w USA.
Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

The ‘total force’ columns represent the maximum military ground/air/maritime capability resourced by the nation. The ‘max equiv potentially available expeditionary’ columns reflect the portion of the total force which reasonably could be employed outside of the national territory within the next year (taking into consideration reserve mobilization and training times, supportability with available combat service support structure and national logistics, interoperability, commitments to home defense, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>Ground</th>
<th>Ground</th>
<th>Air</th>
<th>Air</th>
<th>Sea</th>
<th>Sea</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</td>
<td>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</td>
<td>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</td>
<td>Max Equiv Potentially Avail Expeditionary</td>
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<td>Japanese SDF</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Army</td>
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<td>2 FS (F-15)</td>
<td>5 SSG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 PAC3B</td>
<td>4 PAC3B</td>
<td>1 FS (F-2)</td>
<td>1 MDSAG</td>
<td>2 SAG</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 ASFC</td>
<td>1 ASFC</td>
<td>1 FS (F-4)</td>
<td>3 SAG</td>
<td>3 MCMG</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1 BDE</td>
<td>2 FS (F-15)</td>
<td>1 MDSAG</td>
<td>1 SAG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 ASMB</td>
<td>1 ASFC</td>
<td>1 FS (F-2)</td>
<td>2 SAG</td>
<td>1 MCMG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 PAC3B</td>
<td>2 PAC3B</td>
<td>1 FS (F-4)</td>
<td>2 MCMG</td>
<td>1 ARG, 1 MEB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 ASFC</td>
<td>1 ASFC</td>
<td>1 AWAC</td>
<td>1 ARG, 1 MEB</td>
<td>1 UAVS(R)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BDE = ground combat brigade
FS = fighter squadron (approx 20 planes)
AWAC = Airborne Warning & Control Package
SSG = diesel pwrd atk submarine group (2 boats)
SAG = surface action and/or anti-sub group
ARG = amphib lift group (incl escorts)
UAVS(R) = Unmanned air vehicle squadron (recon)
SSMB = Surface-to-surface missile Bde (12 launchers)³
PAC3B = Patriot PAC3 Battery (6 launchers)⁴
MDSAG = Missile defense surface action group

[continued next page]

³ Short/medium range missiles; see strategic attack chart for long range systems.

⁴ PAC3 equivalent for countries not aligned w USA.

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Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

Republic of Japan Missile Defense and Strategic Attack in 2017

The following chart depicts national military capabilities for defense against missile threat and for conducting long range/strategic attacks, available in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION</th>
<th>Missile Defense</th>
<th>Strategic Attack</th>
<th>Space Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese SDF</td>
<td>No BMD</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>6 ISR Sat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 point def vs IRBM</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ComSat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Ground stations^5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BMD = Ballistic Missile Defense suitable vs. ICBMs
IRBM = Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
SSBN = Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine
SSGN = Nuclear Guided Missile Submarine
ICBM = Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (fixed site)
MICBM = Mobile Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
BS = Bomber Squadron (approx 10-12 planes) capable of delivering nuclear weapons
LACM = Land Attack Cruise Missile

Japan’s SDF possesses neither ballistic nor cruise (except tactical anti-ship variant) missiles. Nor does it have any long-range bomber capabilities. [Possibly some limited long-range conventional strikes could be made with F-2 fighter-bombers refueled by JSDF tanker aircraft]

Japan has a fairly robust civilian space program, including launch systems that possibly could form the basis for military ballistic missile delivery systems. Currently, however, there has been no political decision – nor any developmental programs – to seek to arm those systems with any type of warhead.

[continued next page]

^5 Four of the ground stations are associated with Japan’s civil space activities; only one ground station is exclusively dedicated to the military reconnaissance capabilities of the JSDF.
Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

JSDF Air Defense Radar Coverage

[continued next page]
Japan’s Self Defense Forces in 2017

Cyber and the Japanese Self Defense Force


In 2012, a ‘Cyber Planning Office’ was established in the C4 Systems Planning Division, Joint Staff Office of the Ministry of Defense to consolidate the cyber-planning functions of the Joint Staff Office and create a more systematic structure to respond to cyber attacks.

The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2014 and beyond state that “Japan will build up persistent ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] capabilities to prevent any acts that could impede efficient action by the SDF” and, in case of any incident, “will identify the event without delay and swiftly repair any damage.”

A Cyber Defense Group was organized in March 2014 to respond to cyber threats. The group monitors MOD and JSDF networks and provides responses to cyber attacks.

“In Japan, four Ministries are responsible for cyber security: National Police Agency (NPA) works ... against cybercrime; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) takes initiatives for Cyber Security Information sharing Partnership Japan (J-CSIP) and deals with infrastructure; Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) is responsible for communication and network policies such as smart phone information security; and Ministry of Defense is in charge of national security and deals with information sharing.”

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6 Cyber information is from the 2015 Military Balance, Chapter 6, pp 260.