
**THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN IN
DEFENSE IN FACING NORTH KOREA IN THE FIELD OF EAST ASIAN
SECURITY**

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Abstract

This article analyzes the defense cooperation between the United States and Japan in addressing North Korea within the context of East Asian security. The study discusses the historical and strategic background of the U.S.-Japan alliance, recent joint military exercises, and policy responses to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. Using a qualitative method and state-level analysis, the article demonstrates how bilateral strategies and regional partnerships are developed and implemented to enhance deterrence. The findings show that cooperation is strengthened through intelligence sharing, defense technology exchange, and coordinated political stances in international forums. The implications of this partnership are critically examined in the context of East Asian security and the regional balance of power.

Keywords: US-Japan Cooperation, North Korea, Defense, Security, East Asia

INTRODUCTION

The cooperation between the United States and Japan in facing North Korea has a fairly strong historical background. During World War II, diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan were severed when both countries declared war on each other following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941. After years of fighting in the Pacific region, Japan signed the instrument of surrender in 1945.

Normal diplomatic relations were reestablished in 1952, when the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, who had overseen the postwar occupation of Japan, was dissolved. The first Security Treaty and Mutual Cooperation between the United States and Japan was signed in 1952. The relationship between the two allies has been strong since then. The Korean War (1950-1953) triggered the formation of a strategic alliance between the

two countries. The Treaty of San Francisco (1951) and the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement (1951) became the foundation for security and defense cooperation. The regional security needs prompted the United States and Japan to strive to maintain security in East Asia.

In 2015, under Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, Japan reinterpreted its constitution in a historic move that allowed its military to defend allies for the first time, but under limited conditions. The change helped pave the way for the United States and Japan to revise their defense guidelines once again, expanding the scope of their military cooperation and focusing the alliance on current threats—including from China and North Korea—and new technologies.

In December 2022, Japan issued three documents detailing the country's new national defense and security strategy. Among other provisions, the plan aims to increase defense spending over the next five years, establish a Joint Operations Center (J-JOC) to enhance the operational effectiveness of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) during potential conflicts, and acquire long-range counterattack capabilities. According to the new strategy, the enhancement of defense capabilities will further improve the deterrence and response abilities of the US-Japan alliance.

The cooperation between the United States and Japan in facing North Korea has several significant impacts in the field of defense and security. These include strategic impacts such as increased military capabilities that allow Japan to enhance its military through increased defense budgets, advanced military development, and strengthening of the strategic alliance, which reinforces the U.S.-Japan partnership to boost their capabilities.

In the political field, this cooperation strengthens the diplomatic position of the United States and Japan in facing North Korea, thereby enhancing their ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. Japan's dependence on the United States is not without reason. After its defeat in World War II, Japan underwent an extraordinary transformation marked by a new constitution emphasizing principles of democracy, reforms in education and the economy, and demilitarization embedded in the new Japanese constitution.

The benefits of the US-Japan defense and security cooperation cover various strategic and technical aspects, such as developing ballistic missile technology to improve defense capabilities against missile threats from hostile countries. In addition, this cooperation also facilitates the deployment of U.S. forces in Japan as part of efforts to strengthen the allied military presence in the East Asia region.

Furthermore, the two countries regularly conduct joint operations involving ground, sea, and air forces to improve interoperability and joint

combat readiness. This cooperation also includes coordination in strategic surveillance and the sharing of accurate and timely intelligence information. The goal is to strengthen early warning capabilities and surveillance systems that can quickly detect potential threats.

The alliance between the United States and Japan provides several significant strategic benefits, especially in the context of maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific region. First, this alliance serves as a main foundation for peace, stability, and freedom in the region, particularly in ensuring the smooth flow of international trade routes and freedom of navigation in strategic waters.

Second, the defense cooperation between the two countries is complementary, both in terms of military strategy development, joint training, and enhancing each party's combat capacity, creating synergy in facing military threats from both state and non-state actors.

Third, this alliance facilitates the transfer of advanced defense technology, including in the development of modern weapon systems, radar, and military communication devices, significantly improving the defense capabilities of both countries. Lastly, this cooperation also promotes increased awareness of threats in new domains such as space and cyberspace. In this regard, the US and Japan collaborate in the development of satellite monitoring systems and cyber defense to confront increasingly complex security challenges in the digital era.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

International relations are dynamic and can change at any time, following the developments of the era. After the Cold War, many countries competed to build industries (factories) that made the economy the main goal in developing their countries as well as focusing on foreign policy. Countries, in their objectives, strive to achieve the best results by exerting their efforts to the fullest extent possible. If they cannot, the country will seek assistance from abroad.

To achieve these goals, countries must cooperate with other countries. International cooperation can generally be defined as cooperation involving countries around the world or most of the countries in the world. Cooperation will not occur if a country does not intend or wish to meet the needs of a certain party. According to Holsti, K. J. (1983) in the book *International Politics: A Framework for Analysis*, a country basically has four objectives: security, autonomy, welfare, and status and prestige.

International cooperation is a strategic instrument to achieve common goals among countries. These goals include enhancing global security and stability, promoting peace, and improving the welfare of the people. This cooperation involves countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The specific objectives include building trust among countries, reducing tensions and conflicts, and enhancing diplomatic cooperation. This cooperation also aims to develop strategic partnerships to improve regional security and stability, as well as promoting democracy and human rights. The principles of international cooperation include equality, justice, solidarity, transparency, and respect for sovereignty and human rights.

By understanding the goals and principles of international cooperation, countries can work together to promote comprehensive global peace and justice. The cooperation between the United States and Japan in facing North Korea has a fairly strong historical background. During World War II, diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan were severed when both countries declared war on each other after Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After years of fighting in the Pacific, Japan signed the instrument of surrender in 1945.

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At the end of the 20th century, Japan began to take on a greater role in bilateral relations. In 1992, a year after the Gulf War, the Japanese government passed new legislation that for the first time established provisions for the deployment of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The first SDF unit was sent abroad, to Cambodia, the following year.

The early 2000s marked a period of increased defense cooperation between the United States and Japan. In November 2001, under Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Japan dispatched its Maritime Self-Defense Forces to the Indian Ocean to provide logistical support for U.S. military operations in

Afghanistan, marking Japan's first overseas military action in a combat operation. In 2003, Japan sent troops to assist in post-war reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

In 2015, under Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, Japan reinterpreted its constitution in a historic move that allowed its military to defend allies for the first time, albeit under limited conditions. This change helped pave the way for the U.S. and Japan to revise their defense guidelines once again, expanding the scope of their military cooperation and focusing the alliance on current threats—including from China and North Korea—and new technologies.

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Prime Minister Kishida's state visit to Washington in April 2024 further strengthened the partnership between the two countries. U.S. President Joe Biden and Kishida, who mutually referred to each other as global partners in a joint statement, resulted in more than seventy agreements during the state visit. Strengthening defense and security cooperation was a major agenda, including deepening ties between defense industries and cooperating in training and maintenance of equipment.

The alliance has also expanded to address non-military threats, including climate change. In April 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Suga announced a climate partnership, agreeing to enhance cooperation on green technologies and coordinate efforts to promote decarbonization infrastructure and capacity building in developing countries in the Indo-Pacific. Experts say this partnership partly encouraged Japan's announcement in the same month of more ambitious emission reduction commitments.

Economic and technological cooperation has also become more integrated. The 2022 U.S. proposal for the "Chip 4 Alliance" aims to restructure the global semiconductor supply chain with Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan as its centers, and the U.S. and Japan plan to enhance commercial information and communication technology cooperation. Several supporting factors for U.S.-Japan cooperation include energy dependency, military investment, China's economic influence, and regional security needs.

The cooperation between the U.S. and Japan in facing North Korea has several significant impacts in defense and security. Strategically, it enables Japan to enhance its military capabilities through increased defense budgets, advanced military development, and strengthens the strategic alliance, thereby reinforcing the ability of the U.S. and Japan to improve their capabilities.

Politically, this cooperation strengthens the diplomatic positions of the U.S. and Japan in confronting North Korea, thereby increasing their ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. Japan's dependence on the U.S. is not without reason. After its defeat in World War II, Japan underwent an extraordinary transformation marked by a new constitution emphasizing democratic principles, education and economic reforms, and demilitarization embedded in the new Japanese constitution.

Subsequently, Japan was subjected to a seven-year postwar occupation that dismantled the military of the conquered nation and radically transformed its political structure. However, after the war, the U.S. goal was not only to build peace and rebuild Japan. Facing a new world order, the rising superpower sought to turn the small but historically strong Pacific island nation into an Asian bulwark against the spread of communism. To achieve this, the Americans drew important lessons after World War I.

They took advantage of the desperate economic condition of the Japanese population and their disappointment with their government and military to sow the seeds of democracy and rewrite the constitution. Throughout this, they deployed several thousand U.S.-Japanese military intelligence language experts, who proved critical to the postwar transition just as they did covertly during the war itself. In assisting Japan's transition to a democratic society, the U.S. understood the importance of public support.

The post-surrender policy documents for Japan emphasized that while the U.S. wanted this government to conform as closely as possible to the principles of democratic self-governance... it was not the responsibility of the Allies to impose upon Japan any form of government that was not supported by the freely expressed will of the people.

A key element of the new constitution was Article 9, enacted in 1947, where Japan renounced military aggression and sincerely aspired to international peace based on justice and order. The Japanese people forever relinquished war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means to settle international disputes.

This situation caused Japan to face a dilemma between rebuilding its military power or not. If the first option was chosen, domestic opposition

would arise because it contradicted the 1947 Japanese Constitution, which prohibited Japan from building military forces.

Furthermore, external neighboring countries opposed Japan's military rebuilding due to fears of the resurgence of expansive Japanese militarism, as they were once victims of it. Conversely, if the second option was chosen, Japan would face increasing pressure from many countries that considered Japan a free rider of the international security efforts maintained by the international community. (Heri, 2010).

According to Japanese public opinion, the U.S.-Japan alliance is still considered important. Contrary to earlier views, criticism and challenges regarding the alliance have also emerged, especially about Japan's increasing involvement in U.S. strategic interests.

The significant value and neutrality of the post-Cold War alliance, the unequal reciprocal relations agreed upon by the two countries where many see the relationship as beneficial only to Japan, and the political elite's conflicts over the legality of the alliance in relation to the 1947 Constitution. (Irsan, 2007).

For most American observers, the North Korean nuclear issue began in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when leaders in Pyongyang, faced with the loss of their Cold War alliance relations and unprecedented challenges to regime survival, sought security through nuclear weapons development and diplomatic breakthroughs with the U.S. According to Jonathan D. Pollack, Professor of Asia and Pacific Studies at the Naval War College and research fellow at the National Asia Research Program, this perspective is largely ahistorical and too America-centered.

The early North Korean nuclear weapons thinking allows a much richer understanding of the North Korean system and how the past continues to shape the behavior of this unique and insular regime. Pollack notes that North Korea's awareness of nuclear weapons and interest in nuclear science and technology extends far before the establishment of the DPRK in 1948.

The Kim Il Sung regime learned from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that two atomic bombs could force a kingdom once spanning East Asia to surrender. Pyongyang actively engaged in nuclear research programs in the 1950s, fearing that North Korea would lag behind South Korea.

North Korea agreed to a peaceful construction program with the Soviet Union to build nuclear infrastructure. The Soviets helped build and establish a reactor in Yongbyong, which later became the focus of American attention regarding nuclear developments on the peninsula.

However, the Soviet missile withdrawal from Cuba at the end of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis made the North Korean regime worry that Pyongyang might be abandoned by its superpower patron. Nuclear weapons increasingly were seen as a way to guarantee North Korea's security. However, it was only in the 1970s that the regime seriously started a nuclear program. Kim was motivated by jealousy of South Korea's economic development, the ongoing need to secure Pyongyang's independence from Beijing and Moscow, and a desire to leave a legacy for his successor and son, Kim Jong Il.

Ironically, Pyongyang saw the global nuclear non-proliferation regime emerging in the 1970s as a way to improve its capability to acquire a nuclear deterrent. North Korea joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1974 and between 1975 and 1979 had a nuclear scientist stationed at the IAEA headquarters in Geneva.

The key role of the scientist was to extract information from the agency to learn how to design nuclear reactors. In the decades since then, the reactor has produced enough power only to generate electricity for 23 days, leading Pollack to conclude that from the start, the regime had other purposes for the reactor. In short, by 1980, North Korea was capable of building a reactor that could produce weapons-grade plutonium. Pollack notes that by the time the United States began taking the North Korean nuclear program seriously, the pursuit of a nuclear deterrent was already rooted in North Korea's system identity. There was little meaningful U.S. engagement on the nuclear issue until the 1990s, and little evidence that opposition to the U.S. was the primary lens through which Pyongyang pursued its deterrent.

Quoting a former East German ambassador to the DPRK, "You Americans always think this is about you. But it really isn't." North Korea (aka the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or DPRK) is the only country that withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to pursue a nuclear weapons program and has increasingly sophisticated nuclear capabilities.

The DPRK remains outside the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and has repeatedly violated international norms against nuclear testing with tests in 2006, 2009, 2013, two tests in 2016, and one in 2017. North Korea claimed its sixth nuclear test in September 2017 was a thermonuclear device.

The North Korean threat, including its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile development, has raised international concerns. North Korea's military aggression against South Korea and the United States worsens the situation, while China's involvement complicates the conflict further.

The United States has imposed unilateral sanctions on North Korea that restrict more economic activities and target more individuals and businesses than UN sanctions. These sanctions are mainly designed to hinder Pyongyang's missile and nuclear technology development, but some have been imposed in response to North Korean cyberattacks, such as the Sony computer system breach in 2014 and the WannaCry ransomware attack in 2017; human rights abuses; censorship; money laundering; and various other activities.

Additionally, the U.S. has sanctioned banks, companies, and individuals outside North Korea—especially in China and Russia—for supporting its weapons programs. The U.S. has also fined companies for violating export controls. On several occasions, the U.S. has lifted some sanctions on North Korea in exchange for pledges to freeze its nuclear program and dismantle some facilities. However, Pyongyang has consistently reneged on its promises.

The U.S. Congress passed its first sanctions law targeting North Korea in 2016, supplementing sanctions previously imposed by presidents. The law requires the president to impose sanctions on anyone involved in activities such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Additional legislation, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), enacted in 2017, imposed further sanctions on North Korea (as well as Iran and Russia).

The law prohibits certain types of U.S. assistance to foreign governments that help North Korea. In the same year, President Trump authorized the Treasury Department to block from the U.S. financial system any foreign business or individual facilitating trade with North Korea as part of the administration's "maximum pressure" campaign. In 2022, President Biden imposed sanctions on eight North Korean and Russian entities for their involvement in Pyongyang's missile programs.

The Biden administration has promised partial sanctions relief for any steps North Korea takes towards denuclearization. From 1988 to 2008, the U.S. labeled North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, an official designation that provided another layer of sanctions on the regime. President George W. Bush removed North Korea from the list as part of denuclearization negotiations, but in 2017, President Trump reinstated the designation following the assassination of Kim Jong-un's half-brother in Malaysia and the death of Otto Warmbier, an American student detained in North Korea. Other countries on that list include Cuba, Iran, and Syria.

In Japan, especially Tokyo, trade and diplomatic exchanges with North Korea have also been restricted through sanctions starting in 2006. Tokyo lifted some sanctions in 2014 to encourage Pyongyang to investigate the disappearance of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s. However, North Korea repeatedly delayed responding to these investigations. Twelve Japanese abductees remain missing, but Pyongyang claimed in 2021 that the abduction issue was “resolved” when Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio pledged to address the situation.

Japan imposed new sanctions in 2016 and 2017 in response to North Korea’s nuclear missile tests and extended them in 2019 and 2021. These sanctions froze certain North Korean and Chinese assets, banned bilateral trade with North Korea, restricted the entry of North Korean citizens and vessels into Japanese territory, and prohibited money transfers exceeding \$880. Japan also plays a role in sanction monitoring by tracking North Korean cargo transfers in regional waters. In 2022, Japan sanctioned thirteen organizations and individuals involved in North Korea’s missile and nuclear development.

The UN Security Council, consisting of 15 members, has issued nearly a dozen unanimous resolutions condemning North Korea’s nuclear efforts and imposing sanctions. Over time, these measures have expanded to ban arms and military equipment trade, dual-use technologies, vehicles, industrial machinery, and metals, as well as freezing assets of individuals involved in the nuclear program and banning certain luxury goods imports. Prohibitions also include exports of electrical equipment, coal, minerals, seafood, agricultural products, timber, textiles, and stone; restrictions on North Korean labor exports; limits on oil and refined petroleum imports; bans on natural gas imports; and fishing rights restrictions.

Cooperation in scientific and technical fields with North Korea has been limited, and UN members are barred from opening North Korean bank accounts or banking offices. Sanctions allow for humanitarian aid. The UN has sanctioned North Korea since 2006 due to its nuclear and ballistic missile programs violating UN resolutions. These sanctions aim to halt the programs and push North Korea back to the negotiating table.

Despite various UN sanctions, North Korea remains unyielding. Therefore, Japan, as a country neighboring North Korea and the Korean Peninsula, cooperates in defense and security. This cooperation aims to “deter” and compel North Korea not to conduct nuclear tests.

The UN Security Council has issued many resolutions condemning North Korea’s nuclear activities and increasing military and economic

sanctions. Thus, the U.S.-Japan alliance has become the foundation of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring the security, freedom, and prosperity of the people throughout the region.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses qualitative research. Qualitative research is descriptive in nature and tends to use analysis. The process and meaning or perspective of the subject in qualitative research are emphasized more compared to quantitative research. In qualitative research, the theoretical framework is utilized by the researcher as a guide to ensure the research process is more focused and aligns with the facts found in the field.

The aim of qualitative research is to explain a phenomenon as deeply as possible by collecting data in great depth. In qualitative research, the researcher places more emphasis on the depth of the data obtained. The deeper and more detailed the data gathered, the better the quality of the qualitative research.

Qualitative research methods of course exist because they have specific goals. Besides facilitating researchers in investigating certain phenomena or social issues, qualitative research also aims to understand the phenomena raised by the researcher themselves.

It is undeniable that during the implementation of a study, researchers are often faced with various technical and non-technical obstacles, as well as a range of problems that can affect the effectiveness and smoothness of the research process. Therefore, the qualitative research method is chosen because it is considered capable of providing greater flexibility and depth of analysis, as well as helping minimize potential obstacles and issues that might arise during data collection and analysis, so that the research results remain scientifically accountable.

By using a qualitative method, the researcher can gain an overview of the phenomenon under study. This also facilitates the researcher in determining variables and helps in generating new theories. Quantitative research tends to focus more on explaining or presenting analysis results in numbers, whereas qualitative research focuses more on exploring participants' perceptions and experiences and is subjective in nature.

EMPIRICAL FINDINGS/RESULT

The security alliance cooperation between the United States and Japan in facing the threat of North Korea is a crucial part of maintaining security stability in the Asia-Pacific region, which is filled with complex political

and geopolitical dynamics. This alliance, which has evolved since the signing of the Security Cooperation Agreement in 1960, has undergone significant reforms to respond to the increasingly aggressive nuclear and missile threats from North Korea. The phenomenon of North Korea's nuclear tests since 2006, followed by several subsequent tests, has raised major concerns not only for Japan but also for the United States and its allies in the region, including South Korea.

The US-Japan alliance in this context does not stand alone but is part of a trilateral alliance with South Korea, given that the North Korean threat is heavily focused on the Korean Peninsula. The United States positions itself as the main power by providing a security umbrella to Japan and South Korea, as well as integrating various weapons technology and intelligence in response to North Korean aggression. Implementation of this alliance includes strengthening defense cooperation through military information exchange, joint military exercises, and early warning systems. One important system implemented by Japan is J-Alert, an early warning system that provides rapid response to North Korean missile launches that potentially pass over Japanese territory.

Alongside the increased threat of North Korean ballistic missiles, the alliance has also adopted a trilateral approach involving real-time coordination in missile warning data sharing among the three countries: the US, Japan, and South Korea. This cooperation aims to improve military interoperability as well as the ability to quickly and effectively analyze and respond to missile threats. Trilateral military exercises are regularly carried out to strengthen coordination capabilities and joint readiness, while also sending a strong signal to North Korea and its allies, particularly China, to exercise restraint from actions that could undermine regional stability.

At the strategic level, the alliance not only focuses on countering North Korea's nuclear threat but also seeks to curb broader geopolitical influence, especially China's covert support for North Korea's nuclear weapons development. The United States, with support from Japan and South Korea, has reformed its defense paradigm from a bilateral to a trilateral model to address more complex and multifaceted threats, including through cyber warfare and comprehensive intelligence cooperation.

Strengthening this alliance also has a defense diplomacy dimension, where regular summit meetings between leaders and high-level officials of the three countries serve as forums to formulate joint policies and adaptive security strategies against North Korea's nuclear threat. This alliance is not merely about military matters but also part of efforts to maintain a stable

regional security order and implies collective defense as a fundamental foundation for peace in East Asia.

Overall, the US-Japan alliance does not only focus on military aspects but also on defense diplomacy involving policy coordination, intelligence system updates, and trilateral cooperation with South Korea. They regard an integrated and multi-dimensional approach as key to responding to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Defense cooperation is also realized through regular joint military exercises involving the ground, naval, and air forces of both countries. These exercises not only improve force interoperability but also serve as a tangible deterrent against potential North Korean aggression. Additionally, tabletop simulation exercises are conducted jointly to identify possible threats and formulate coordinated tactical and strategic responses.

The joint military exercises and strategic simulations between the United States and Japan are integral parts of their defense cooperation in facing the North Korean threat. These exercises aim not only to enhance military readiness but also to strengthen the strategic alliance that has been established over several decades.

In this context, joint military exercises often involve various scenarios designed to test responses to missile attacks, invasions, and other threats that might be posed by North Korea. The strategic simulations conducted during these exercises include the use of advanced technology and communication systems that enable both countries to operate effectively during crisis situations.

Moreover, these exercises also involve South Korea's participation, adding a trilateral dimension to the defense cooperation. By involving the three countries, the exercises aim to create better synergy in facing potential threats as well as to demonstrate a shared commitment to regional security. These exercises are expected to improve the interoperability and readiness of the three countries in facing the growing threats from North Korea.

In conclusion, the implementation of the US-Japan security alliance in facing the North Korean threat is a combination of military defense, defense diplomacy, intelligence strengthening, and trilateral cooperation with South Korea. This alliance serves as a strategic barrier against North Korean aggression while simultaneously outlining forward steps to address broader challenges, including China's geopolitical influence in the region. The alliance member countries are committed to maintaining regional security and stability

through coordinated and integrated defense policies as well as sustained joint exercises.

CONCLUSION

Defense cooperation between the United States and Japan in facing the threat from North Korea has been effectively implemented through several key indicators. The two countries have strengthened their alliance by exchanging military personnel, conducting joint exercises, training missions, military diplomatic visits, as well as deploying ships and military equipment to enhance joint defense readiness and capabilities.

The increasing nuclear and missile capabilities of North Korea have been the main trigger for tightening this cooperation, enabling the United States and Japan to respond in an integrated manner to potential threats. In addition, this cooperation plays a role in maintaining regional security stability by enhancing deterrence against provocations from North Korea. Japan has also strengthened its independent defense and adjusted its military policies with strategic support from the United States.

Overall, this bilateral security cooperation serves as an important foundation in facing the dynamic military threats from North Korea, while simultaneously strengthening the regional positions of both countries in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

This description is based on facts and findings from various studies highlighting the strategic efforts of the United States and Japan in jointly maintaining security amid emerging threats from North Korea.

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