

# Defense paper plays up naval issue

By ZHANG YUNBI

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Tokyo on Tuesday released its annual defense white paper, prompting analysts to warn there are fears Japan is over-emphasizing China's maritime military presence in the region.

Japanese Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto delivered a speech on the **ANALYSIS** The Defense of Japan 2012 report to his cabinet during a morning meeting in Tokyo. China's naval operations were highlighted both in the white paper and Morimoto's comments.

The report said China "plans to expand the sphere of its maritime activities" and carry out its operations "as an ordinary routine practice" in waters surrounding Japan, including the East China Sea, the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea.

"(We) especially want to explain to our people as impartially as possible, China's moves in the ocean," Morimoto told reporters.

The Defense Ministry's report sent warning signals over Beijing's "continuous enhancement in maritime patrol", and calls for attention to the operations of Chinese naval vessels and "various surveillance operations near Japan".

Major patrols and passings by Chinese fishery administration vessels and warships near the waters of China's territorial Diaoyu Islands in recent years were listed in the report, and it accused China of "intruding" on Japan's "territorial waters".

Ye Hailin, a professor in international relations at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Japan has shown its obvious "unbalanced mindset" when it accused China's ordinary progress in defense enhancement a so-called threat from its neighboring country.

"Chinese naval vessels have been passing through international watercourses into the Pacific Ocean, which is completely legal and justified," Ye said, adding that Tokyo should focus its own problems first.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda in early July said that his cabinet is seeking to "nationalize" part of the Diaoyu Islands, a move that has added tension to the islands' situation.

Beijing has lodged solemn representations to Tokyo and said "nobody is ever allowed to trade in China's sacred territory". Three Chinese administration vessels were confronted by a Japanese Coast Guard patrol ship in waters near the Diaoyu Islands on July 11 during their regular mission.

Japan's domestic media have slammed Noda's cabinet for its poor performance, and Noda's ruling Democratic Party of Japan is also facing poll pressure.

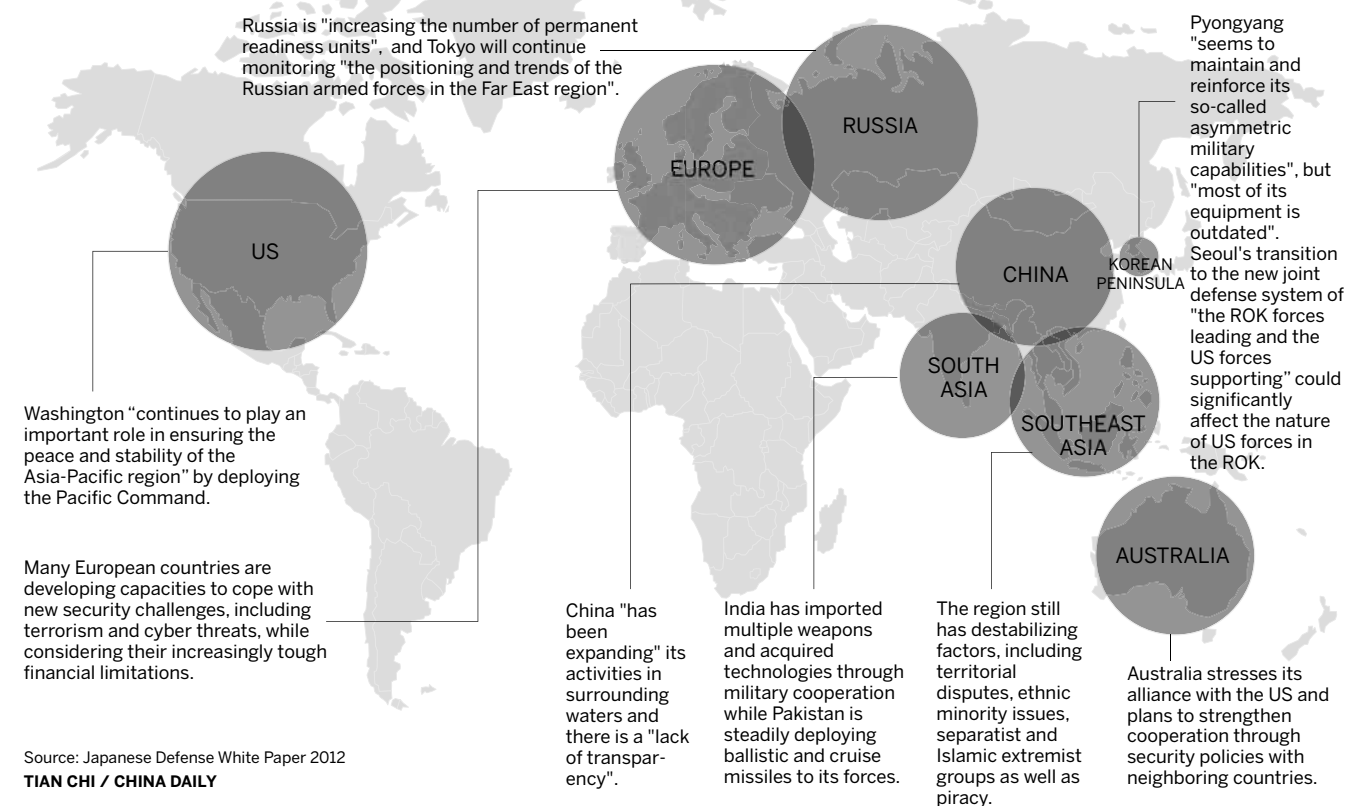
The white paper speculated on the intentions of China's activities in "waters near Japan", and phrases including "protecting maritime rights



ISSEI KATO / REUTERS

Personnel from Japan's Self-Defense Forces take part in a nuclear, biological and chemical weapons exercise on July 4. The exercise was held as a part of a drill for the Proliferation Security Initiative Air Interdiction Exercise "Pacific Shield 12", at New Chitose Airport in Chitose on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

## JAPANESE DEFENSE WHITE PAPER'S COMMENTS ON ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



Source: Japanese Defense White Paper 2012  
TIAN CHI / CHINA DAILY

**The anxiety of being an island country is just part of the problem, what is more important is that Tokyo is keen to ... modernizing its armed forces by throwing mud at other countries."**

YE HAILIN  
PROFESSOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

and interests" and "energy resources" are common throughout the report's section on China.

China is not breaching the navigation freedom in the waters mentioned in the report, and China's need to develop energy resources for the domestic economy is justified, said Huo Jiangang, an expert on Japanese studies at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations.

Huo warned that Tokyo is "taking its imagination as a fact", and it is sending misleading messages to not only the domestic public but also other countries.

Tokyo is speeding up its pace to normalize its armed forces by revising relevant laws and bills, and experts warned that the white paper serves as a tool to drum up support from domestic nationalists.

Currently Japan is far from optimistic in terms of its domestic economy and financial stability, said Liu Jiangyong, an expert on Japanese studies and vice-dean of the Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University.

Japan has put China on its watch list to defend against in its National Defense Program Outline released in 2010, and playing up China's threat can

"provide an excuse for increasing its defense budget", said Liu.

Noda and Morimoto last week said on separate occasions that Japan could deploy its Self-Defense Force troops if maritime confrontations escalate beyond what could be handled by its Coast Guard, although Japanese Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura later downplayed Morimoto's remark.

"The anxiety of being an island country is just part of the problem, what is more important is that Tokyo is keen to normalize its military and continue modernizing its armed forces by throwing mud at other countries," Ye said.

## POLICY 'DEFENSIVE'

Beijing slammed Tokyo's annual defense white paper on Tuesday and reiterated that China "pursues a national defense policy which is defensive in nature".

China also called on the Japanese side to contribute more to promote bilateral mutual trust in politics, security, and regional stability and development, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

"China's enhancement of national defense and military modernization is aimed at safeguarding territorial sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, posing no threats to any other countries. Some countries are keen to dwell on the ordinary development of other countries' armed forces, behind which are their ulterior motives obviously," the ministry said.

Wu Xihua, vice-director of the Emergency Response Office of the General Staff Department of the People's Liberation Army, said, "China sticks to the path of peaceful development and the diplomacy guidelines of always making friends and making peace with neighboring countries."

CHINA DAILY

## Seoul fires diplomatic broadside over Tokyo islets claim

By ZHOU WA

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The Republic of Korea on Tuesday protested Japan's renewed territorial claim over disputed islets in Tokyo's latest defense white paper, and experts said historical issues will pose a major challenge for Tokyo-Seoul ties.

The ROK summoned Kurai Takashi, Japan's deputy chief of mission in Seoul, to protest Japan's claim to the disputed islands lying nearly equidistant between the two countries, the ROK Foreign Ministry told Yonhap news.

Japan's Cabinet issued its latest annual defense white paper on Tuesday, again claiming that the islets, known as Dokdo in the ROK and Takeshima in Japan, are an integral part of Japanese territory.

"The Korean government strongly protests Japan's re-inclusion of territorial claims to Dokdo, which is clearly indigenous territory of Korea in terms of history, geography and international law, in the Defense of Japan 2012, Tokyo's annual defense white paper, issued on Tuesday," the ministry's spokesman Cho Tae-young was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

The ROK "urges the Japanese government to take immediate corrective measures", Cho said, reiterating that Seoul will not tolerate any unjust claim by Japan to the territory. "We urge the Japanese government to come to the realization that Japan cannot expect improvement in defense relations with the ROK unless it gives up on its territorial ambition," the ministry said.

Seoul's broadside on Tuesday underscores the difficult challenges the two nations continue to face over long-standing historical issues, even as their economic and cultural ties grow closer every year, according to the Wall Street Journal.

One example of the lingering tensions between Tokyo and Seoul was the late-minute cancellation of a bilateral military information agreement — a pact officials from the two nations had worked on for two years and planned to sign in late June, according to the WSJ.

If Japan and the ROK want to improve relations, they must resolve historical issues, which are extremely complicated, said Huang Youfu, an expert on Korean studies at the Minzu University of China.

ROK citizens are very sensitive to the disputed islands issue and the "comfort women" — Korean women who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II. Japan's claims in the white paper will hurt the feelings of the ROK people and lead to more criticism of Japan, he said. Huang added that these two issues prompted Seoul to call off the signing of the military agreement.

Zhou Yongsheng, an expert on Japanese studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said it's unlikely that relations between the two governments will improve if Japan continues to upset the ROK in disputes over historical issues. The disputes also weaken the alliance of the United States, Japan and ROK in the region, he added.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

## Japan seeks military comeback: Expert

By WANG CHENYAN

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The Defense of Japan 2012, Tokyo's annual defense white paper, proves that Japan is using its ambition for military independence to stage a military comeback, an expert said.

Critics are saying the country's defense white paper, released on Tuesday, isn't coherent because four defense ministers took office and stepped down in the last year.

Satoshi Morimoto, Japan's current defense minister, responded to media questions about the criticism by say-

ing the nation will follow the security strategy adopted in the National Defense Program Outline in 2010 and continue building its military alliance with the US to counterbalance China.

Ever since Japan approved the 2010 Outline, the country has started to do away with the "Basic Defense Force" approach and placed a new security strategy based on a "multifunctional, flexible, and effective defense force", with a highly capable "dynamic deterrence" capacity.

"Japan's diplomatic and security strategy could never have

been clearer. It has appeared to follow Washington's strategy to balance China's military development. But Japan aims to realize its own military independence," said Li Wei, director of the Institute of Japanese Studies in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Li said such change allowed Japan to step up efforts to intervene in the South China Sea and collude with the Philippines and Vietnam to make waves after Washington's strategic shift.

"It is obvious that Yoshihiko Noda, the prime minister, has acted faster than his two pre-

decessors to strengthen Japan's military," Li said.

She added that as a result, Japan's current political atmosphere allows politicians and academics to talk freely about "military independence" and call for the current interpretation of Japan's constitution to be reviewed so the nation can exercise its right to a collective self-defense.

And it is noteworthy that Morimoto has made similar calls when he was a professor at Takushoku University.

The hawkish and pro-American defense minister has always emphasized the impor-

tance of the armed forces and similar military principles of unilateralism, according to Li.

Morimoto will visit Washington on Friday to meet his US counterpart, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, on the planned deployment of the US' MV-22 Osprey vertical takeoff-and-landing aircraft in Japan's Okinawa prefecture, according to Japan's Daily Yomiuri Online.

"The Japan-US alliance is not the same as before. It has already turned into a convenient tool for Japan to become a 'normal country'," Li said.

Morimoto may take advan-



Satoshi Morimoto is Japan's defense minister

tage of local protest against the deployment of the Osprey to bargain with the White House for more permission for Japan's back-to-normal strategy, Li said.