

**KJ Dinner – Tokyo Mita Hall – Temple University**

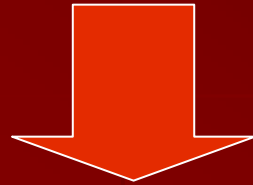
**23 October 2006**

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**Japan's 'Flexible' Defence and  
the Relevance of Seapower in  
East Asia's 21st Century  
Security Environment**



**26/04/1991: 6 JMSDF Minesweepers  
to Persian Gulf**



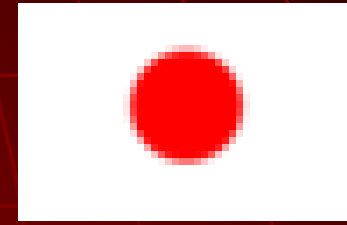
**Less than 13 years:  
17 International Operations  
(9 during the period 2001-2004)**

**26/01/2004: 600 JGSDF Troops to  
Iraq**





**Japan:**



**ψ 44,7 US\$ Billion**

**ψ 2<sup>nd</sup> World Largest Defence Budget**

**ψ Aggregate Defence Spending (ADS)**

**ψ 3<sup>rd</sup> World Largest Defence Budget**

**ψ Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)**



**What are the strategic objectives of Japan's renewed defence policy?**

**Is Japan pursuing a destabilising process of re-militarisation?**



The current transformation of Japan's defence posture is inherently intertwined with the archipelago's sea-based economic interests and geographic features

Japan can be referred to as the 'Thalassocracy' of the Far East



## Structure of the Presentation:

- ψ Japan and the Maritime Balance of East Asia
- ψ Japan's Post-Cold War Military Posture: Achieving Flexibility
- ψ Seapower and Japan's Approach to Regional Security



# The Maritime Balance of East Asia

ψ 50.000 vessels p/y (140 p/d)

ψ 1/3 of world maritime trade

ψ 1/2 of World Oil Production

ψ 6 of the 10 largest mega-ports:

ψ Hong Kong (CH)– 19,14 (mill. Cont.);

Singapore (CH)– 16,8 (mill. Cont.); Pusan

(SK)– 9,44 (mill. Cont.); Shanghai (CH)– 8,61

(mill. Cont.)



Sea highway - main channel of international trade in the area

Oil

Drugs

Weapons

# The Maritime Balance of East Asia

## Japan and Maritime Transportation:

(A matter of life or death)

99.7% of Japanese trade

90% of Oil consumption

Timber, Iron Ore, Copper, Nickel, LNG, Coal, Foodstuff

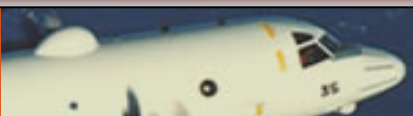
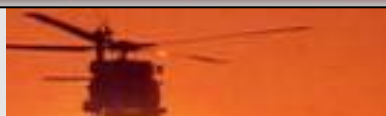
Strategic Straits

December 2004 Tsunami epicentre

Piracy and Sea guerrilla

Mafias

Conflicts



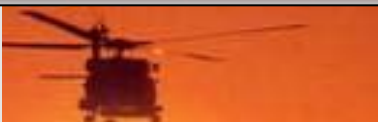
# The Maritime Balance of East Asia

## National Security:

- ψ Energy Provision
- ψ Territorial Disputes

## Transnational Security:

- ψ Piracy
- ψ Terrorism
- ψ Proliferation of WMD
  - ψ (to transport or deliver, as a weapon –DMCs)



# Japan's Post-Cold War Military Posture: Achieving Flexibility

ψ **NDPO (1976, '95)**

ψ **(Higuchi Report – 1994)**

ψ **NDPG (2004)**

ψ **(Araki Report – 2004)**

*'...to neutralise the potential threats to the integrity and the independence of the archipelago, to the economic welfare, freedom and properties of its citizens'.*

*Basic and Standard Defence Capabilities (1976)*



# Japan's Post-Cold War Military Posture: Achieving Flexibility

## -Capability-based Approach-

- ψ Purely Defence-Oriented
- ψ No 'Military Power'
- ψ 3 Non-Nuclear Principles
- ψ Civilian Control over the Military



# Japan's Post-Cold War Military Posture: Achieving Flexibility

• National Defence

• Collaboration US

• Nat. Contribution

• Commitment to create a safer and more stable int. environment

• Disaster relief and other situations

• War on Terror



# Japan's Post-Cold War Military Posture: Achieving Flexibility

- To prevent threats from reaching Japan's shores

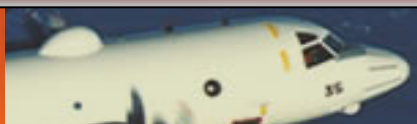
- Actively contribute to int. stability to achieve the previous objective



- National Contrib.

- Collaboration US

- Collaboration IC



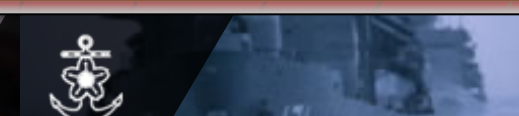
# Japan's Post-Cold War Military Posture: Achieving Flexibility

- ψ Multifunctional (Streamlined)
- ψ Flexible
- ψ Effective

## Primary Missions:

- ψ New Threats (Terrorism, Piracy)
- ψ Missile Threats
- ψ Guerrilla and Special Ops
- ψ Invasion of Offshore Islands
- ψ Patrol & Surveillance
- ψ Disaster Relief





# Seapower and Japan's Approach to Regional Security



ψ 47 Major Vessels, 16 subs, 150 aircraft  
(44,400 personnel)

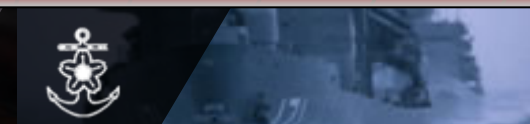
**Fleet Structure: 4 Flotillas X 8 Vessels - ASW**

**Ex: DDH (x1), DD (x3), DD (x2), DDG (x2)**

**Future Fleet Structure: 8 Divisions X 4 Vessels**

**Ex: DDH (x1), DDG (x1), DD (x2)**

**DDG (x1), DD (x3)**



# Conclusions

1. From Passive to Active Defence
2. Development of Flexible Military Posture
3. Defence Policy as Part of the Diplomatic Toolkit

A military capability with a strong sea-based balance offered Japan a comprehensive solution to meet the country's various security needs without undermining the foundations of its defence.

Ultimately, it is in the multi-fold applications of seapower that the Japanese archipelago has found the most appropriate answer to approach the unstable environment of 21<sup>st</sup> century East Asia

