



FACT SHEET

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (“2+2”)

Secretary of Defense Austin, Secretary of State Blinken, Japan Minister of Defense Hamada, and Japan Minister for Foreign Affairs Hayashi resolved to oppose any unilateral change to the status quo, reiterated their commitment to uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific, and reaffirmed that the U.S.-Japan Alliance is the cornerstone of regional peace, security, and prosperity.

The Secretary and his counterparts decided to advance numerous bilateral initiatives to build a more capable, integrated, and agile Alliance that bolsters deterrence and addresses evolving regional and global security challenges. During the 2+2 meeting, the Ministers resolved to:

OPTIMIZE ALLIANCE POSTURE

The United States and Japan decided to optimize Alliance force posture based on improved operational concepts and enhanced capabilities across multiple domains to address rapidly changing security challenges in the region.

- ▶ They announced a significant upgrade to U.S. force posture in Japan, including the stationing of a Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) by 2025—a new unit formation with advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, anti-ship, and transportation capabilities.
 - The establishment of the MLR – the Marine Corps’ most advanced formation – will bolster deterrence and provide a stand-in force that is able to defend Japan and quickly respond to contingencies.
- ▶ They reconfirmed their commitment to the basic tenets of the 2012 Realignment Plan, including the continued construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility.

MODERNIZE THE ALLIANCE

The United States and Japan further accelerated work to evolve the Alliance’s roles, missions, and capabilities to bolster deterrence and to actively engage in maintaining regional peace and stability.

- ▶ They welcomed Japan’s updated national strategy documents, particularly its decisions to acquire a “counterstrike” capability and to substantially increase its defense budget over the next five years.
- ▶ They announced that attacks to, from, or within space could lead to the invocation of Article V of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.
- ▶ They welcomed Japan’s determination to expand its roles to actively engage in maintaining regional peace and stability, and resolved to accelerate work on evolving Alliance roles and missions and to employ interoperable and advanced capabilities.

- ▶ They committed to expand joint/shared use of U.S. and Japanese facilities and to increase bilateral exercises and training in areas including Japan’s Southwest Islands.
- ▶ They welcomed Japan’s decision to establish a permanent joint headquarters, and committed to explore more effective Alliance command and control relationships to enhance interoperability and responsiveness.
- ▶ They highlighted the temporary deployment of U.S. MQ-9 Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles to Kanoya Air Base to increase maritime domain awareness in the East China Sea, as well as the launch of a Bilateral Information Analysis Cell to increase information-sharing.
- ▶ They welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation and a Security of Supply Arrangement, which will increase technology co-development opportunities and strengthen supply chain linkages.

EXPAND ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIPS

The United States and Japan resolved to jointly strengthen Alliance activities with allies and partners within and beyond the region.

- ▶ They resolved to advance the trilateral partnership with Australia by increasing trilateral training and exercises to enhance interoperability – including in northern Australia – and to explore opportunities for technological cooperation.
- ▶ They committed to deepen cooperation with the Republic of Korea, including on ballistic missile defense, anti-submarine warfare, maritime security, search and rescue, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief.
- ▶ They reconfirmed the importance of the Quad, supported increased cooperation with partners in Southeast Asia and Pacific Island countries, and welcomed greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific by Euro-Atlantic partners—both bilaterally and through multilateral entities such as NATO and the EU.



U.S. Department of Defense