

Part I

Special Focus: Japan

1. **Japan: Defence Budget for 2013**
2. **Japan, Future Defence Acquisitions**
3. **Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”**
4. **Omni directional, long range thermal beacon for IFF military and homeland security applications**
5. **Fire resistance ammunition containers for improved AFVs/MBTs crew member survivability**
6. **Epicos - Amazon**

Part II

Epicos Newsroom

1. **JetBlue orders 35 airliners: Airbus**
2. **India panel gives Tata, Singapore Airlines nod for new carrier**
3. **Korean Air to buy 12 new planes by 2018**
4. **Korean Air net profit down 1.0 percent**
5. **Qatar Airways joins Oneworld alliance**

Japan: Defence Budget for 2013

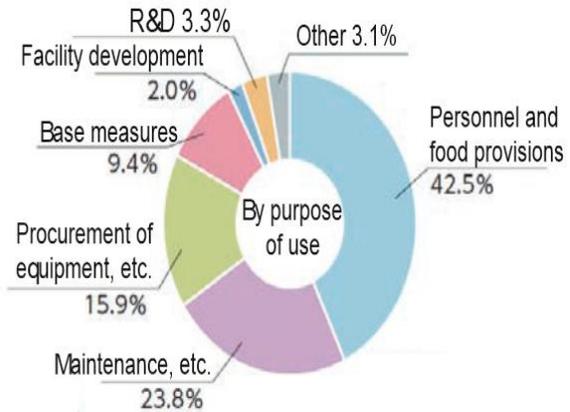


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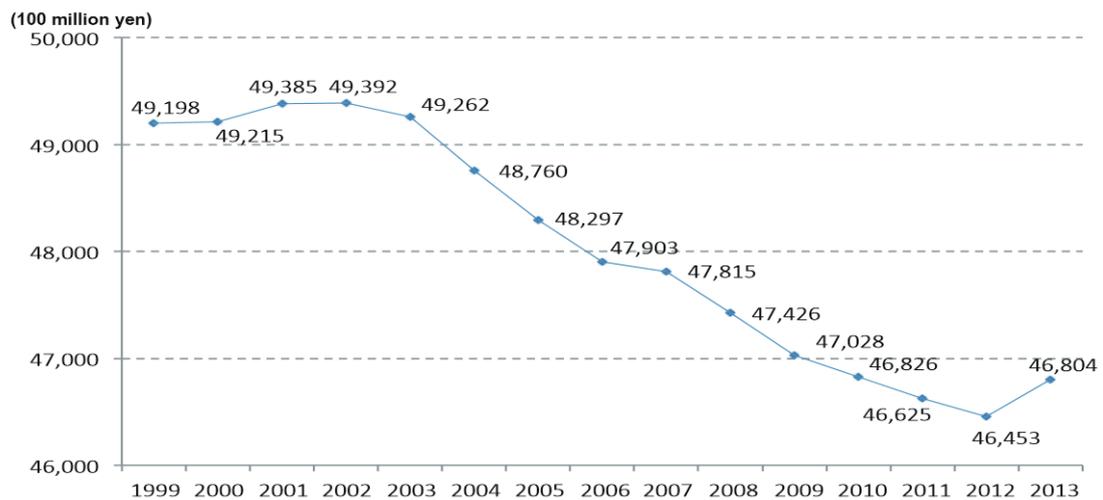
FY 2013 defence budget, for the first time in 11 years. The defence budget of the country increased by 40 billion yen from the previous fiscal year to 4.7358 trillion yen.

In order to strengthen Japan's defense posture in terms of protecting the nation's land, sea, and airspace, as well as the lives and property of its people, the country's authorities increased the FY 2013 defence budget, for the first time in 11 years. The country's defence budget increased by 40 billion yen from the previous fiscal year to 4.7358 trillion yen.

Personnel and food provisions expenses a category covering such items as pay and meals for SDF personnel covers the biggest part of the annual defence equipment, namely 42.5%. Maintenance expenses cover 23.8% of the total budget, whereas procurement of equipment follows with 15.9%, base measures with 9.4%, facility development with 2%, R&D with 3.3% and other expenses with 3.1%.



Apart from increasing the total defence expenditure, Japanese authorities have also increased the armed forces by a total of 287 personnel, and efforts made to improve the readiness of units. This was decided in order to ensure intelligence gathering, early warning and surveillance, and security in the southwestern region.



Trend in Defence Related Expenditures over the Past 15 Years

Three are the main reasons why the authorities of the country decided to increase defence budget. The first and most important is that North Korea, as it is still promoting the development of nuclear and ballistic missiles. The second reason is the increasing/escalation of activities by China in the waters and airspace around Japan, including incursions into the Japanese territorial waters and airspace. The final reason is that the country experienced a major disaster in the form of the Great East Japan Earthquake. This fact created a renewed awareness of the importance of preparations to deal with major disasters and the increase of defence budget is one of the actions to take in order for the country to be prepared.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Japan, Future Defence Acquisitions



Japan has set a list of priority acquisitions according to which the country is planning to improve its defensive power. These priorities are the following: strengthening ISR capabilities; responding to attacks on remote islets; responding to ballistic missile and guerrilla/special force attacks (with an associated budget of 59.8 billion yen); responding to cyber-attacks (with an

associated budget of 24 billion yen); large-scale natural disaster response; strengthening joint operations; strengthening intelligence capabilities, and; promoting use of outer space (with an associated budget of 54.4 billion yen).

In order to strengthen the ISR capabilities, Japan is among others planning to improve the capability of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). This will cost approximately ¥13.6 billion. Additionally, the country's authorities will conduct a study for the introduction of airborne early-warning aircraft, something that will cost ¥4 million. Finally, Japan is planning to acquire 4 P-1 Fixed-wing patrol aircraft costing approximately ¥ 77.3 billion. P-1s will replace the existing fixed-wing patrol aircraft (P-3C). Japan is also planning to acquire early detection coastal observation devices capable of observing ships and aircraft passing through surrounding areas. Additionally, the Ministry of defence is planning to conduct Research for the introduction of HALE-UAVs

In order to be able to respond to attacks on remote islets, Japan is planning a series of actions/acquisitions, such as the purchase of samples of amphibious vehicle (2 units: ¥1.3 billion), begin the development of amphibious capability to recapture remote islets in preparation for response to illegal operations and island invasions and to acquire sample AAV7RAM/RS (personnel transport) to examine its performance, including sea mobility and defence capability, operation records in other countries, early availability, etc. Additionally, Japan is planning to acquire 2 transport helicopters for ¥ 11.4 billion to enhance air mobility and transport capability, to restore the CH-47J transport helicopter to acquire 1 multipurpose helicopter (UH-60JA) for ¥3.8 billion.



For ensuring air superiority Japan is planning to acquire 4 F-35A next-generation fighter aircrafts (F-35A) for ¥69.3 billion and to allocate (¥38.6 billion) for upgrading the capabilities of existing fighters:

- Modernize F-15 (12 units: ¥15.0 billion)
- Improve self-defense capability of F-15 (1 unit: ¥2.5 billion)
- Upgrade on-board NVG of F-15 (1 unit: ¥80 million)
- Improve F-2 air-to-air combat capability (¥13.2 billion)
- Add JDAM function to F-2 (4 units: ¥1.1 billion)
- Trial upgrading of F-2 with on-board targeting pod (1 unit (trial upgrading expense: ¥6.7 billion)

As it is already mentioned in the article responding to ballistic missile attacks is one of the priorities set by Japan. In order to materialise this, the country is going to Upgrade of Aegis ships' capability for ¥10.2 billion) and to continue the upgrading of two Atago-class destroyers with ballistic missile defense capability, which started in FY2012. Additionally the country will acquire PAC-3 missiles for ¥11.3 billion.

For enhancing the operational infrastructure of cyber defence Japan will develop a cyber-information gathering devices for ¥2.7 billion. Finally, in order to promote the use of outer space Japan will conduct a Technical study and PFI feasibility study on successor to the current X-Band communications satellite (Superbird C2), costing ¥ 60 million.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”



Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects” provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

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Omni directional, long range thermal beacon for IFF military and homeland security applications



A leading company in developing and producing high-end innovative thermal IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) emitters and high power visible and infrared laser illuminators and designators, is proposing the use of a new omni-directional, long range identification device for use by armed forces personnel, as well as military vehicles.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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Fire resistance ammunition containers for improved AFVs/MBTs crew member survivability



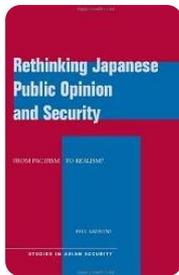
A company focusing in applied research, design, development and manufacturing of advanced products made of lightweight composite materials, is proposing the customised development of fire resistance ammunition containers to be used in several AFVs/MBTs designs and for different ammunition types and diameters. The main target of the system will be to maximize the delay of ignition and explosion of the ammunition, allowing a sufficient period of time for the tank crew to evacuate safely.

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Rethinking Japanese Public Opinion and Security: From Pacifism to Realism? By Paul Midford



While Japan has long demonstrated a commitment to militarily defending national territory, its refusal to become a “military power” that uses physical coercion overseas for foreign policy objectives has been a hallmark of Japan’s postwar military posture of defensive defence. In this book, Paul Midford engages claims that since 9/11 Japanese public opinion has turned sharply away from the aforementioned dogma of pacifism and has come closer towards supporting normalization of Japan's military power, in which Japanese troops would fight alongside their American counterparts in various conflicts worldwide. Midford argues that Japanese public opinion has never embraced pacifism. It has, instead, contained significant elements of realism, in that it has acknowledged the utility of military power for defending national territory and independence, but has seen offensive military power as ineffective for promoting other goals.

Globalisation and Defence in the Asia-Pacific: Arms across Asia, by Geoffrey Till, Emrys Chew, Joshua Ho



Globalization, once a rather nebulous concept, has become a buzzword and entered into mainstream dialogue and discourse. Globalization a phenomenon in itself has attracted its fair share of supporters and detractors and affected almost every facet of the socioeconomic life of states. This edited volume examines the impact of globalisation on the economies, security policies and military-industrial complexes of the Asia-Pacific region. The work is structured into three main parts. The first explores globalization and its general effects on the policy-making of the nation-state; the second section looks at how globalisation affects a country’s threat perception and defence posture within the specific context of the Asia-Pacific region; while the third explores how it impacts on a state’s allocation of resources to defence, and how economic globalization affects the defence industry, with specific reference to the procurement policies and practices of different states across the Asia-Pacific.



JetBlue orders 35 airliners: Airbus

Low-cost US airline JetBlue has ordered 35 Airbus medium-haul airliners with a total list price of \$3.95 billion (2.9 billion euros), Airbus said on Tuesday.

Airbus, the European aerospace group, said that this order took the total number of orders placed for this range of its products to above 10,000.

The firm order is for 15 A321 airliners, the biggest in the A320 series, and for 20 of the A321neo new fuel-efficient aircraft due to come into service in 2015.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

India panel gives Tata, Singapore Airlines nod for new carrier

India's foreign investment panel on Thursday approved plans by Singapore Airlines and the giant Tata Group to start a new airline, a senior official said.

Even though the Foreign Investment Promotion Board cleared the venture, a series of other regulatory approvals are needed before the new carrier can start flying.

Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram confirmed the clearance to reporters after the board meeting, but did not give any details.

Tata Sons will hold a 51 percent stake and Singapore Airlines (SIA) 49 per cent in the new venture, which was announced last month, as they seek to exploit one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets.

The airline, to be based in New Delhi, will have an initial combined investment of \$100 million from the two stakeholders.

The venture is the third foreign direct investment in the aviation sector since the Indian government said last year that international airlines could buy as much as 49 percent in local carriers.

The Tata Group is setting up another venture with Malaysia-based budget carrier AirAsia, which is expected to start operations in coming months.

The government has also cleared the way for Abu Dhabi-based Etihad to pick up a stake in Indian private carrier Jet Airways.

India's aviation sector was once celebrated as a sign of the country's vibrant economy, but its fortunes have faded owing to a range of obstacles ranging from aggressive fare rivalry and rundown infrastructure to expensive fuel.

India is one of the world's biggest aviation markets as its large and growing middle-class scrambles for air travel, spurred by rising incomes.

Air travel penetration is currently very low, with an average of just 48 trips per 1,000 people per year, well below developed countries such as the US with over 2,300 air trips per 1,000 people, according to government figures.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Korean Air to buy 12 new planes by 2018

South Korea's biggest airline, Korean Air, Thursday announced the planned purchase of 12 Boeing passenger jets for \$3.8 billion over the next five years.

In a regulatory filing, the carrier said it planned to add five 747-8 Intercontinentals, six 777-300ERs and one 787 Dreamliner to its fleet by the end of 2018.

Korean Air currently operates around 155 aircraft, flying to 45 countries.

The airline said it posted a third quarter net profit of 342 billion won (\$324 million), down 1.0 percent from a year ago on a decline in passenger traffic.

It said operating profit fell 43 percent year-on-year to 160 billion won, while revenue was down 3.4 percent to 3.18 trillion won.

But the company benefitted from a foreign-exchange gain of 597 billion won, it added.

The carrier said outbound travel to Japan had declined sharply due to concerns about radiation.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Korean Air net profit down 1.0 percent

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Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Qatar Airways joins Oneworld alliance

Qatar Airways announced it is to become a full member of the Oneworld airline grouping on Wednesday, becoming the only major Gulf carrier to join a global alliance.

"From its first flights tomorrow (Wednesday) morning... Qatar Airways will be offering Oneworld's full range of services and benefits," it said in a statement Tuesday.

Qatar Airways is the second Middle Eastern carrier -- after Royal Jordanian -- to join the alliance founded in 1998 by American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific and Qantas.

"Becoming a member of Oneworld is one of the most significant landmarks in Qatar Airways' history," said its CEO, Akbar al-Baker.

"It will strengthen our competitive offering."

Qatar Airways serves more than 130 destinations in 70 countries. It has a fleet of 130 aircrafts and has orders and options for more than 250 new planes for delivery over the next few years.

Qatar, a wealthy gas producer, has made huge investments in infrastructure to establish itself as an international hub before it hosts the football World Cup in 2022.

A new airport, Hamad International Airport, was scheduled to open in Doha on April 1 but has been delayed after it failed to meet new security standards.

Built at a cost of \$15.5 billion, the airport will have an initial capacity to handle 30 million passengers per year, and its sponsors hope to expand that figure to 50 million by the time work finishes in 2020.

Oneworld is one of three major airline groupings, alongside Star Alliance and SkyTeam.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)