

PRESS RELEASE  
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**NBR examines unmet expectations in the US-Japan security alliance**

Washington, D.C. -- The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) explores the U.S.-Japan alliance's capacity to withstand future crises in a new report, "**Managing Unmet Expectations in the U.S.-Japan Alliance**," released on November 2. The report examines current operational shortfalls and mismatched expectations held by each partner.

NBR Senior Associate Michael Finnegan led the year long research initiative. Finnegan served 27 years in the United States Army, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and specialized in the Asia-Pacific area. Other leads on the project include former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Richard Lawless and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans and Resources Jim Thomas. The report outlines several policy implications, including:

- Efforts of alliance leaders to sustain the alliance "as is" puts both nations at risk. The allies must develop a more sustainable set of expectations.
- Current efforts of policymakers to strengthen, deepen, or broaden the alliance fall short and in meaningful ways distract the allies from meeting the central expectation of the alliance – the defense of Japan.
- Leaders must recognize that both countries have several alternatives to the current alliance relationship, which although carrying significant downsides, must be considered in policy calculations.

**Download a copy of the report at:**

<http://www.nbr.org/publications/specialreport/pdf/SR17.pdf>

Current and former senior-level American and Japanese military officials, diplomats, policy practitioners, and scholars informed the study through interviews and workshops in the United States and Japan.

**To set up an interview with Mr. Finnegan or for more information on the project, please contact Meredith Miller at [media@nbr.org](mailto:media@nbr.org).**

*Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening policy. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia.*

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