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## **JAPAN, US TO NEGOTIATE COST OF HOSTING US FORCES**

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Riyaz ul Khaliq

Japan and the US later this week will begin negotiations over cost-sharing of 55,000 American troops based in Japan.

We will appropriately engage in the negotiations by taking into account the increasingly stringent regional security environment and our fiscal situation, Japans Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told a news conference, Kyodo News Agency reported Tuesday.

The five-year cost-sharing deal under bilateral security alliance between the two sides will end next March – the end of Japans fiscal year.

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