

Establishment of Space Operations Group

The Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) established the Space Operations Group on Thursday, March 17 and held its Establishment Ceremony at Fuchu Air Base on Friday, March 18. State Minister of Defense, U.S. Space Command Commander, U.S. 5th Air Force Vice Commander on behalf of U.S. Forces Japan Commander, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency President, Cabinet Office National Space Policy Secretariat Director General and Defense Attachés of twelve space partner nations attended the ceremony.

The Space Operations Group led by Col Kazuki Tamai consists of its headquarters supporting the Group Commander, the Space Operations Control Squadron in charge of space command and control and the Space Operations Squadron (already established in 2020) responsible for Space Situational Awareness.

Japan Ministry of Defense/Self-Defense Forces will cooperate with the U.S. Forces, armed forces of partner nations and related agencies as well as enhance initiatives like SSA after establishing the Space Operations Group.

The Koku-Jieitai will surely continue to build up space capabilities and contribute to the stable use of space.

