



# Greetings

from Chief of Staff,



Koku-Jieitai

Japan Air Self-Defense Force

Welcome, and thank you for visiting Koku-Jieitai's website. I extend my season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your deep understanding and warm support for Koku-Jieitai. Moreover, I sincerely apologize for the great concern caused by several accidents last year. Koku-Jieitai will continue to make every effort as one team to ensure safety.

Reflecting on last year, Russia's aggression against Ukraine continued to show no prospect of resolution, and the Middle East remained in turmoil, marked by a series of attacks between Israel and Iran in June. Therefore, we dispatched our transport aircraft to Djibouti to prepare for the transportation of Japanese nationals and others.

Furthermore, in the vicinity of Japan, aircraft activities have been significantly intensifying, including a China Coast Guard Vessel's helicopter intrusion into Japan's territorial airspace around the Senkaku Islands, Chinese UAVs' flights over Japan's Southwest, the multiple takeoffs and landings of fighters and other aircraft from Chinese aircraft carriers between the main Island of Okinawa and Minami-Daito Island as well as other islands, and long-distance joint flight by Chinese and Russian bombers from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the main island Shikoku. Furthermore, two Chinese aircraft carriers operated simultaneously in the Pacific Ocean, and an aircraft carrier equipped with electromagnetic catapults has been commissioned. In addition, North Korea has repeatedly launched ballistic missiles. The security environment surrounding Japan is growing increasingly "severe" and "complex" year by year.

To continue fulfilling the public mandate into the future, Koku-Jieitai must adapt to the rapidly changing era, undertake transformation and remain a strong organization capable of contributing to joint operations. To create a security environment that does not tolerate unilateral changes to the status quo by force, it is extremely important to reinforce collaboration, not only with our ally but also with as many countries as possible.

Amid this situation, to establish seven pillars outlined in National Defense Strategy (Stand-off Defense Capabilities, Integrated Air and Missile Defense Capabilities, Unmanned Defense Capabilities, Cross-Domain Operation Capabilities, Command and Control and Intelligence-related Functions, Mobile Deployment Capabilities / Civil Protection, and Sustainability and Resiliency), we have steadily built up defense capabilities, such as starting the deployment of the F-35B. Moreover, we have focused on strengthening multilateral relations. In particular last September, our fighter jets, coordinated with transport aircraft and aerial refueling/transport

aircraft, conducted their first deployment to Canada and Europe (the United Kingdom and Germany). As a result, Koku-Jieitai has embodied the concept that the security of Euro-Atlantic and of the Indo-Pacific are inseparable and interconnected, thereby strengthening mutual confidence.

This year will be an extremely important one as Koku-Jieitai will make a dramatic leap toward becoming “Koku-Uchu-Jieitai” because of our plan to establish the Space Operations Wing (tentative name), and others. Under an unpredictable security environment, to remain a truly strong Koku-Jieitai, we will strive to accelerate the buildup of defense capabilities, make full use of opportunities for defense exchanges and joint exercises, strengthen collaboration with our ally and like-minded countries, and improve interoperability. In addition, we will continue to focus on improving treatment for our personnel including creating a working environment so that each member can devote themselves to their duties with pride.

I kindly ask for your continued understanding and support for Koku-Jieitai and extend our heartfelt wishes for your health and happiness.

January 1, 2026

Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)

General MORITA Takehiro

