



Greetings

from Chief of Staff,



Koku-Jieitai
Japan Air Self-Defense Force

Welcome, and thank you for visiting Koku-Jieitai's website.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for your deep understanding and continued support for Koku-Jieitai's activities.

We have now entered fiscal year 2026, looking ahead to new endeavors and significant leaps forward. At the beginning of the fiscal year, I would like to share some of my thoughts and resolve as Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai.

This March, I attended the graduation ceremonies of the National Defense Academy, the National Defense Medical College and the Air Officer Candidate School. Seeing the eyes of the graduates at the ceremonies filled with hope and determination greatly reaffirmed my belief that they will become a reliable new force for the future of Koku-Jieitai. This experience reminded me of my initial feelings upon joining the service and renewed my commitment, as Chief of Staff, to dedicate myself fully to creating a supportive working environment in which every member, including the younger generation, can perform their duties with high morale and a strong sense of fulfillment.

Looking at the international situation, Russia's aggression against Ukraine still shows no clear signs of ending, and the exchange of attacks continues in the Middle East, making the future increasingly uncertain. Furthermore, North Korea has repeatedly launched ballistic missiles in the vicinity of Japan.

It must be said that the security environment surrounding Japan is still growing increasingly severe and complex. Under these circumstances, the roles and responsibilities expected of Koku-Jieitai are even more significant.

On March 23, Koku-Jieitai established the Space Operations Wing. Today, it is crucial for nations to secure the stable use of outer space, and we have been strengthening our space operations capabilities, including through the development of space domain mission units. Given the growing importance of the space domain and the enhancement of space operations capabilities in both quality and quantity, space operations will become one of our primary missions alongside air operations in the future. We must further ensure our capabilities not only in the traditional domains but also in the space domain in order to carry out our assigned missions.

Fiscal year 2026 will be an extremely important year, as Koku-Jieitai will move swiftly to translate various ongoing initiatives we have undertaken into tangible results. Through the proactive utilization of state-of-the-art science and technology, the further improvement of capabilities across various fields, and the enhancement of not only joint operations with the JGSDF and the JMSDF but also closer cooperation with our ally and like-minded countries, Koku-Jieitai will protect Japan's airspace, secure the stable use of outer space, and resolutely protect the peaceful lives of Japanese nationals.

Koku-Jieitai rests on the trust and understanding of Japanese nationals. At the start of the fiscal year, I once again reaffirm that our unwavering duty is to stand with them and to meet their expectations faithfully.

I would like to kindly ask for your continued understanding and support for Koku-Jieitai.

April 1, 2026

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

General MORITA Takehiro

