

## “Greetings from Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai”

The time flies so quickly and the year 2020 is coming to an end.

This year has been really unforgettable for us. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel or postpone many of our important events such as Blue Impulse demonstration flight and air festivals, and we lost our precious opportunities to directly interact with local communities. To protect the sky 24/7 under such restrictions, the Koku-Jieitai members continue to fulfill their responsibilities and contribute to safety and security of the people.

By March next year, F-4EJ Kai of 301 Squadron will be replaced by F-35A. Since I was an F-4EJ Kai pilot, I somewhat miss the aircraft I dedicated my youth to. However, for the sake of Koku-Jieitai’s Shinka (evolution) initiatives, we will steadily progress our various measures, which is all the more important in this challenging time.

While sincerely wishing the new year filled with happiness, the Koku-Jieitai will prepare itself to respond to various changes and new situations. Come what may, the Koku-Jieitai will never stop defending the sky of Japan.

I would appreciate your kind understanding towards our airmen who are committed to safety and security of Japanese citizens. Thank you for your continued support.

I wish all of you good health and happy new year.

### **The reliable Koku-Jieitai is Just by Your Side Looking up at the Sky and Space 24/7**

December 04 2020

General IZUTSU Shunji

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

