

“Greetings from Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai”

Thank you for browsing our website and Happy New Year. I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation for your great support toward the Koku-Jieitai during the past year.

I believe many of you have spent New Year holidays rather differently than usual with preventive measures against COVID-19 put in place. The Koku-Jieitai is not an exception. Despite various restrictions, we are making every effort to maintain our readiness, conduct training and provide logistic support while implementing an array of preventive measures, including thorough practice of New Lifestyle with originality and ingenuity.

In spite of this challenging time, I am pleased to hold an air review having Prime Minister Suga as the inspector last November. On a different note, I visited the United States in the same month and India in December, exchanging views on security cooperation with air force senior leaders and others. I am determined to accomplish my duty dealing with various constraints.

This year marks the third fiscal year since the release of the Mid-Term Defense Program. The program describes that the Koku-Jieitai will steadily build defense capability to eventually develop “Multi-Domain Defense Force” as truly effective defense capability. The Koku-Jieitai will make steady progress in the acquisition and strengthening of capabilities in new domains, such as acquiring the F-35B and establishing the Space Operations Group (tentative name). We will also continue to strengthen our human resources, stand-off defense capabilities, maneuver and deployment capabilities as well as to reinforce the sustainability and resilience of our defense capabilities, including those in the area of logistic support.

We look up into the sky 24/7, and will continue to carry out our mission to protect the peace and security of Japan. I hope you will continue extending the same understanding and support to the Koku-Jieitai this year ahead.

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

January 01 2021

General IZUTSU Shunji

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