

“Greetings from the Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)”

To all readers of this website, I hope you are staying safe and healthy in the refreshing coolness of autumn.

While COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over completely, I visited units in Chitose Air Base, Naganuma Sub Base, and Abashiri Sub Base from October 12 to 13, and also Yamada Sub Base, Ominato Sub Base, and Syariki Sub Base from October 26 to 27, by taking all possible measures to prevent the spread of infection. At each unit, I was impressed and reassured by the energetic attitude of the service members who were diligently performing their duties at the site. Moreover, I expressed my respect and gratitude again for the fact that every member was fully aware of the importance of preventing the spread of COVID-19, and steadily implementing creative countermeasures while continuing to carry out their duties in a ceaseless manner.

On the other hand, when F-2 fighter aircraft of 8th Air Wing, Tsuiki Air Base was scrambling against violation of Japanese airspace on October 10, its canopy and other parts fell. With regard to this incident, I sincerely apologize for the anxiety caused to the people including those in the area where the canopy and other parts are estimated to have fallen and those in the vicinity of Tsuiki Air Base. We will continue to conduct thorough safety education, careful and reliable inspection and maintenance to ensure flight safety.

Despite such situation, I would like to ask for your kind understanding and support of the daily efforts of our members to ensure safety and security of the Japanese people. I appreciate your continued support.

Also, on October 19, North Korea launched a ballistic missile and countries in Japan's surroundings are actively engaged in military activities, so the security environment around Japan continues to increase in severity and uncertainty. In such a security environment, international cooperation is essential to secure regional peace and stable use of space. Under these circumstances, I participated in Partner Air Chiefs Conference hosted by NATO via video conference on October 14 and had bilateral meetings with Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force on October 20 and with Chief of Staff, Italian Air Force on October 21. These meetings deepened mutual understanding and trust with our partners, which I believe was a great achievement in promoting defense cooperation and exchanges.

We look up into the sky 24/7, and will 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 (JASDF) this year ahead.

The Reliable Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) Is Just by Your Side
Looking Up at the Sky and Space 24/7

October 29, 2021

General IZUTSU Shunji

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



Unit inspection (Chitose Air Base)



Unit inspection (Naganuma Sub Base) ※



Unit inspection (Abashiri Sub Base) ※

※We are preventing the transmission of COVID-19



NATO Partner Air Chiefs Conference



VTC with ACM Chaudhari (IAF)



VTC with Chief of Staff of Italian Air Force and TA on Japanese Pilot Training in Italy