

“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 although it is getting colder day by day.

I am sure that you all have busy days in December. Looking back on this year, Koku-Jieitai would like to spend the rest of 2021 with great care so that the next year will be a good year with even greater hope.

While we are still concerned about the resurgence of novel corona virus infections, we conducted various kinds of activities in November with full countermeasures to infections. On November 1, General Kenneth S. Wilsbach, Commander, Pacific Air Forces, visited Japan. We discussed further cooperation between Koku-Jieitai and the U.S. Air Force and the security environment surrounding Japan. Also, from November 11 to 16, I participated in Dubai International Air Chief Conference and Dubai Air Show 2021 held in the UAE. I had meetings with Air Chiefs from various countries to build confidence and promote cooperative relationships between Koku-Jieitai and other Air and Space Forces. Aside from these, even under restrictions due to novel corona virus, I proactively participated in meetings with ambassadors of foreign countries and various events, and took part in an online seminar held by a U.S. based think tank as a panelist.

On November 19, Chinese and Russian bombers flew over the East China Sea, the Sea of Japan, and the Pacific Ocean, and as this illustrates the level of military activities of neighboring countries, the security environment around Japan has increasingly become severe and uncertain. Under such circumstances, Koku-Jieitai conducted Air Defense Command Comprehensive FTX (Field Training Exercise) 2021 from November 10 to 23 in order to maintain and improve the operational capabilities of the units and also conducted several Japan-U.S. joint exercises to strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance. I would like to express my gratitude again for the cooperation and understanding of the local municipalities and everyone, and I sincerely ask for your continued cooperation to further reinforce the capabilities of Koku-Jieitai.

I would like to express my profound apologies to the people, including those in the affected areas, for the inconvenience and concern caused by the incident in which parts of F-2 fighter aircraft belonging to Tsuiki Air Base fell,

and the staining likely caused by Blue Impulse color smoke. Koku-Jieitai will continue to take these matters seriously and strive to regain the public's trust.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for your support this year and for allowing us to carry out our mission. In the coming year, we will continue to push forward with our mission to protect the peace and security of our country and the safety and security of everyone. I would be grateful if you could continue to support us with your understanding and cooperation in our daily efforts.

I would appreciate your continued good will in the coming year.

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

December 1, 2021
General IZUTSU Shunji
Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)



Meeting with the Commander of Pacific Air Forces



Dubai Air Show 2021



Meeting with Ambassador of Israel



Meeting with Ambassador of India



Online Seminar Hosted by Stimson Center