

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

To all readers of this website, I wish you a Happy New Year. I would like to express my gratitude for your exceptional support for Koku-Jieitai last year.

We are still concerned about novel coronavirus infections, and I think many of you welcome the New Year differently from the time before the pandemic. With countermeasures against the infections, looking up at the sky and space 24/7, Koku-Jieitai strives to maintain readiness, carry out trainings, and provide logistical support regarding them in order to protect peace and security of Japan.

The security environment around Japan has been increasingly severe and uncertain. Moreover, security issues has become more obvious, and it is difficult for one country to deal with such issues alone in this situation, so I think Koku-Jieitai is going to play various roles in more opportunities.

We are going to continue promoting effective defense buildup in order to build a truly effective defense capability, Multi-domain Defense Force. We will also carry on acquiring and strengthening capabilities in new domains such as establishing Space Operations Group (tentative name), as well as improving capabilities in existing domains such as procurement of F-35AB, organizing Reconnaissance Group (tentative name) and enhancing our sustainability, resilience, and human infrastructure by reinforcing the foundation for demonstrating our capabilities including in the logistical areas.

In order to continue to provide the Japanese with safety in the sky and space, Koku-Jieitai will take firm steps to move forward (進化 “Shinka”) and deepen the existing functions and capabilities (深化 “Shinka”). I believe that these two sets of “Shinka” test the true value (真価 “Shinka”) of Koku-Jieitai. While we move forward and deeply pursue things, we will push forward with demonstrating the true value of Koku-Jieitai, and I would like to ask for your continued understanding and cooperation for Koku-Jieitai this year.

In conclusion, I wish you all good health and happiness in the New Year.

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

January 1, 2022

General IZUTSU Shunji

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