

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

To all readers of this website, I hope you have been well despite shivering cold weather these days.

COVID-19 is resurging, and we are concerned about the situation. With countermeasures against the infections, Koku-Jieitai always stands with Japanese people and strives to maintain readiness, carry out trainings, and provide logistical support regarding them in order to protect peace and security of Japan.

One month has already passed since this year began. I will introduce three “tra (tra)” of my New Year resolution in Koku-Jieitai, making a pun between “Year of the Tiger (called “tra” in Japanese)” and a prefix “tra”.

First, try; we will bravely try in the severe situation of inside and outside Japan. Second, transformation; we will transform ourselves or evolve in order to respond to the rapidly changing situation. Finally, transparency; given the complicated environment, we will make Koku-Jieitai an organization with an open culture, and fulfill accountability in an appropriate and timely manner in terms of public information.

These three “tra”s are apexes of an triangle, and we would like to push forward our efforts in good balance.

Although this year has just started, it is clear from the activities of neighboring countries in January that the security environment surrounding Japan has been increasingly severe and uncertain. North Korea launched ballistic missiles several times. Koku-Jieitai aircraft scrambled 785 times by the end of the third quarter (from April to December 2021), and the number already exceeds the entire scrambles of last fiscal year (from April 2020 to March 2021), 725 times.

Under such a serious security environment, Koku-Jieitai continues information gathering, vigilance, and surveillance day and night in order to maintain readiness for every possible incident. Moreover, we actively engage in activities such as dispatching transport aircraft to the Kingdom of Tonga for the International Disaster Relief Operation and deploying personnel to carry out vaccination at JSDF large-scale vaccination centers.

Thanks to Japanese people and everyone supporting JSDF, the personnel of Koku-Jieitai can complete these various missions, without fear of danger and with a sense of mission and responsibility to live up to mandate of the people and I am grateful for your help. Moreover, I would like to express my hearty gratitude to everyone who let your beloved family members work as a member of JSDF.

Koku-Jieitai will continue to provide Japanese people with security in the sky and space by committing ourselves to moving forward, deeply pursuing things, and delivering the true value. I would like to ask for your continued understanding and cooperation for Koku-Jieitai this year.

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

January 31, 2022
General IZUTSU Shunji
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