

“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. Although it is still shivering these days, we can feel longer daylight hours.

On the evening of January 31, a F-15 fighter jet belonging to Koku-Jieitai Komatsu Air Base (Ishikawa Prefecture) crashed, which claimed the precious lives of two pilots. I would like to offer my sincerest prayers for their souls and my heartfelt condolences to their families and all those who adores them.

As a fighter pilot, I feel heartbreaking grief for the loss of these two irreplaceable comrades, who played an important part in the unit responsible for instructing fighter pilots to defend the Japanese sky, and I would like to express my deepest condolences in memory of their achievements.

As we are aware of the local people’s concern, Koku-Jieitai, with a strong will to break the cycle of accidents that has continued over the past few years, will thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident through aircraft accident investigation and will make every effort to prevent a recurrence of accidents.

On August 24, after the Blue Impulse's exhibition flight on the opening day of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, there was an inappropriate usage of color smoke around Iruma Air Base (Saitama Prefecture). We officially announced the results of the investigation and countermeasures on February 17.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and concern caused to the people around Iruma Air Base and all Japanese people, including those who made inquiries about the incident, and will strive to restore the confidence of Koku-Jieitai so that such an incident will never be repeated.

Even amid desperate grief over the loss of our comrades, and even when making efforts to restore confidence of Koku-Jieitai, we must be committed to maintain readiness, conduct trainings, and provide logistical support to protect the peace and security of Japan.

In February, we continued to maintain our readiness to respond to any eventuality by conducting continuous information gathering and warning and surveillance day and night, including scrambles against Chinese and Russian aircraft that are actively operating around Japan. Also, we carried out exercise Cope North 22 with the U.S., Australia, and others to contribute to maintaining and improving the Free and Open Indo-Pacific and held Japan-U.S. bilateral exercises to strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance.

In addition, Koku-Jieitai has been energetically engaged in activities such as dispatching transport aircraft for international disaster relief activities in the

Kingdom of Tonga, which ended on February 17 and deploying personnel to carry out vaccination at JSDF large-scale vaccination centers.

Koku-Jieitai always stands with Japanese people and will continue to provide security in the sky and space by committing ourselves to moving forward, deeply pursuing things, and delivering the true value of Koku-Jieitai.

Thanks to Japanese people and everyone supporting JSDF, the personnel of Koku-Jieitai can fulfil various missions without fear of danger and with a sense of mission and responsibility to live up to mandate of the people. 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

February 28, 2022
General IZUTSU Shunji
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