

## Talks with the Commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

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On June 17, General IZUTSU Shunji, Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) had talks with Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, who was visiting Japan before leaving his current position, for the third time since 2020 November.

At the meeting, General Izutsu expressed his gratitude to Lieutenant General Rudder for his various support to improve the operational capabilities of Koku-Jieitai's F-35, and reaffirmed that they will maintain and strengthen bilateral corporation and relationship of trust to promote Free and Open Indo-Pacific. They also agreed to further bolster the bilateral deterrence and response capabilities and contribute to the peace and stability of the region through cross-military cooperation including bilateral exercises. Koku-Jieitai will continue to strengthen the Japan-U.S alliance. hanges.

The Koku-Jieitai will strengthen its relations with the German Air Force in order to contribute to the peace and stability of Japan and Germany.

