

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

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I hope things are going well for all the visitors of our website in the intense heat after the end of the rainy season.

While COVID-19 has rapidly spread across the country since July, we are determined to overcome this difficulty together with all our efforts to prevent infection.

On July 22, Defense of Japan 2022(Defense White Paper) was released. This year's white paper explains the security environment and the challenges Japan faces, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the further emergence of strategic competition between the United States and China.

In addition, it also mentions "the Japan Self-Defense Forces' own initiatives," "strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U. S. Alliance," and "cooperation with other countries to create desirable security environment," which are means to defend Japan under the severe circumstances, so I would like you to read it to deepen your understanding of the MOD / JSDF.

Among the three means of national defense described in the Defense White Paper, regarding the JSDF's own initiatives, I would like to first introduce Koku-Jieitai's activities in July.

Koku-Jieitai continues information gathering, vigilance and surveillance day and night in order to maintain readiness for any contingency. Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Defense announced the status of the scrambles in the first quarter of FY 2022 (from April to June). This period marked 235 scrambles, which was larger than the (corresponding) figure from last year, 142, almost by a margin of 100. Especially in May, Chinese H-6 bombers and Russian Tu-95 bombers conducted joint flight in the airspace over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the Pacific Ocean, and we observed Chinese carrier-based

fighters and helicopters taking off and landing on the Navy aircraft carrier “Liaoning” more than 300 times. The increased number of scrambles is attributed to these active operations of surrounding countries’ aircrafts.

Moreover, a Chinese TB001 reconnaissance and strike UAV has flown from the East China Sea to the Pacific, passing between Okinawa’s main island and Miyakojima Island, and heading toward the Bashi Channel on July 25. Such active operations are not limited to the airspace surrounding Japan. In particular, it has been confirmed that a Chinese Navy vessel entered the contiguous zone of the Senkaku Islands on July 4 and that a Chinese Navy survey vessel passed through Japanese territorial waters around Yakushima Island and Kuchinoerabu Island on July 20. As military activities by China and other surrounding countries in the waters and airspace around Japan have been intensifying, we will continue to take all possible measures against the situation.

Also, on July 20, the training on maneuver and deployment of PAC-3 was conducted in Kure City, Hiroshima Prefecture. We have continuously carried out these trainings to maintain and improve ballistic missile defense capabilities and keep readiness to respond to any contingency.

Next, the Japan-U. S. Alliance. On July 6, 11, and 12, the Koku-Jieitai conducted bilateral trainings with the U.S. Forces in the airspace over the Sea of Japan, the Pacific, and the East China Sea with the aim of improving tactical skills and enhancing the Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities. We conducted various tactical trainings with multiple fifth generation fighters of the U.S. Air Force. Through these trainings, we believe we successfully achieved our goals so we would like to continue to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U. S. Alliance through such bilateral trainings.

With regard to the third topic, cooperation with other countries in creating desirable security environment, I would like to share the results of my trip to Belgium and the United Kingdom from July 10 to 19.

In Belgium, I visited NATO headquarters, met with Admiral Rob Bauer, Chair of the Military Committee of NATO and attended the Committee for the first time as Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai. We exchanged views on the increasingly severe security environment and related issues as well as promoting cooperation towards the realization of Free and Open Indo-Pacific, which I believe was able to contribute to strengthening the relationship of trust with NATO.

In the U.K., I attended the Global Air and Space Chief's Conference (GASCC), where air chiefs from 67 countries that share fundamental values gathered, and obtained various knowledge about future air forces including space and signed the Global Air Chiefs Climate Change Collaboration Declaration of Intension, which is the fruit of global air force collaborative effort to combat climate change. I also participated in the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) 2022 and exchanged views with chiefs of other countries and defense officials of the U.K. We also discussed regional affairs, defense policies, and defense cooperation and exchanges. We confirmed that we will enhance mutual understanding and trust and work together to stabilize the security environment.

Koku-Jieitai will continue to fulfil its missions and prepare for future threats by facing challenges and difficulties without fear and with a strong sense of mission and responsibility to live up to people's expectations. To this end, we will always need support of the people of Japan and all the supporters of SDF, I would like to ask for your continued understanding and cooperation for Koku-Jieitai.

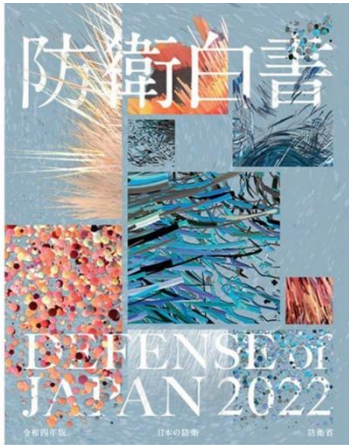
# The Reliable Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) Is Just by Your Side

## Looking Up at the Sky and Space 24/7

July 31, 2022

General IZUTSU Shunji

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



DEFENSE OF JAPAN 2022  
(Annual White Paper)



PAC-3 maneuver deployment training



Meeting with ADM Bauer, Chair of the  
Military Committee of NATO



Participation in the Global Air and  
Space Chiefs' Conference (GASCC)