

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

I hope things are going well for all the visitors of our website while hot weather of summer continues. I think many of you had a fruitful summer holiday without movement restriction, while taking all possible measures against COVID-19. On the other hand, we would like to offer our deepest sympathy to those who were affected by heavy rains in various areas, and we hope for their restoration as soon as possible.

It has been two years since I took office as Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai on August 25, 2020. Various events happened during this time period, and having shared both pain and joy with our personnel, I have been able to proceed this far with support of the people of Japan. I would like to extend my hearty appreciation.

Two years ago, in my inauguration remarks, I expressed my determination to make every effort with our personnel as Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai, taking account of the fact that our mission had to be carried out under the severe circumstances including the unclear international situation and the spread of the COVID-19 infection. The determination remains unchanged. Under the increasingly severe situation compared to two years ago, I would like to complete my duties at the front of our personnel regardless of any difficulties, by utilizing the experiences and lessons I have gained over the past two years.

In August, an event, which demonstrates that the situation clearly has become more severe happened. On August 4, we confirmed that five of the nine ballistic missiles presumably launched by China fell into Japan's EEZ. This is a serious issue which would affect Japan's national security and the safety of Japanese people. On the same day, Chinese reconnaissance UAV (BZK-005) and reconnaissance and strike UAV (TB-001) were observed flying from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean and passing between the main island of Okinawa and Miyakojima Island. Koku-Jieitai continues information gathering, warning and surveillance day and night in order to maintain readiness for any contingency.

These military trends in the vicinity of Japan are serious concerns for the security of the region including Japan and the international community, making the situation more uncertain and unstable. Amid such circumstances, Koku-Jieitai conducted bilateral exercises with the U.S. Forces again in August with the aim of improving tactical skills and enhancing the Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities. Through these exercises, Japan and the U.S. show our strong will to respond to any contingency and close cooperation, while striving to enhance effective interoperability capabilities through continuous exercises.

Koku-Jieitai has participated in the multilateral exercise of Royal Australian Air Force (Pitch Black 22) since August 9. We will continue to actively participate in this kind of exercise in order to improve interoperability with the U.S. and Australia, promote mutual understanding with participating countries, and eventually contribute to upholding and reinforcing Free and Open Indo-Pacific and the stability of 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

August 31, 2022

General IZUTSU Shunji

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



F-2A Fighter landing at Darwin RAAF Base for the first time



JASDF members participating in Pitch Black 22



Pitch Black 22 Opening Ceremony