

From September 3 to 8, General IZUTSU Shunji, Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) visited Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia to observe Exercise Pitch Black 22, in which Koku-Jieitai participated for the first time.

He visited the Darwin Cenotaph where he laid wreath, had a moment of silence, and held a joint press conference with Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force. He confirmed the strengthening of cooperation between the two air forces and their intention to contribute to peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. In Darwin Air Base, where Exercise PitchBlack22 was held, he observed the training and saw enhanced collaboration among the participating air forces.

While in the Northern Territory, General Izutsu also met bilaterally with Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Forces, Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southwestern Air Command, Indian Air Force, Assistant Chief of UK Defence Staff for Military Strategy, and Commander of the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia, and reaffirmed the promotion of defense cooperation and exchanges with these countries. In addition, he also visited the Indian fighter Su-30MKI and German Eurofighter units participating in the exercise and expressed his welcome for the planned visit of these fighters in Japan in future.

Koku-Jieitai will promote defense cooperation and exchanges with partner countries through enhancement of exercises and unit-level exchanges, to uphold and reinforce Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

※We remove the face mask only when shooting



Visit to Darwin Cenotaph



Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force



Commander, Pacific Air Forces



Chief of the German Air Force



Visit to Koku-Jieitai unit in PitchBlack22