

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

The heat has eased and it has become cooler recently. I hope things are going well for all the visitors of our website

I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to those who were affected by the typhoon the other day, and I hope for their restoration as soon as possible.

In September, military activities by neighboring countries did not subside. On 25, 28 and 29, North Korea launched ballistic missiles. Under such circumstances, Koku-Jieitai continues information gathering, warning and surveillance day and night to maintain readiness for any contingency through various training, such as the PAC-3 maneuver deployment training conducted at Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Camp Sapporo on September 7.

On August 31, under the government's policy to drastically strengthen defense capabilities within five years to protect Japan at all costs into the future, the Ministry of Defense announced the budget request for FY2023. Koku-Jieitai will enhance the standoff defense capabilities and comprehensive air and missile defense capabilities, as well as strengthen strategic capabilities in domains of air and space, including space, cyberspace, and electromagnetic spectrum to improve the cross-domain operation capabilities, Koku-Jieitai will also enhance the command and control and intelligence functions and improve the maneuver and deployment capabilities such as air transport capabilities, and steadily implement various measures to secure sustainability and resilience.

In addition to Koku-Jieitai's own initiatives, this month Japan and the U.S. conducted various tactical training by fighters and other aircraft in the airspace of Japan and tactical airlift training by transport aircraft in Hawaii, the U.S., in order to further strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Through these exercises, Japan and the U.S. demonstrated close

cooperation and a strong will to respond to any contingency. We will continue to enhance effective interoperability through constant exercises.

Also in September, I visited Australia and the U.S. to actively promote defense cooperation, exchanging views with air chiefs of the participating countries. During my trip to Australia, I observed an exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (Pitch Black 22), in which Koku-Jieitai participated, and further deepened the cooperative relationship between Koku-Jieitai and RAAF through meetings with Chief of RAAF. I also participated in International Air Chief's Conference (IACC) hosted by the U.S. Air Force, and through exchanges of views with air chiefs, mutual understanding and trust were strengthened.

Lastly, Koku-Jieitai conducted a bilateral exercise with German Air Force for the first time in Japan, and we deepened the bilateral cooperative relationship through wide range of exchanges from unit-to high-level, including talks with Chief of the German Air Force. I believe that exchanges with the countries sharing the same values contribute not only to the enhancement of cooperative relations between the air forces, but also to the realization of Free and Open Indo-Pacific and the stabilization of the security environment. Koku-Jieitai will continue to actively engage in these initiatives.

Regarding the inappropriate usage of color smoke after the Blue Impulse's exhibition flight on the opening day of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in August last year, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that, the Ministry of Defense announced a disciplinary action against the people concerned on September 22. I take it seriously that this incident has caused inconvenience and concern to the people related including those around Iruma Air Base. We will continue to take all possible measures to ensure proper and safe aircraft operation, while thoroughly providing education and guidance on

accident prevention so that we will never let this incident be forgotten and never cause the same kind of incident again.

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

September 30, 2022
General IZUTSU Shunji
Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)



PAC-3 maneuver deployment training
(Camp Sapporo)



International Air Chiefs Conference (IACC)



Pitch Black22 (Australia)



Japan-Germany Bilateral Training (Hyakuri Air Base)