

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

Autumn has got into full swing these days. I hope things are going well for all the visitors of our website.

In October, military activities by Japan's neighboring countries did not subside, and North Korea launched ballistic missiles 5 times in October alone. Particularly, it is presumed that the ballistic missile launched on October 4 flew over the Japanese archipelago and fell into the sea roughly 3200 km east of Japan.

Moreover, on October 14, we announced that the number of scrambles in the first half of FY 2022 (from April 1 to September 30, 2022) was 446, increasing by almost 60 from the corresponding figure from last year, 390. We confirmed unusual flights such as joint long-distance flights by Chinese H-6 bombers and Russian Tu-95 bombers, as well as UAVs passing between the main island of Okinawa and Miyakojima Island.

Under such circumstances, the Koku-Jieitai continues information gathering, warning and surveillance around the clock, maintaining readiness for any situations, and we continue various training to this end.

Furthermore, in relation to Typhoon Talas, which caused damage in September, we conducted disaster relief activities from September 26 to October 1, including water supply support operations, in Shizuoka Prefecture. We will make sure to be well prepared to respond to natural disasters, in addition to military activities in Japan's surroundings, and we will always be there to reassure the people of Japan.

In addition to Koku-Jieitai's own initiatives, in October, Japan and the U.S. conducted various tactical training by fighters and other aircraft in the airspace of Japan to further strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Through exercises like these, Japan and the U.S. will demonstrate close cooperation and a strong will to respond to any contingency and continue to enhance effective interoperability by carrying out training constantly.

During the meeting with the U.S. Chief of Space Operations, who visited Japan, we exchanged views on the increasingly severe situation of space and affirmed that the Japan-U. S. Alliance in the space field has also gained more and more importance. We would like to further develop cooperation between Japan and the U.S. while steadily strengthening the capabilities of our space domain mission units.

We have carried out high-level exchanges vigorously. I exchanged views on a variety of topics with Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force, and Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air Force while they were visiting Japan in October, deepened mutual understanding and reaffirmed to strengthen cooperative relations. We believe that our exchanges with countries that share common values contribute not only to the enhancement of cooperative relations between our air forces, but also to the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific as well as the stabilization of the security environment. The Koku-Jieitai will continue to actively promote such defense exchanges and cooperation.

The Koku-Jieitai will continue to fulfill 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 the Koku-Jieitai.

The Reliable Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) Is Just by Your Side
Looking Up at the Sky and Space 24/7

October 31, 2022

General IZUTSU Shunji

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



Disaster relief operation
(Activity in Shizuoka Prefecture)



Chief of Staff, the Italian Air Force
(Visiting Hamamatsu Air Base)



Chief of Air Force,
the Royal Australian Air Force



Commander,
the Royal Netherlands Air Force