

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

It is now December and is getting colder and colder these days, I hope things are going well for all the visitors to our website. While looking back on this year, we, Koku-Jieitai, will make every day count in the rest of 2022.

Japan's neighboring countries have actively conducted military activities last month. In particular, North Korea repeatedly launched missiles including an apparent ICBM. And Chinese H-6 bombers and Russian Tu-95 bombers flew together over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the Pacific Ocean. Under such circumstances, the Koku-Jieitai continues information gathering, warning and surveillance around the clock, maintaining readiness for any situations, and we conduct various trainings such as the PAC-3 maneuver deployment training and Japan-U.S. joint tactical training to improve our capabilities.

In addition, I talked with Commanding General of Philippine Air Force and Commander of the Mongolian Air Force who visited Japan, and virtually participated in NATO Air Chief's Conference. Through these events, we have not only enhanced cooperative relationships of our air forces but also proactively promoted initiatives which contribute to upholding and reinforcing Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

As this is the final greeting of the year on our website, I would like to look back three “tora (tra)” of my New Year resolution that I introduced at the beginning of this year, which is a pun between “Year of the Tiger (called “tora” in Japanese)” and a prefix “tra”.

First, try; we would bravely try in the severe situation of inside and outside Japan. Despite the increasingly severe security environment, including Russia's invasion against Ukraine, China's attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion, and North Korea's repeated launches of ballistic missiles, Koku-Jieitai has kept trying. In order to defend the sky and continue to provide stability in space, we tirelessly train our personnel capable of responding to various

threats through rigorous education and training and strive to overcome all kinds of challenges while doubting what is believed to be common sense.

Second, transformation; in order to respond to the rapidly changing situation, we would transform and evolve. We have promoted reforms to adjust ourselves to changes by adapting to the increasingly severe security environment which is expected to be further intensified, strengthening defense capabilities drastically to deal with various threats, and applying science and technology that are constantly evolving. In order to truly function and continue to fulfill the responsibility, Koku-Jieitai is taking firm steps to move forward (進化 "Shinka") to acquire new systems and capabilities and deepening existing functions and capabilities (深化 "Shinka"). I believe that only when these reforms are completed we will be able to demonstrate the true value (真価 "Shinka") of Koku-Jieitai, so we will keep going without slowing down.

Finally, transparency; given the complicated environment, we will make Koku-Jieitai a team with an open culture and fulfill accountability in an appropriate and timely manner in terms of public information. We are working to build an organization with an open culture by promoting various measures such as awareness-raising among our personnel in order to eliminate pre-conceptions and sub-conceptions that could prevent the organization from adapting to the times. Considering more than a few mismanagements, however, we think that there is room for further improvement. In addition, regarding the accountability, we have actively communicated the activities of Koku-Jieitai, and I myself have explained them to people in Japan politely through press conferences and other opportunities. I will fulfill my accountability with further efforts and ingenuity to deepen the Japanese people's understanding about Koku-Jieitai.

Thanks to everyone's support, we have been able to engage in our missions. Koku-Jieitai will continue to be committed to our missions for the peace and security of Japan as well as Japanese people next year. I would like to kindly ask for your continued understanding and cooperation for our daily efforts.

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

December 1, 2022

General IZUTSU Shunji

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



PAC-3 & Short-Range SAM maneuver deployment training



Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training



Visit to Japan by Commanding General, Philippine Air Force



Visit to Japan by Commander of Air Force,
Mongolian Armed Forces



Chief of Staff participated in NATO Partner Air chiefs' Conference

