



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

To all the visitors to our website, I wish you a Happy New Year. I would like to express my gratitude for your exceptional support for Koku-Jieitai last year.

Last year, amid the severe and complex security environment, including the expansion of China’s attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion, North Korea’s repeated launches of ballistic missiles, and Russia’s invasion against Ukraine, Koku-Jieitai has established a new system (posture) by newly forming Space Operations Group, Reconnaissance Group, and Iruma Hospital, maintained our readiness to respond to any contingency, and engaged in training and exercises in order to protect Japan's peace and security

In addition, while continuing to enhance effective interoperability through many kinds of Japan-U.S. joint exercises, we have developed

Japan-US cooperation in the space field through my participation in the Space Symposium and meetings with Chief of Space Operations. Furthermore, we promoted defense cooperation and exchanges at various levels. I visited to seven countries and organizations and participated in international conferences, and my counterparts from nine countries visited Japan. In addition, we pushed forward with new activities such as the dispatch of Koku-Jieitai fighter aircraft to countries other than the U.S. (Australia and the Philippines) and the visit of German Air Force fighters to Japan. Regarding training, we have sent student pilots to Italy and accepted students from the Philippine Air Force into education courses of warning and control radar. We promoted cooperation with other countries to create favorable security environment particularly through these activities.

We expect that the security environment will become more severe and uncertain and that the roles and activities required of Koku-Jieitai will expand further. This year will be an important year for promoting the development of system (posture) to fundamentally strengthen defense capabilities in accordance with the new National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy, and Defense Buildup Program formulated in December last year. In particular, based on the seven areas in defense buildup (stand-off defense capabilities, integrated air and missile defense capabilities, unmanned assets defense capabilities, cross-domain operation capabilities, command and control and information related functions, mobile deployment capabilities and civil protection, sustainability and resiliency), we will accelerate reinforcing air and space related defense capabilities in qualitative and quantitative terms and build a system (posture) that enables us to demonstrate our strength through resilient and flexible operations under high-threat environments with more persistency.

Moreover, in order to further improve deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, we will actively conduct various joint exercises and talks at various levels to enhance the effective interoperability capabilities in all phases from peacetime to contingencies and further deepen Japan-U. S. defense cooperation including space. Furthermore, in order to uphold and reinforce Free and open Indo-Pacific, Koku-Jieitai will work to qualitatively deepen and quantitatively expand engagement with friendly countries, actively promote multifaceted and multi-layered bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchanges, and utilize various opportunities to enhance Koku-Jieitai's operational capabilities.

Koku-Jieitai is moving forward (進化 "Shinka") to acquire new systems and space operational capabilities towards the future system of "Air and Space Self-Defense Force" (provisional translation), and seeking to further deepen review of existing functions and capabilities (深化"Shinka"). Through these reforms, we will keep going without slowing down our progress so that we can demonstrate the true value (真価 "Shinka") of Koku-Jieitai,.

In conclusion of the New Year greeting, we appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation with Koku-Jieitai and wish your health and happiness this year

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

January 1, 2023
General IZUTSU Shunji
Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)