



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

With the advent of spring, it has been comfortable with more warm days, and I hope things are going well for all the visitors to our website.

In March, North Korea launched missiles as well as last month. It maintains its stance of strengthening its nuclear and missile capabilities, and there is a possibility that it would take further provocative actions such as launching various missiles and conducting nuclear tests.

Amid such a situation, I visited Tosashimizu Sub Base and Koradai Sub Base on March 13 and 14, respectively. I was deeply moved and reassured by every member in each base that strived for the defense of Japan at their own post and worked in a cheerful manner. Koku-Jieitai tries to improve capabilities and maintains readiness for any contingencies so that we can conduct information gathering, warning and surveillance around the clock.

As for the earthquake that hits the southeastern part of Turkey, in response to a request from the Turkish Government and NATO to Japan for cooperation in the transportation of emergency relief supplies, Koku-Jieitai's KC-767 aerial refueling tanker and transport aircraft delivered tents and other emergency relief supplies from Pakistan to Turkey from March 14 to 26. Once

again, I would like to express my condolences to those who lost their lives in this earthquake and to the many people who were affected. Koku-Jieitai will continue to secure readiness to carry out our mission.

Lieutenant General Gerhartz, Chief of the German Air Force visited Japan from March 1 to 3, and on March 2, Vice Minister of Defense for International Affairs and I held meetings with him. On the same day, at Meguro Air Base, Koku-Jieitai Command and Staff College, he gave lectures to the students on topics such as the significance of Japan-German defense cooperation between the air services and the outlook for the future of defense exchanges. As an important partner sharing fundamental values, Koku-Jieitai welcomes Germany's commitment to Indo-Pacific, and we would like to further promote defense cooperation and exchanges between the air services in order to uphold and reinforce Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

In addition, on March 15, I had a meeting with Lieutenant General Goretti, Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, who was in Japan, and we confirmed that the two countries share the recognition of security issues and agreed to further boost defense cooperation and exchanges in areas such as improving interoperability and the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP).

On March 16, I held a meeting with Air Chief Marshal Wigston, Chief of the Air Staff of the Royal Air Force, who was also visiting Japan, and we exchanged views on the recent security environment surrounding the two countries. Also, we signed a memorandum on space cooperation with the Royal Air Force. We will continue to further enhance space cooperation with the RAF to ensure the stability of the rules-based use of airspace.

Lastly, I will retire from the position of Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai on March 30, 2023. I would like to reiterate my gratitude for your understanding and support over the past two years and seven months since taking office.

Koku-Jieitai is looking up at the sky 24/7 and will continue to be committed to our missions for the peace and security of Japan. 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

March 29, 2023

General IZUTSU Shunji

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



Chief of German Air Force



(Left) CoS ITAF (Middle) CoS JASDF (Right) CoS RAF