

## Major General Sakanashi's visit to Australia

From 5th to 7th June, Major General Sakanashi, Director General, Defense Planning and Policy Department, Air Staff Office, visited Air Force Headquarters RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) and RAAF Base Amberley at the invitation of Air Vice-Marshal Braz, Deputy Chief of Air Force, RAAF.

During the visit, Maj Gen Sakanashi had meeting with Air Marshal Chipman, Chief of Air Force, RAAF and discussed the international situation surrounding Japan and Australia, agreeing on the importance of the bilateral defense cooperation. He attended the 17th Air Staff Talks as the co-chair together with AVM Braz to discuss defense cooperation and exchanges between the two air services and agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation and unit interoperability.

At RAAF Base Amberley, Maj Gen Sakanashi handed a certificate of appreciation written by Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) to Wing Commander Neil Bowen, Commanding Officer No.33 Squadron RAAF. The certificate was for him supporting Japan-Australia air to air refueling compatibility test, which was conducted as one of engagements referred to in Japan-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations Joint Statement. The air to air refueling is a highly important function in operating fighters of Koku-Jieitai and will greatly enhance the Japan-Australia bilateral interoperability.

Koku-Jieitai will continue promoting Japan-Australia defense cooperation and exchanges to uphold and reinforce Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

