



Greetings

from Chief of Staff,

Koku-Jieitai

Japan Air Self-Defense Force

The sunlight breaking in the rainy season is getting stronger, and we feel the sign of summer, and I hope things are going well for all the visitors to Koku-Jieitai's website.

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the ten members of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force who lost their lives in the UH-60JA crash that occurred on April 6.

It has already been just over two months since I took office on March 30. During this time, as part of defense cooperation and exchanges, I visited Canada and the United States in April and Italy in May, and met the chiefs of staff and commanders of each country's air and space forces and exchanged views with them. The face-to-face meeting was such a valuable opportunity that I felt their high level of interest in the security in the Indo-Pacific and their enthusiasm for further coordination and cooperation with Koku-Jieitai from their intonation of voice, facial expressions, and the way they unintentionally leaned forward. Also, through the series of visits, I was greatly inspired by their strong leadership rooted in a coherent sense of mission and excellent "ability to communicate", and was able to create a foundation for building an unwavering relationship of trust, "Connectivity."

Moreover, at the International Flight Training School (IFTS), Italian Air Force, I was very impressed by the organized and systematic efforts made through public-private collaboration using advanced technologies such as advanced simulators. Also, I was proud of the young pilots of Koku-Jieitai, who have boldly challenged innovative education systems and techniques and received a high evaluation from the commander and instructors.

Next, with regard to our missions, Air Support Command led the transportation of Japanese nationals from the Republic of Sudan and airlift of dignitaries from mid-April to late May, and we were able to fulfill our role by

demonstrating each “Capability”.

On the other hand, North Korea launched a ballistic missile on April 13, and another missile in the name of launching a reconnaissance satellite on May 31. In addition to that, it seems that they are preparing for additional launch. We will continue to make every effort to develop systems, led by Air Staff Office, so that each unit can confidently engage in missions such as information gathering and warning and surveillance.

We would like to ask everyone for your continued understanding of Koku-Jieitai.

June 19 , 2023

General UCHIKURA Hiroaki

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