

### III MEF Commanding General visits Air Staff Office

On January 17, General UCHIKURA Hiroaki, Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force), met with Lieutenant General James W. Bierman Jr, Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force. At the meeting, Gen Uchikura expressed his appreciation for Lt Gen Bierman's visit to Air Staff Office followed by his last visit in May, 2022, extending his gratitude for the support from USMC regarding Koku-Jieitai's introduction of F-35B. They reaffirmed the importance of cooperation across services to reinforce the Japan-U.S. alliance amid the severe security environment surrounding Japan as well as the 2024 Noto peninsula earthquake, and agreed to maintain their close collaboration. Koku-Jieitai will continue to make the most of bilateral exercises and other opportunities and promote cooperation with U.S. Forces to strengthen the alliance.

