

General Uchikura's visit to Papua New Guinea and Palau

From June 12 to 14, General UCHIKURA Hiroaki visited Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Republic of Palau by U-4 for the first time as Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force). This visit contributes to promote defense and security cooperation with the Pacific Island Countries based on the "Cooperation Concept for United Security Efforts in the Pacific Islands Region" proposed at the 2nd Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD) in March this year.

In Papua New Guinea, General Uchikura met Rear Admiral Polewara, Commander of PNG Defence Force to exchange views on the security environment surrounding Japan and the Pacific Island Countries.

He also met H.E. Surangel S. WHIPPS, Jr., President of Palau and confirmed that they will continue to cooperate in various fields including HA/DR (Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief).

Koku-Jieitai will continue to strengthen the relationship with Pacific Island Countries, including Papua New Guinea and Palau, to contribute to the peace and stability of Indo-Pacific, borrowing the theme from JPIDD, "Bridging the Blue Continent," for us, as to be the "Blue Sky."

