



Greetings

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

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Thank you very much for visiting Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) website.

It is almost a month since the fiscal year 2025 has started. Cherry trees with their new leaves are seen across the Kanto Region to the western Japan. Cherry Blossom Front is now running north to Aomori prefecture where Misawa Air Base is located.

On April 2, I attended the entrance ceremony of Air Officer Candidate School in Nara prefecture. When I heard 360 young officer cadets singing the national anthem in unison, creating a clear and powerful echo filling up the hall, I felt the dawning of a new era.

Furthermore, every single move of these cadets with full of spirit and dignity made me return to my roots, the day I started as an officer. I also felt refreshed and reaffirmed my determination to dedicate myself furthermore to create the environment in which we can balance ourselves between the contribution to national defense and self-fulfillment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to those who have been affected by the earthquakes that hit central Myanmar on March 28.

Koku-Jieitai delivered medical supplies and equipment including medicines and test kits, to the disaster area of Mandalay by C-130H transport aircraft. This was the first International Disaster Relief Activities commanded by the newly established Japan Self-Defense Forces Joint Operations Command (JJOC).

I feel proud of all the members who conducted this mission especially those who completed it orderly and rapidly.

Unfortunately, the demonstration flight of acrobatic team Blue Impulse scheduled on April 13 for the opening of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan was canceled due to the bad weather. The formation leader in his aircraft together with 2 other aircraft took off from Kansai International Airport in the light drizzle, but the severe weather condition blocked their flight route. Another try for this demonstration flight is now under consideration to meet expectations.

In order to resolutely protect the lives and peaceful livelihoods of Japanese nationals as well as Japan's territorial land, waters and airspace, amid the most severe and complex security environment since the end of World War II, we will firmly proceed the fundamental reinforcement of our defense capabilities focusing on seven key pillars

announced in the National Defense Strategy as facing fiscal year 2025, the middle year of Defense Buildup Program.

In particular, as for the reinforcement of human resource base, we will promptly promote various measures such as upgrading SDF facilities to improve living and working environment of the members to enhance their job satisfaction.

Koku-Jieitai will continuously play the only one role as the representative of Japan to defend our skies and the stable use of space by diligently carrying out our missions this fiscal year as well. Thank you.

May 25, 2025

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

General UCHIKURA Hiroaki

