

(Press Release)

Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Telephone Conference (Summary)

October 8, 2024

Ministry of Defense

On October 8, Defense Minister Nakatani and Secretary of Defense Austin held a telephone conference. The summary is as follows.

At the outset, Minister Nakatani offered his greetings as the new Defense Minister and stated his determination to fundamentally reinforce defense capabilities and strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Secretary Austin congratulated Minister Nakatani on his appointment.

The Ministers affirmed that they will work together with each other and regional partners more closely than ever in light of intensifying attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Ministers confirmed that they will continue to work closely together on important initiatives to reinforce Alliance deterrence and response capabilities such as upgrading command and control frameworks and expanding bilateral presence in the southwestern region of Japan.

The Ministers concurred that they will further accelerate the work to realize the realignment of facilities and areas of the U. S. Forces in Japan, including the total return of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma as early as practicable, in accordance with the Okinawa Consolidation Plan in order to mitigate impact on Okinawa while maintaining and strengthening deterrence capabilities.

The Ministers affirmed that they will continue to work on further strengthening the Alliance capabilities to deter and respond and on realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific while closely collaborating with regional partners.