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SPECIAL FEATURE

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Japan-Finland Defense Ministerial Meeting

On February 5th, Minister of Defense Iwaya held a Japan-Finland Defense Ministerial Meeting with Dr. Jussi Niinisto, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Finland. Prior to the meeting, the two Ministers signed the “Memorandum on Japan-Finland Defense Cooperation and Exchange.”

① Opening Remarks

Minister Iwaya welcomed Minister Niinisto, and discussed the current security environment surrounding both countries and future direction of bilateral exchanges. In light of the signing of the memorandum, he stated this cemented the will of the two countries to further develop their relationship in the future.

In response, Minister Niinisto expressed his appreciation toward warm hospitality, welcome of the signing of the memorandum and delivered his intention to discuss bilateral defense cooperation.

② Defense Policy

Minister Iwaya explained Japan’s defense policy including National Defense Program Guideline (NDPG)



approved by the Cabinet in December 2018 and its vision for “A Free and Open Indo-Pacific”, and requested Finland’s cooperation in pursuit of these policies.

Minister Niinisto gave an overview of Finland’s national defense policy.

③ Regional Situations

The Ministers engaged in an exchange of opinions on regional situations including that of North Korea.

Minister Iwaya called for the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all North Korean weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. He underlined the importance of respecting the will of the international community by effectively enforcing sanctions placed on North Korea including a response to illegal ship-to-ship transfers in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations Security Council. Minister Iwaya stated that he would like Finland to cooperate in these efforts.

④ Japan-Finland Defense Cooperation and Exchange

Minister Iwaya touched upon the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) training squadron’s visit to the Port of Helsinki and the visit of Admiral Kawano, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff to Finland last year. Based on those defense exchanges and the memorandum, the Ministers agreed to deepen defense cooperation in various fields.

State Minister of Defense Harada Attends the Munich Security Conference


On February 15th to 16th, State Minister of Defense Harada attended the 55th Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany.

This year’s conference was attended by representing leaders such as cabinet members of governments and international organizations of the U.S. (Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan), the UK (Secretary of State for Defence Williamson), Germany (Chancellor Merkel, Defence Minister von der Leyen), France (Minister for the Armed Forces Parly), Russia (Minister of Foreign Affairs Lavrov), and NATO (Secretary General Stoltenberg). Touching upon growing complications in maintaining an environment of security, various discussions on NATO and Europe including EU were held.

Also, State Minister Harada joined a breakfast meeting held by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Cohen to discuss on challenges that NATO faces. He also took part in a side event held by the Japan Institute of International Affairs entitled “Indo-Pacific and Europe.”

State Minister Harada held bilateral discussions with defense ministers of Lithuania, Greece and Sweden and the Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence of Germany to discuss on the future direction of defense exchanges with each country and cooperation through NATO. He also held short talks with participants from the U.S. and NATO as well as defense ministers of Canada and the Netherlands.




 **Germany**
Mr. Silbertorn, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence of Germany



 **U.S.**
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Cohen




 **NATO**
Adm. Fogga, Commander, Allied Joint Forces Command Naples



 **Lithuania**
Lithuanian Minister of National Defence Karoblis



 **Greece**
Greek Minister of National Defence Apostolakis



 **Sweden**
Swedish Minister for Defence Hultqvist



 **Canada**
Canadian Minister of National Defence Sajjan



 **Netherlands**
Dutch Minister of Defence Bijlvelde



Iron Fist 19

From January 7th to February 16th, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) conducted the field training exercise Iron Fist 19 with the U.S. Marine Corps in California.

The exercise was implemented to enhance the interoperability with U.S. forces as well as the required tactics and combat capabilities for operations on remote islands.

Approx. 550 JGSDF personnel and approx. 500 U.S. Marine Corps personnel participated in the exercise.

The exercise also included U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey aircraft. This part was crucial for deepening mutual understanding between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade that was newly formed last year. In this exercise, using MV-22, which is the same model as the V-22 the JGSDF will introduce in the future, interoperability between Japan and U.S. is expected to be enhanced.



Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training, Forest Light 02

The JGSDF conducted the field training exercise called Forest Light 02 with the U.S. Marines Corps (USMC) from February 4th to 15th.

This exercise is intended to strengthen ties between the JGSDF and the USMC and to improve tactical skills under

respective chain of commands by practicing procedures necessary for bilateral operations.

This exercise is also combined with a training relocation of the MV-22 Osprey located at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma in order to promote trainings outside of Okinawa and to mitigate its impact.



Cobra Gold 19

The Japan-Self Defense Forces (JSDF) participated in the multilateral exercise "Cobra Gold 19 (G19)" in Thailand from January 14th to 23rd. Approx. 170 personnel from the JGSDF, the JMSDF, the Japan-Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and the Joint Staff Office (JSO) joined this exercise and promoted mutual understanding and reinforced confidence with other involving countries including Thailand, U.S., Indonesia, Singapore, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Malaysia.

In CG 19, Japan, U.S. and Thailand conducted Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation/Rescue of Japanese Nationals Overseas training. This is the practical training under the realistic situation with positive participation of

the diplomats from the Embassy/Consulate General of Japan in Thailand and Japanese residents in Chain Mai. Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, the advisor of Prime Minister also observed this important training.

In the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) training part of CG 19, JSDF joined Disaster Relief Rescue Operation assuming heavy flood disaster and enhanced the HA/DR capabilities.

Also, the JSDF constructed the Multipurpose Hall for the local school with U.S. and Thailand armed forces as a part of Humanitarian Civic Assistance. They were staying in the elementary school during the one-month construction and have a good friendship with the local students.



Status of Scrambles through the First Three Quarters of FY2018

The JASDF scrambled 758 times through the first three quarters of FY2018, which marked an increase of 22 times compared to the same period of the previous year. The breakdown of scrambles by countries and regions was about 63% against Chinese aircraft, about 36% against Russian aircraft, and 1% against other aircraft although the countries and regions include supposition.



Characteristics of Responses through the First Three Quarters of FY2018

The JASDF scrambled 476 times against Chinese aircraft in total, an increase of 81 times compared to the same period of the previous year.

The JASDF scrambled 270 times against Russian aircraft in total, a decrease of 58 times compared to the same period of the previous year.

Scrambles against Chinese fighter aircraft and Russian intelligence gathering aircraft were outstanding in frequency compared to other types of aircraft of each country, although this includes estimation.

The period of this data is from April 1st, 2018 to December 31st, 2018.

Measures against Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden through the Third Quarter of FY2018

Following data shows the records of the measures against piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden from October through December, 2018.

Aerial Activities of P-3C Patrol Aircraft off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

Record of Mission (October through December, 2018)

1. **Number of flights:** 60 flights (Accumulated Total(AT): 2,188 flights)
2. **Flight hours:** Approx. 410 hours (AT: Approx. 16,570 hours)
3. **Number of visually confirmed commercial ships:** Approx. 5,000 ships (AT: Approx. 181,600 ships)
4. **Number of times of information sharing to Japanese destroyers, foreign warships, and/or commercial ships:** Approx. 130 times (AT: Approx. 13,800 times)



Escort Operations Performed by Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) Units in the Same Area

Record of Mission (October through December, 2018)

1. **Number of escort operations:** 7 times (The 794th – 800th escort operation under Japan's Anti-Piracy Measures Law)
2. **Number of escorted vessels:** 9 vessels (AT 3,864 of escorted vessels since the start of operations under Japan's Anti-Piracy Measures Law)

[Breakdown]

Japanese-registered ships: 0 (AT: 19)
 Foreign ships operated by Japanese shipping companies: 1 (AT: 683)
 Foreign ships other than above: 8 (AT: 3,162)
*The above record does not include the 1st - 41st escort operation performed as Maritime Security Activities.

Zone Defense performed in the same area

Record of Mission (October through December, 2018)

1. **Number of days:** 72 (AT: 1,432days)
2. **Number of commercial vessels confirmed:** Approx. 240 (AT: 18,120vessels)

F-4EJ fighter

In this edition, we will put a spotlight on the F-4EJ fighter.

The F-4EJ fighter is a modified version of the U.S. Air Force's F-4E equipped with Data-Link system to make it a fighter interceptor.

In the 1970s, the F-4EJ was assembled domestically under the license of McDonnell Company.

In the late 1980s, the F-4EJ was upgraded and modernized. The main updates include central computer, head-up display (HUD), Fire Control Systems (FCS) as well as

Internal Navigations System (INS). This modernization program allowed consolidation and unified processing of the data from both FCS and INS components. The program also gave Look Down/Shoot Down capabilities that enables to detect, track and guide a weapon to a moving target below the horizon. These modernized F-4EJ with enhanced air-to-air and air-to-ship combat capabilities are known as "F-4EJ Kai" (Kai = Modified in Japanese). The F-4EJ is the guardian protecting the sea and airspace surrounding Japan for over 50 years.



Specifications

- ▷ **Length:** approx. 19.2m
- ▷ **Wingspan:** approx. 11.7m
- ▷ **Max speed:** Mach 2.2
- ▷ **Equipment:** 20mm autocannon, air-to-air-radar-guided missiles, air-to-air-infrared-guided missiles, air-to-surface missile, air-to-surface General Purpose Bomb



Courtesy Call by the Commander, U.S. Forces Japan

Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider

On February 15th, Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider, the Commander of the U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force made his first office call to the Defense Minister.

The Ministry of Defense (MOD)/JSDF seeks to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

Oura Cathedral

Oura Cathedral



© Churches in Nagasaki Information Centre

Nagasaki prefecture, located in the western part of the Kyushu region has the oldest Christian building in Japan called Oura Cathedral.

The Oura Cathedral is in the Gothic style of Europe's Middle Ages built in 1865 during the opening of Japan at the end of the Edo period to provide a place of worship for residents from overseas.

It is located on a hill facing Nagasaki Bay and is the place where missionaries visiting Japan and latent Japanese Christians met after the opening of Japan.

It was named a National Treasure in 1933 but was damaged by the dropping of the atomic bomb in the Pacific War. After restoration, it once again became a

National Treasure in 1953 as the oldest church in Japan.

In 2018, it was included as one of the Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region and was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage. It receives many visitors every year.

The JMSDF Sasebo History Museum is located in Sasebo City, Nagasaki. This establishment inherits the legacy of the Japanese Navy. This seven-story building has historic items that introduce and display the missions and activities of the JMSDF and historical sources of the Imperial Japanese Navy from the Pacific War. Also, its top floor has an observation lobby where visitors can look out over Sasebo City as well as a movie hall.

LATEST
NEWS

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User Name: @ModJapan_en



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