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Special Feature

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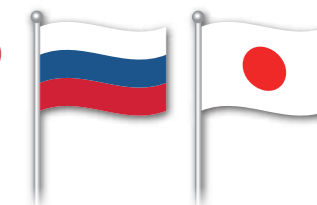
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JGSDF Central Band Takes Part in the International Military Tattoo “Spasskaya Tower” in Russia



From August 23rd to September 1st, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Central Band appeared in the International Military Tattoo “Spasskaya Tower” in Moscow, Russia. The Tattoo is an annual event held in Moscow from late August to early September, and is a large-scale military music festival attended by over 100,000 spectators during the Tattoo.

The name “Spasskaya Tower” originates from the name of the clock tower on the wall of the Kremlin, a world heritage site in Moscow City where the Tattoo is held. During the event, the Red Square, which is also a world heritage site, bustles with many people.

Performances in this year’s Tattoo started on August 23rd, and the JGSDF Central Band performed in a total of 11 shows until September 1st. The solo performance of the JGSDF Central Band began loudly, starting with the Japanese Army March, followed by “*Sharaku*”, a wind-instrument song inspired by *ukiyo*e and *kabuki*, and “The Firebird” by Russian composer Stravinsky. In addition, Sergeant Matsunaga sang a Russian folk song “By the long road” (known in the West as “Those Were the Days”). Moreover, reverberating sound of *wadaiko* (Japanese drum) communicated the tone of the Japan’s traditional musical instrument to the people of Russia. At the 1964 Tokyo Olympics Games, the JGSDF Central Band performed the fanfare and the entrance march, and in this performance as well, they performed the Tokyo Olympics Games Fanfare and March 1964.

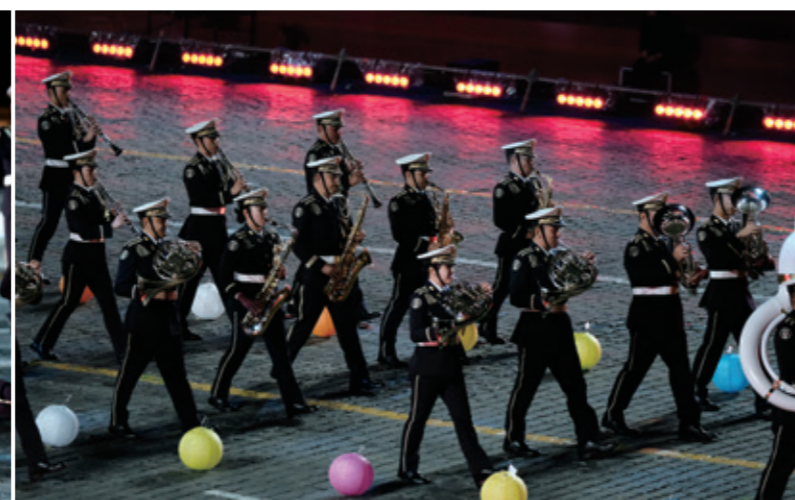
For the finale, the JGSDF Central Band gave a joint performance with the Russian military bands, in which they performed “Farewell of Slavianska” and “1812 overture”, etc. with the historical wall of the Kremlin behind the band.

During the Tattoo, the JGSDF Central Band performed the Russian folk songs such as “Katyusha,” not only in the Red Square, but also in public places in the city, such as Alexander Garden on August 28th and Krasnaya Presnya Park on August 31st.

On August 24th, the JGSDF Central Band also participated in a parade in the city and received a warm welcome from the citizens of Moscow. Also, on August 25th the band performed in a special concert held in the Embassy of Japan in Russia. They performed the Tokyo Olympics Games Fanfare and March 1964, a Japanese folk song

medley, and a Russian folk song medley. In addition, they performed the song “*Sampo*” from the movie “My Neighbor Totoro” with the participation of children as the conductors, received a lot of applause from the audience.

The Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) Bands are highly praised for their discipline, beautiful uniforms, and earnest training, and in addition that, for their beautiful fusion of the Japanese culture with the military music of Japan. The JGSDF Central Band presented its outstanding repertoire and demonstrated the results of its training in the “Spasskaya Tower”. Furthermore, it successfully introduced some aspects of the Japanese culture through the performance by Sergeant Matsunaga, who sang songs while wearing a traditional Japanese *kimono*, and the Japanese *wadaiko* performance, etc.





Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

On August 7th, 2019, Defense Minister Iwaya and U.S. Secretary of Defense Esper held a meeting at the Ministry of Defense (MOD).

1 Regional affairs

The Ministers confirmed the importance of full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions for a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all North Korea's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and ballistic missiles of all ranges. The Ministers agreed that Japan and the United States (U.S.) will continue working together with partner countries to counter illicit ship-to-ship transfers of goods by North Korea. Also, the Ministers confirmed the importance of the deterrent capability of regional U.S. Forces including U.S. Forces Korea.

The Ministers affirmed their position that they oppose unilateral attempts to change the status-quo by coercion in the East and South China Seas, and that it is important to work together to make sure that the rule of law and the freedom of navigation are firmly established. The Ministers reconfirmed that Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty applies to the Senkaku Islands, and that they would oppose any unilateral actions which attempt to undermine Japan's administration of the islands, and agreed to cooperate with each other for the peace and stability in the East China Sea.

2 Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation

The Ministers confirmed that they will closely coordinate in their efforts to be made based on the strategy documents of both countries and to even strengthen the alliance capability to deter and respond. Also, they confirmed the significance of cooperation with various partners including conducting joint exercises and capacity building assistance to maintain and strengthen a free and open Indo-Pacific with Japan-U.S. Alliance being the cornerstone. The Ministers confirmed to make continued effort in streamlining Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process.

3 U.S. Forces in Japan

The Ministers confirmed that the relocation to Henoko-saki is the only solution to avoid the continued use of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma. Minister Iwaya requested for cooperation in the Government of Japan's efforts to mitigate the impact on the local communities including Okinawa Prefecture. The Ministers confirmed to work closely together for the steady implementation of the U.S. forces realignment initiatives. Minister Iwaya also requested the U.S. Forces to minimize its operational impact on the local communities including noise of transient aircraft and the Ministers affirmed the importance to ensure the safe operations of the U.S. Forces.



State Minister of Defense Harada Visits Sri Lanka

State Minister of Defense Harada visited Sri Lanka from July 25th to 26th. There, he signed a memorandum on defense cooperation and exchanges.

1 Courtesy call on President and Minister of Defence Maithripala Sirisena (July 26th)

In Colombo, State Minister Harada made a courtesy call on President and Minister of Defence Sirisena. State Minister Harada expressed condolences on behalf of the MOD/JSDF for the many deaths and injuries caused by the explosions that occurred in Colombo and other cities in April. Furthermore, in order to realize a free and open

Indo-Pacific, they shared recognition of the need to further strengthen the partnership between Japan and Sri Lanka, an important maritime country located at a strategic point on the Indian Ocean sea lane. They also welcomed the signing of the memorandum.

2 Meeting with State Minister of Defence Ruwan Wijewardene and signing of a Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges (July 26th)

In Colombo, State Minister Harada met with State Minister of Defence Wijewardene. At the meeting, the two ministers discussed each country's defense policies and Japan-Sri Lanka defense cooperation and exchanges. With regards to Japan-Sri Lanka defense cooperation and exchanges, a wide-ranging discussion was held on methods for strengthening cooperation among all military services, including cooperation between the navies with a focus on training during port calls, cooperation between the air forces with a focus on unit-to-unit exchange during port calls and support for capacity building in search and rescue operations, and the possibility of initiating coopera-

tion and exchange activities between the ground forces. After the meeting, the two ministers signed the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to develop defense cooperation and exchange in various fields such as maritime security. Then, at a luncheon hosted by State Minister Wijewardene, the two ministers confirmed the long-standing and friendly relations between Japan and Sri Lanka and had broad exchange of views on the security environment surrounding the both countries, including regional situations.

3 Visits to the Port of Colombo and Sri Lanka Navy base Parakrama (July 26th)

State Minister Harada visited the Port of Colombo and the Sri Lanka Navy base. At the port, he examined the status of the control tower. At the Sri Lanka Navy base,

State Minister Harada boarded the SLNS Gajabahu and observed the inside of the ship, including the bridge. He also met with the captain.

4 Laying flowers for victims of terrorism at the Shangri-La Hotel and St. Anthony's Church (July 26th)

In Colombo, State Minister Harada visited the Shangri-La Hotel and St. Anthony's Church, which were the sites of the

explosions during the terrorist attacks in April. There, he offered flowers and a prayer for the souls of the victims.



Defense Exchange with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force

After participating in Talisman Sabre 2019 with the U.S. forces in Australia, the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade and 1st Helicopter Brigade returned to Japan aboard the JS *Ise* and JS *Kunisaki*. On the way, they participated in a defense exchange with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea from August 3rd to 5th, 2019.

During the exchange, the JGSDF exhibited the AAV7 and other assets used in the Talisman Sabre 2019, explained the activities of the JGSDF, through which the PNGDF deepened understanding of the JGSDF. They also promoted friendship with the PNGDF Military Band, which the JGSDF Central Band supported to establish and develop through capacity-building assistance. These exchanges contributed to enhancing mutual understanding and strengthening the relationship of trust between the two countries.



Fuji Firepower Exercise 2019

On August 25th, the annual Fuji Firepower Exercise was held in the East Fuji Maneuver Area in Gotemba City, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Approx. 2,400 personnel from various units participated in the exercise, with 80 armored vehicles and tanks, 60 artilleries, 20 aircraft, and other types of assets. Approx. 24,000 people visited the maneuver area to observe the exercise.

In the exercise, the JGSDF introduced the Network Electronic Warfare System (NEWS) to conduct trainings for electronic warfare, which aims to disrupt opponent's

communications. In the first part of this exercise, medium to short range live fire as well as helicopter and tank live fire were demonstrated.

In the second part, comprehensive live fire exercise that is designed to respond enemy invasion to Japan's remote islands under the joint operation was demonstrated. In this part, this live fire exercise incorporated the operational scenarios that are "Blocking enemy attack with pre-deployed units to remote island" and "Defeating enemy units by reinforcements" for the defense of Japan's remote islands under the joint operation.

F-15J/DJ Fighter

In this edition, we will introduce the F-15J/DJ fighter, the mainstay of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF).

The F-15J/DJ is a domestically-produced fighter plane that was produced under license from the 1970s to the 1990s, and it is the mainstay fighter plane of the JASDF as it boasts superior kinematic performance due to its high-thrust engines.

The F-15J/DJ is about 40 years old, but the scalability of the plane due to the good quality of the basic design allowed modernization of the radar and other electronic devices and on-board equipment, leading the F-15J/DJ to still stand as a fighter plane with top-class capabilities even today. Going forward, the F-15J/DJ will continue to carry out missions in the airspace around Japan.



Specifications

- ▷Crew: 1 or 2
- ▷Width: 13.1m
- ▷Length: 19.4m
- ▷Height: 5.6m
- ▷Number of engines: 2
- ▷Name of engine: F100-PW-220E (IHI-220E)
- ▷Engine thrust: approx. 8,600kg
- ▷Type of engine: Turbofan engine with afterburner

Performance

- ▷Maximum gross weight: approx. 25t
- ▷Maximum speed: approx. Mach 2.5
- ▷Service ceiling: approx. 19,000m
- ▷Flight range: approx. 4,600km

Usa Jingu shrine



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There are a variety of shrines in Japan. They include more than 40,000 shrines nationwide that are called “Hachiman-sama,” and Usa Jingu shrine is the head shrine among these.

Usa Jingu shrine is in Usa City, Oita Prefecture in the Kyushu region at the base of Mt. Omotoyama.

It is a very old shrine. Its palace was established by Emperor Shomu in 725. “Hachiman no Okami,” who is famous as the god of luck in battle, is enshrined there.

There are customs that must be followed when worshipping at shrines. Similarly, at Usa Jingu shrine

too you must start by washing your hands and rinsing out your mouth at the *chozuya* (water ablution pavilion). You should wash your left hand first. Next, wash your right hand and after that rinse out your mouth. Then wash your left hand again. Now you can go to worship at the main shrine.

The Kure Area Guard Group Saiki Naval Base Contingent assigned to the Kure District of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) has been deployed to Saiki City, Oita Prefecture, where it is guarding Saiki Port, an important port.



- Courtesy Call by General David H. Berger, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps (Aug. 20)



Minister Iwaya with General Berger



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