

The Latest News on the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces

JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS



Nov. 2019

No. 117



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Cover Photograph :
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MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

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Minister of Defense Succession Ceremony

On September 11th, the Fourth Reshuffled Second Abe Cabinet was assembled and Mr. KONO Taro, a member of the House of Representatives, was appointed as the 20th Minister of Defense.

On September 12th, the new Minister of Defense Kono arrived at the Ministry of Defense (MOD) where he received the guard of honor and gave instructions to staffs during the inauguration ceremony. During the instructions, Minister Kono expressed his enthusiasm saying, "To begin with, I would like to express my respect and gratitude to each and every one of the 250,000 members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) for your devotion to all of your duties in the field to fulfill our noble mission. The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) conduct surveillance activities seamlessly 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even at this very moment, literally standing at the front line of threats to our territories, waters, and airspace.

In addition to training rigorously every day, you provide supplies and maintenance in a timely and appropriate manner

to support the activities of our units. These efforts ensure that we can provide a flawless response to any situation.

In the face of natural disaster, you are the first to rush to people in need even at risk to your own lives.

There is nothing easy about the duties of the MOD and JSDF. The peace and security of our country is maintained by each member fulfilling his or her duties and by integrating each individual's capabilities together into an organization.

As the Minister of Defense, I will respond to the best of my ability to the efforts of the JSDF members who diligently work day and night on our difficult tasks, with a strong sense of responsibility. To that end, I will visit sites where JSDF personnel are actively performing duties to hear your opinions and thoughts directly.

In addition, I pledge to you today that I will take the lead in addressing the difficult issues at the front line and work to create an environment in which the MOD and JSDF can fully demonstrate our capabilities."

After that, a succession procedure was performed in which the former minister passed his duties onto the new minister.



Minister Kono visits Disaster-Affected Areas

On September 15th, Minister Kono visited JMSDF Tateyama Air Base and Kimitsu City in Chiba Prefecture. He observed JSDF disaster relief activities associated with 2019's Typhoon No. 15, also known as Typhoon Faxai, such as bathing assistance, water supply assistance, and the removal of fallen trees.



About

Date of birth: 10th January 1963 **Constituency:** Kanagawa 15th District **Domicile:** Kanagawa Prefecture

Political Career

Oct 1996: Elected as member of the House of Representatives (HR)
 Jun 2000: Returned as member of the HR (2nd term)
 Jan 2002: Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications
 Nov 2003: Returned as member of the HR (3rd term)
 Sep 2005: Returned as member of the HR (4th term)
 Nov 2005: State Minister of Justice
 Sep 2008: Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (HR)
 Aug 2009: Returned as member of the HR (5th term)
 Dec 2012: Returned as member of the HR (6th term)

Dec 2014: Returned as member of the HR (7th term)
 Oct 2015: Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission, Minister for Civil Service Reform, Minister for Administrative Reform, Minister in charge of Disaster Management, Regulatory Reform, Consumer Affairs and Food Safety
 Aug 2017: Minister for Foreign Affairs
 Oct 2017: Returned as member of the HR (8th term)
 Nov 2017: Minister for Foreign Affairs
 Sep 2019: Minister of Defense



Orient Shield 2019

From August 26th to September 23rd, the JGSDF conducted the bilateral field training exercise Orient Shield 2019 in Japan with the U.S. Army.

The exercise was conducted at Camp Kengun and maneuver areas in Japan including the Oyanohara Maneuver Area to improve the joint response capabilities of the JGSDF and the U.S. Army.

The JGSDF's 16 Infantry Regiment of 4th Division, 2nd Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, and Western Army Artillery Unit participated in this exercise alongside the U.S. Army's 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 17th Field Artillery Brigade, and others.



Japan-Australia Bilateral Training "Bushido Guardian 2019"

From September 11th to October 8th, the JASDF conducted bilateral training with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The training was conducted at Chitose Air Base and Misawa Air Base to realize the Joint Statement of the Eighth Japan-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations ("2+2") made in October 2018. This was the first bilateral training conducted by the JASDF and the RAAF in Japan. The training was mainly conducted by the JASDF's Northern Air Defense Force and the RAAF's No. 77 Squadron of No. 81 Wing. The aircraft deployed in the training included F-15 fighters and F-2 fighters from the JASDF and F/A-18 A/B fighters, a KC-30 aerial tanker, and a C-17 transport aircraft from the RAAF.

In addition, Minister of Defense Kono inspected the training and encouraged the JASDF and the RAAF airmen on September 25th.

Through the training, the JASDF and the RAAF improved their capabilities and promoted mutual understanding and defense cooperation between the two countries.





Malabar 2019

From September 26th to October 4th, the JMSDF took part in Japan-U.S.-India trilateral exercise Malabar 2019 conducted in the waters from off Sasebo to the south of Japan's Kanto region.

The JMSDF enhanced its tactical skills and promoted mutual understanding and trust with the U.S. Navy and Indian Navy.

From the JMSDF, three destroyers, JS *Samidare*, JS *Chokai*, and JS *Kaga*, and a replenishment oiler JS *Oumi* as well as fixed-wing patrol aircraft P-1 participated in anti-submarine, anti-ship, and anti-aircraft training.

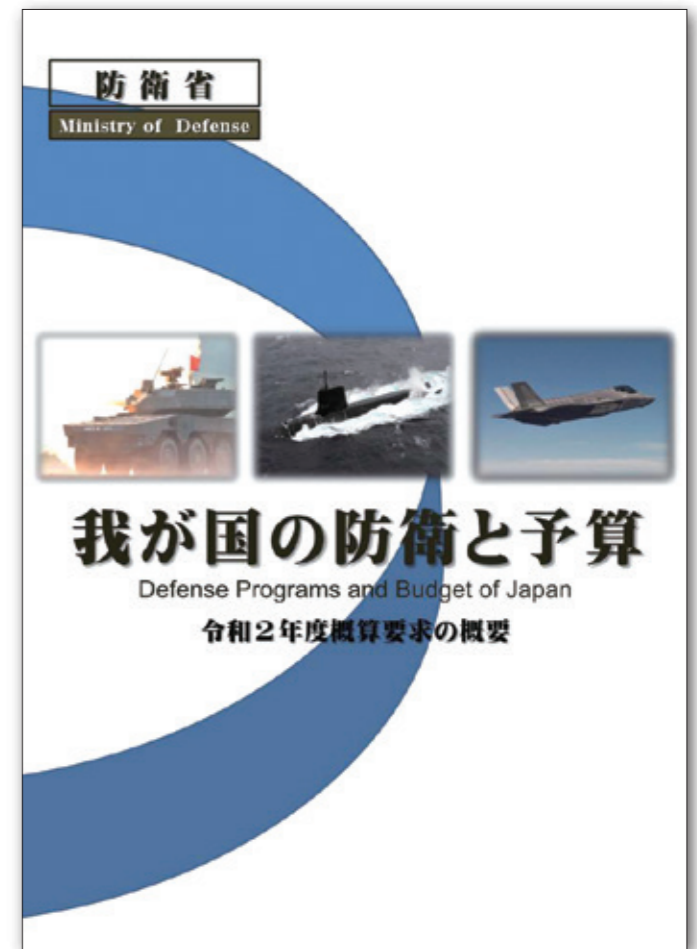


MOD FY2020 Budget Request

The MOD released its overview of FY2020 budget request at the end of August.

The FY2020 budget request marks the second year of the National Defense Program Guidelines and the Mid-Term Defense Program, which were approved by the Cabinet at the end of 2018. It aims to build a truly effective defense capability, "Multi-Domain Defense Force" by steadily strengthening Japan's defense force while further streamlining and rationalizing them.

The basic concept behind the current budget request is to acquire and strengthen capabilities in new domains such as space, cyberspace, and electromagnetic spectrum in order to realize cross-domain operations, and to reinforce capabilities in traditional domains to cope with various situations in close combination with new domains. In addition, it aims to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of defense capability including logistics support. It also prioritizes strengthening human resource base and technology base and further strengthening security cooperation in the Japan-U.S. Alliance and with other countries.



Equipment



LR-2 Reconnaissance Aircraft

In this issue, we will introduce the JGSDF's LR-2 reconnaissance aircraft.

The LR-2 is the JGSDF's only fixed-wing aircraft. It is a King Air 350 manufactured by Beechcraft of the United States that has been modified for JGSDF use. Modifications made include an extended fuselage and main wings and enhanced engine power. With its speed and cruising capability, the LR-2

provides transportation between airfields around the country, especially when transporting emergency patients from remote islands.

In addition to a reconnaissance camera, the LR-2 will be equipped with devices for video transmission and infrared night-vision to enhance its capacity to collect visual information.

Specifications

- ▷ **Capacity:** 2 pilots and 8 passengers
- ▷ **Length:** 14.22m
- ▷ **Width:** 17.65m
- ▷ **Height:** 4.37m
- ▷ **Engine output:** 1,050shp × 2

Performance

- ▷ **Cruising speed:** approx. 440km/h
- ▷ **Flight range:** approx. 2,800km
- ▷ **Service ceiling:** approx. 10,700m

Saga Prefecture



Karatsu Kunchi

© Karatsu Tourism Association

Autumn festivals are held annually in every region in Japan. One such festival is *Karatsu Kunchi*, which is held every year from November 2nd to 4th in Saga Prefecture's Karatsu City.

Karatsu Kunchi is held at Karatsu Shrine and is for giving thanks for a good autumn harvest. During the festival, magnificent floats called *Hikiyama* that weigh approx. two to five tons are paraded in Karatsu City's old castle town.

The 14 *Hikiyama* floats are finished with Japanese paper, lacquer, and gold leaf and come in various shapes, including lions, the Red Snapper, the Flying Dragon, and

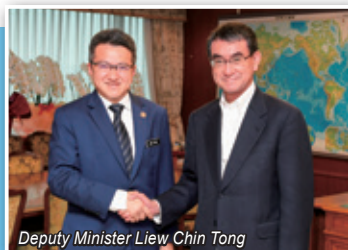
the Boat of Seven Treasures. Their daring figures attract the festival audience.

This festival has been designated as a National Important Intangible Folk Culture Property by the Japanese government. In 2016, it was registered as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.

The JASDF's Sefuriyama Sub Base is located in Kanzaki City, Saga Prefecture. It is a radar base located at the top of the sacred Mt. Sefuri, which straddles Fukuoka and Saga Prefectures. It provides regional air defense centered in the Kyushu region.



- Courtesy Call by Malaysian Deputy Minister of Defence Liew Chin Tong (Sep. 18)
- Courtesy Call by Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy (Sep. 24)



Deputy Minister Liew Chin Tong



Admiral Michael Gilday



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