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Special Feature

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MOD and JSDF Activities in the Pacific Island Countries



In October, all the three components of the Japan Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces (JGSDF, JMSDF and JASDF) made appearances in the South Pacific and were engaged in several activities to strengthen relations with the Pacific Island countries.

From October 8th to 11th, JS *Kashima* and *Inazuma* of the JMSDF Training Squadron made a port call to the Republic of Palau as JMSDF's first port call to Palau in the Reiwa era.

And overlapping the visit by JMSDF ships, a JASDF U-4 unit made U-4's first-time visit to Palau from 9th to 11th, which was followed by also U-4's first-time visit to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from 11th to 13th. The U-4 accompanied JASDF Major General Imaki, Vice Commander of the Air Support Command and JGSDF Colonel Ozawa aboard.

On October 9th, the JGSDF and JASDF personnel aboard the U-4 paid a courtesy call to Vice President Oilouch of Palau together with the JMSDF Rear Admiral Kajimoto, Commander of the Training Squadron. On that same day, a ceremony was held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Palau, and members of all the three components of the JSDF participated. There, the JMSDF Training Squadron Band performed a concert.



On October 10th, the members of all the three components of the JSDF Ground, Maritime, and Air paid a visit to the Peleliu Island which became the site of a fierce battle during World War II. There, they offered flowers and prayers to the war dead at the Monument of the War Dead in the Western Pacific.



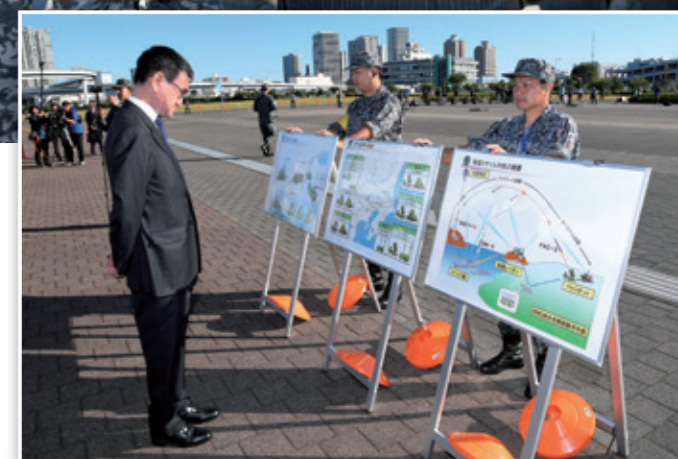
On October 11th, the JMSDF Training Squadron and JASDF U-4 completed their stay in Palau, the former departing for Guam and the latter departing for FSM as their next destination.

In FSM, the JASDF presented three wheel chairs they carried aboard U-4 from Japan at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to FSM at a handover ceremony on the evening of the 11th.



PAC-3 Maneuver Deployment Training

On October 9th, Defense Minister Kono inspected the JASDF's PAC-3 maneuver deployment training in Tokyo. This training enhanced the JSDF's tactical skills on the Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) and contributed to fostering the sense of security and safety by exhibiting its readiness for BMD.





Returning Ceremony for the JMSDF Training Squadron

On October 24th, a ceremony to commemorate the return of the JMSDF Training Squadron from the FY2019 Overseas Training Cruise was held, with State Minister of Defense Yamamoto in attendance.

The Overseas Training Cruise is implemented for junior officers who have graduated from the general officer candidate course at the JMSDF Officer Candidate School. The training is aimed at allowing the junior officers to exercise the knowledge and skills they have acquired at school in the real field, helping them become accustomed to the marine environment, and developing the qualities that are required for JSDF officers.

In addition, visiting other countries as part of the training contributes not only to the cultivation of an international sensibility among the officers, but also to the promotion of friendly relations with other countries.

The JMSDF Overseas Training Cruise has been carried out every year since 1957, with FY2019 marking the 63rd time.

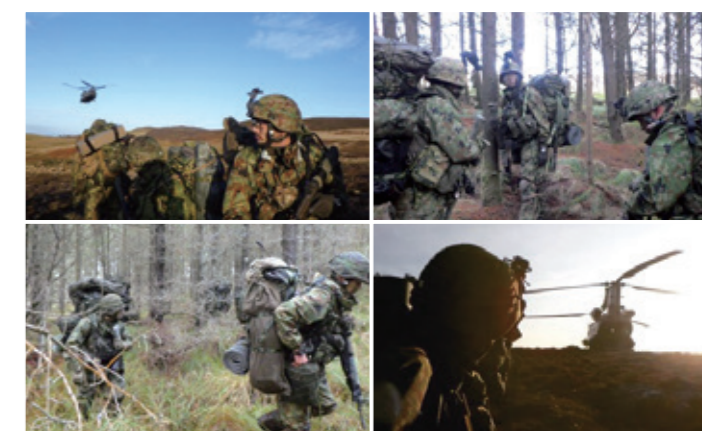


- ▶**Period:** 157 days from May 21st to October 24th
- ▶**Dispatched vessels:** Training Vessel JS *Kashima* and Destroyer JS *Inazuma*
- ▶**Personnel:** approx. 580 (including approx. 190 officer trainees)
- ▶**Visited countries:** United States, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, French Polynesia, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Palau (in order of visit)

Japan-the U.K. Bilateral Exercise “Vigilant Isles”



From September 29th to October 24th, the JGSDF participated in the Vigilant Isles 19 field training exercise in the UK alongside the British Army at Garelochhead Training Camp, Strone Camp, and in the Loch Ewe area. Approx. 20 members of the JGSDF including members of the JGSDF Fuji School participated in the reconnaissance exercises. It was the first time the JGSDF dispatched a training unit to the UK. This exercise provided an opportunity for the MOD and JSDF to strengthen defense cooperation between Japan and the UK.



Capacity Building for Papua New Guinea Defence Force Band

On September 25th, the MOD/JSDF sent 3 instructors from the JGSDF in order to support and provide music and performance training to Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) Band, which was invited to participate in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo held in Sydney from October 17th to 19th.

In the Tattoo, the PNGDF Band played the song “March Port Moresby” in an ensemble performance with the PNGDF’s Pipes & Drum Band which was supported by the UK, and the military bands from Fiji and Tonga, and received a big applause from the audience. This symbolized successful defense cooperation between Japan and PNG.





JSDF Disaster Relief Activities associated with 2019's Typhoon No. 19 (Typhoon Hagibis)

Responding to disaster relief requests related to Typhoon No. 19, also known as Typhoon Hagibis, the MOD/JSDF has dispatched response units to the affected areas. While fully engaging in life-saving activities and other related operations, JSDF personnel are also providing various daily life support to meet the needs of the disaster victims, such as bathing assistance, water supply assistance and meal providing assistance.



Memorial Service for the JSDF Personnel Who Lost Their Lives in the Line of Duty

On October 13th, Minister Kono offered a prayer and flowers at the Memorial Service for the JSDF Personnel Who Lost Their Lives in the Line of Duty.

The MOD/JSDF will make its utmost efforts to protect the lives and properties of the people as well as the territorial land, water and airspace of Japan.



T-5 Primary Trainer Aircraft

In this edition, we will take a closer look at T-5, JMSDF's primary trainer aircraft.

The T-5 has been deployed at Air Training Squadron 201 in Yamaguchi Prefecture's Ozuki and is used in primary training for all pilots and tactical coordinators, regardless of whether they will pilot fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters. Because the JMSDF mainly

deploys large fixed-wing reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters, the cabin of the T-5 is a parallel multi-seat cabin with seating for two personnel in addition to the pilot and co-pilot. In September 2019, T-5 made its demonstration flight, performed by the White Arrows, the JMSDF's official aerobatic flight team of instructor pilots.

Specifications

- ▷Length: 8.4m
- ▷Wingspan: 10.0m
- ▷Height: 3.0m
- ▷Maximum speed: 193kt
- ▷Cruising speed: 146kt

Tottori Sand Dunes



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There are various beaches along the west coast of Japan facing the Sea of Japan including rias coasts and flat coasts, but the most unique beach in western Japan is the Tottori Sand Dunes in Tottori prefecture.

This coastal dune is made of gravel and stretches 2.4km from north to south and 16km from east to west. It is one of the Tottori Prefecture's most popular tourist destinations, attracting more than 1 million tourists annually.

The Tottori Sand Dunes were created over a long period by the repeating cycle of weather turning mountain granite into sand which was then carried into rivers by rain and went out to sea. Subsequently, sand was pushed back to the seashore by waves and then carried ashore by strong sea winds.

A part of the dunes is designated as Special Protection Area of the Sanin Kaigan National Park. It is also nationally designated as Natural Monument.

The JASDF's Miho Air Base is located in Tottori City, Tottori Prefecture. The base is the home to the 3rd Tactical Airlift Group and its headquarters, the Flight Group, the Maintenance Supply Group, the Air Base Group, the Miho Air Traffic Control Service Squadron, the Miho Weather Service Squadron, and the Miho District Air Police Squadron. It is the only air base in western Japan with a transport aircraft unit. Aircraft stationed there include C-1, C-2 and T-400 training aircraft.



- Visit by H.E. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Republic of Djibouti (Oct. 23)
- Visit by H.E. Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (Oct. 23)



Prime Minister Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed



President Dr. Hilda C. Heine



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