

# JDF

## JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS



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## Minister of Defense Kono's 2020 New Year's Address

At the beginning of 2020, Minister of Defense Kono delivered a New Year's greeting to all personnel of the Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF).

### The security environment surrounding Japan

As represented by a series of ballistic missile launches by North Korea and increased nontransparent defense spending and growing activity in the sea and air space in the East China Sea by China, the security environment surrounding Japan has become increasingly severe.

### Strengthening Japan's own architecture for national defense

To build a truly effective defense capability that can respond to the current security environment with bold ideas, it is necessary to shed the thinking that relies on the traditional division among land, sea, and air and existing budgets and human resources. It is also necessary to further reinforce the human resource base; improve living and work environment of MOD/JSDF personnel; secure and develop human resources capable of playing a role in new domains such as space, cyberspace, and the electromagnetic spectrum as well as international cooperation; encourage the active participation of female personnel; and eradicate bullying, power harassment, and sexual harassment.

### Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and security cooperation

To maintaining the readiness and stable stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan and gain the understanding of local residents, the MOD/JSDF will cooperate steadily with the U.S. going forward.

In addition to the U.S., strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation with countries that share fundamental values and security interests is essential to ensuring security for Japan.

We will continue working with other countries

toward a "free and open Indo-Pacific" and addressing global security challenges.

Also, we will advance preparations related to information-gathering activities by JSDF destroyer and aircraft in order to ensure the safety of Japan-affiliated ships in the Middle East.

Finally, as the Minister of Defense, I will work towards ensuring peaceful life of Japanese citizens and protecting the territorial land, water, and airspace of Japan.

## Look Back on the Year of 2019

As the new year of 2020 starts, this issue takes a look back at the MOD/JSDF activities in 2019 by introducing the activities featured in the JDF.

- 0107-0216 Iron Fist 19
- 0111 Japan-France 2+2 and Defense Ministerial Meeting <sup>01</sup>
- 0114-0123 Cobra Gold 19
- 0115-0119 The then Minister of Defense Iwaya's visit to the U.S. (Meeting with the then U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan, etc.)
- 0123 Japan-Australia Defence Ministerial Meeting
- 0204-0215 Forest Light 02 <sup>02</sup>
- 0205 Japan-Finland Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0303-0519 Pacific Partnership 2019
- 0318 Delivery and Commission Ceremony for SS *Shoryu*
- 0325 Japan-Oman Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0331, 0407 Establishment Ceremonies of Amami and Miyako Security Forces <sup>03 04</sup>
- 0417 Japan-Philippines Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0419 The then Minister of Defense Iwaya's visit to the U.S. (Japan-U.S. 2+2 and Meeting with the then U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan)
- 0423 Participation of JS *Suzutsuki* in the International Fleet Review Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Liberation Army Navy
- 0430-0710 Indo-Pacific Deployment 2019
- 0502 Japan-Vietnam Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0522 Japan-Singapore Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0523 Japan-Qatar Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0528 Prime Minister & Mrs. Abe and the U.S. President & Mrs. Trump Visit JS *Kaga* <sup>05</sup>
- 0530 Japan-Russia 2+2 and Defense Ministerial Meeting
- 0531-0602 18th IISS Asia Security Summit -Shangri-La Dialogue-
- 0603-0821 Talisman Sabre 2019
- 0604 Meeting with the then U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan
- 0614-0628 Khaan Quest 2019
- 0629-0706 JMSDF Band, Tokyo Performs at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo
- 0708-0711 1st Professional Airmanship Program
- 0717 Naming and Launching Ceremony for DDG *Haguro* <sup>06</sup>
- 0725-0726 The then State Minister of Defense Harada visits Sri Lanka
- 0807 Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting <sup>07</sup>
- 0823-0901 JGSDF Central Band takes part in the International Military Tattoo "Spasskaya Tower" in Russia <sup>08</sup>
- 0825 Fuji Firepower Review 2019
- 0826-0923 Orient Shield 2019
- 0911-1008 Bushido Guardian 2019
- 0912 Minister of Defense Succession Ceremony <sup>09</sup>
- 0926-1004 Malabar 2019
- 0929-1024 Vigilant Isles
- 1008-1013 Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces' visit to the Pacific Island countries <sup>10</sup>
- 1111-1121 JSDF Joint Exercise (01JX) <sup>11</sup>
- 1117-1118 ADMM-Plus
- 1120 Japan-Australia Defence Ministerial Meeting
- 1123-1124 IISS Manama Dialogue 2019
- 1130 Japan-India 2+2 and Defense Ministerial Meeting <sup>12</sup>
- 1130-1201 JSDF Marching Festival 2019 <sup>13</sup>
- 1212 Naming and Launching Ceremony for Minesweeper JS *Etajima*
- 1214-1215 Doha Forum
- 1218 Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting <sup>14</sup>

Jan.



Feb.



Mar.



Apr.



May



Jun.



Jul.

Aug.

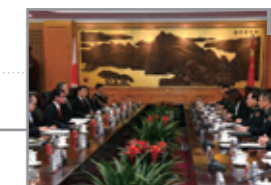


Sep.



Oct.

Nov.



Dec.







## Doha Forum

Minister Kono visited Qatar and Jordan from December 14th to 15th, 2019.

On December 14th, Minister Kono attended the 19th Doha Forum for the first time as Japanese defense minister. He made a speech and held bilateral meetings with some defense ministers attending the Forum.

### Minister Kono's Speech

At the plenary session, he made a speech on "multilateral security cooperation" in which Minister Kono stated the importance of cooperation to overcome global challenges in the increasingly complex global security environment and the need for the international community to stand together to uphold the rule of law.

### Japan-Qatar Defense Ministerial Meeting



Minister Kono held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs of Qatar, Khaled bin Mohammad Al-ATTIYAH. Both ministers welcomed progress in Japan-Qatar defense cooperation and exchanges, and confirmed to continue deepening defense cooperation and exchanges in areas such as education and training.



### Japan-Malaysia Defense Ministerial Meeting



Minister Kono held a meeting with Minister of Defence Mohammad Bin Sabu of Malaysia.

Both ministers agreed to further advance cooperation for defense equipment and technology based on the conclusion of the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology in April 2018.

### Meeting with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Jordan



Minister Kono held a meeting with Lieutenant General Yuset HUNEITI, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Jordan. Minister Kono visited Jordan for the first time as Japanese Defense Minister. Minister Kono and Lt Gen Huneiti exchanged views on issues such as security situations in the Indo-Pacific region including the Middle East.



During his stay in Jordan, Minister Kono visited the Royal Tank Museum where JGSDF Type 61 MBT is exhibited.



## Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting

On December 18th, Minister Kono visited China for the Japan-China Defense Ministerial Meeting with Wei Fenghe, Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic of China. It was his first visit to China as Minister of Defense in ten years.

Minister Kono expressed concerns over Chinese military activities in the East China Sea, including in the sea and airspace around the Senkaku Islands. He strongly urged for a positive response from China. The two ministers shared their recognition of the importance of stability in the East China Sea. Regarding the South China Sea, Minister Kono noted the importance of demilitarization of disputed features.

In addition, the two ministers welcomed the steady progress in Japan-China defense cooperation, and they

agreed to continue promoting mutual trust and understanding, as well as accelerating the coordination for an early establishment of a hotline.

During the visit to China, Minister Kono paid a courtesy call on Vice Chairman Xu Qiliang of the Central Military Commission on December 18th and inspected the 3rd Guards Division of the People's Liberation Army on December 19th.



## Japan-U.S. Bilateral Exercise, Forest Light (MA)

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) conducted the domestic field training exercise, Forest Light (MA), with the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) from December 1st to 13th.

The exercise strengthened ties between the JGSDF and USMC, and

enhanced interoperability under respective chains of commands by practicing procedures necessary for bilateral operations.

MV-22 Osprey from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma participated in this exercise under the

training relocation program, which aim to reduce impacts on Okinawa by promoting alternative training venues in mainland Japan.







## Naming and Launching Ceremony for Minesweeper JS Etajima

On December 12th, the naming and launching ceremony for the minesweeper JS *Etajima* was held at Tsurumi Works of Japan Marine United Corporation's Yokohama Shipyard.

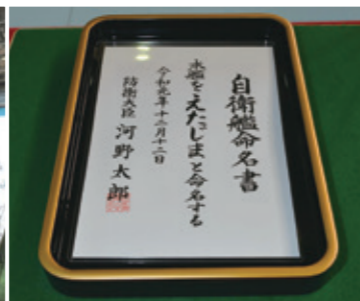
The name "*Etajima*" is taken from an island in Hiroshima Prefecture of the same name where the Imperial Naval Academy was established in 1888.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) 1st Service School and the JMSDF Officer Candidate School are also located at Etajima.

Compared to conventional minesweepers, the JS *Etajima* is made of fiber reinforced plastic and has the capacity to conduct minesweeping activities in deeper waters.

### Specifications

- ▷ **Displacement:** approx. 690 t
- ▷ **Length:** 67.0 m
- ▷ **Width:** 11.0 m
- ▷ **Depth:** 5.2 m
- ▷ **Speed:** approx. 14 kt
- ▷ **Occupants:** approx. 55
- ▷ **Engine:** 2 diesel engines (two shafts)



## Christmas Drop 2019

From December 4th to 16th, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) participated in the operation Christmas Drop, HA/DR training in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The Christmas Drop was launched by the U.S. Air Force in 1952 and is held annually around the Christmas season. The participating nations dropped the donated items (food, supplies, books and toys) to the islanders of

the FSM, the commonwealth of Northern Marianas and the Republic of Palau. This was the fifth time the JASDF has participated. The JASDF was joined by the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Through this exercise, the MOD/JASDF improved HA/DR capabilities and strengthened cooperation with the participating countries.





# Dogo Onsen

Ehime  
Prefecture

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With its numerous volcanoes, generous rainfall, and abundant groundwater, Japan has more than 3,000 volcanic hot springs. Of these, Dogo Onsen in Ehime prefecture is one of the three old hot springs in Japan alongside Arima Onsen in Hyogo Prefecture and Shirahama Onsen in Wakayama Prefecture. Some believe it is the oldest.

Dogo Onsen has smooth, alkaline water that is considered good for spa therapy and beauty.

The Dogo Onsen's Main Building is the symbol of the Onsen and was renovated in 1894. It has been designated a National Important Cultural Property.

It is also said that a building appeared in one of Japan's major animation films was modeled after the Dogo Onsen's Main Building.

JGSDF Camp Matsuyama is located in Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture. The units stationed there include the Middle Army Artillery Unit, the 14th Antiaircraft Artillery Unit and the 110th Training Battalion. These units are responsible for the defense, security, and disaster relief in Ehime Prefecture and surrounding area.



● Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministerial Meeting (Dec. 20)



Defense Minister H.E. Prabowo Subianto



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-Migrate to our friends around the world-



October 2019: "We Are Tomodachi Autumn / Winter 2019" Released