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SPECIAL FEATURE



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Joint Japan-EU Naval Force Anti-Piracy Exercise with Spanish Navy

On June 12th and 21st, JS *Onami* conducted an anti-piracy joint exercise (including communications training, firearms exercises, etc.) with the Spanish Navy Frigates "Numancia" and "Santa Maria" as the EU Naval Force. JS *Onami* is currently dispatched as a surface force conducting anti-piracy operations.

To strengthen cooperation in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) has been participating in joint Japan-EU anti-piracy exercises with the EU Naval Force Somalia (Operation ATALANTA) since October 2014, through which

the EU conducts anti-piracy operations in accordance with the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

In the past, Japan has conducted joint anti-piracy exercises with other member states of the EU Naval Force-Somalia Operation ATALANTA such as the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Italian Navy, the German Navy, and the Spanish Navy.

Given the increasingly severe security environment, it is extremely important to deepen Japan-EU defense cooperation and exchanges. MOD/JSDF will continue to strengthen cooperation on shared issues for peace and stability in the international community and the region.



Elephant Walk

Misawa Air Base is the Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force)'s only air base operated jointly with the United States. The joint use started in 1958. Currently, there are 15 Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) air units stationed at the base, which is the home of Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) F-35A fighters and U.S. Air Force (USAF) F-16 fighters.

Taking advantage of the fact that it is a base for joint use with the U.S. Forces, the Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) makes constant efforts to improve interoperability, maintain and improve Japan-U.S. joint response capabilities, and promote mutual understanding and communication with the U.S. forces through various exercises and activities.

On June 22nd, 12 F-35A fighters of the 302nd Squadron, 3rd Air Wing, Northern Air Defense Force, Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) participated in an "Elephant Walk" conducted by the USAF's 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base.

The "Elephant Walk" is a multiple military aircraft taxiing in close formation intended to check and demonstrate the capability for large scale aircraft employment.

Through this "Elephant Walk", the two countries confirmed the strength of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and the positive relationship between the Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) and the USAF at Misawa Base.



Cyber Defense

Advances in information and communications technology (ICT) in recent years have made information and communications networks essential to everyday life. This means that cyber attacks against these networks can have severe impacts on people's lives.

For militaries, ICT forms the foundation for communications from the command center to all units, and advances in ICT mean that the armed forces are growing more depen-

dent on information and communications networks. Militaries may also require the use of various critical infrastructures to carry out their missions, so cyber attacks on these infrastructures can create major obstacles for them. It is for these reasons that cyber attacks have been recognized as an asymmetric means of attack that can sabotage enemy military activities at low cost, and many militaries around the world are developing cyber attack capabilities.

Initiatives of the MOD/JSDF

The MOD/JSDF has engaged in holistic measures including the following: introduction of intrusion prevention systems, in order to ensure the safety of information and communication systems; development of defense systems, such as the security and analysis devices for cyber defense; monitoring of MOD/JSDF communications networks around the clock to respond to cyber attacks; enactment of regulations stipulating postures and procedures for responding to cyber attacks; research on cutting-edge technology; development of human resources, and collaboration with other organizations.

1 To establish the necessary environment for ensuring cybersecurity and to secure functions of the system and network of the MOD/JSDF under any circumstance, it is necessary to expand units such as the Cyber Defense Group and strengthen information gathering capabilities and research and analysis, and to develop a practical training environment. To this end, the MOD/JSDF will

2 In order to respond to cyber attacks in a swift and appropriate manner, it is necessary to keep abreast of the latest information including cyber-related risks, counter measures, and technological trends through cooperation with the private sector as well as strategic talks, joint exercises, and other opportunities with allies and other parties, starting with the United States.

The "Cyber Defense Council" (CDC) was set up in Japan in July 2013. Its core members consist of around ten companies in the defense industry with a strong interest in cybersecurity. The MOD/JSDF and the defense industry have dealt with cyber attacks through joint exercises and other initiatives. The MOD/SDF will further expand the cooperation.

Japan and the United States set up the Cyber Defense Policy Working Group (CDPWG) as a framework between

3 To train and secure human resources, the MOD/JSDF will work to 1. implement a common cyber course; 2. send personnel to study at universities, etc. in Japan and abroad; 3. hold a cyber competition to identify highly skilled cyber talents in the private sector; 4. ensure appropriate treatment for security and IT human resources who work as a

4 As the part of the Cyber Security Strategic Headquarters, which is placed within the cabinet, the MOD participates in cyber attack response training and personnel exchanges, and provides information about cyber attacks,

In addition to these initiatives, based on the National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG), the JSDF will fundamentally strengthen its cyber defense capability, including the capability to disrupt, during an attack against Japan in time of emergency, the opponent's use of cyberspace for the attack. Specifically, the Medium Term Defense Program (MTDP) stipulates **1** establishment of the necessary environment for ensuring cybersecurity, **2** keeping abreast of the latest information including cyber-related risks, counter measures and technological trends, **3** development and securing of human resources, and **4** contribution to whole-of-government initiatives.

continue initiatives such as 1. upgrade of information gathering devices for indications and techniques of cyber attacks, 2. enhancing functions of analysis devices for cyber protection taking advantage of AI and other advanced technologies, and 3. development of an environment for cyber exercises carried out as competition between an attack team and a defense team.

the respective defense authorities. Under this framework, meetings have been held to discuss 1. promotion of policy discussions regarding cyber issues; 2. closer sharing of information; 3. promotion of joint exercises incorporating response to cyber attacks; and 4. matters such as cooperation for training and maintaining experts. In addition, Japan's cooperation with the United States is to be further strengthened by such means as holding of the "Japan-U.S. IT Forum," a framework between the defense authorities that has been in place since 2002, and dispatching liaison officers to the U.S. Army's cyber educational institution.

Japan has held cyber dialogues with the respective defense authorities of the United Kingdom, Australia, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), etc. Furthermore, Japan has participated in cyber defense exercises organized by NATO.

bridge between highly professional human resources and general administration departments in the MOD; and 5. consider the utilization of external human resources through a public-private personnel exchange system to employ people with practical experience in private companies as well as contracts for service.

etc. to the cross-sector initiatives led by the National Center for Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cyber Security (NISC) as well as sending personnel to the CYber incident Mobile Assistant Team (CYMAT) to contribute to whole-of government efforts.



SDF Central Hospital's article on COVID-19 published on THE LANCET Infectious Diseases

On June 12th, an article from the SDF Central Hospital on the clinical features of COVID-19 patients published on the medical journal THE LANCET Infectious Diseases.

THE LANCET was first published in 1823. It is a weekly peer-reviewed medical journal and ranked as one of the top five medical journals worldwide, alongside the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, the British Medical Journal, and the Annals of Internal Medicine. THE LANCET Infectious Diseases is one of the 19 specific publications derived from THE LANCET.

This article is entitled "Clinical characteristics of COVID-19 in 104 people with SARS-CoV-2 infection on the Diamond Princess cruise ship: a retrospective analysis" and summarizes the results of a clinical study of the passengers and crew members from the Diamond Princess who were treated at the SDF Central Hospital.

The authors analyzed clinical records, laboratory data, and radiological findings of patients admitted from February 11th to 25th, 2020. Clinical outcomes were followed up until either discharge of patients or February 26th.

The authors classified the patients into 3 categories: asymptomatic, severe symptomatic, and mild symptomatic. Severe symptomatic cases were categorized as patients showing clinical signs of pneumonia. Patients with other clinical symptoms were defined as mild symptomatic cases. Then, patients were compared by severity of symptoms according to clinical characteristics to identify factors related to symptomatic illness among asymptomatic patients and factors related to the progression of the disease in infected patients.

The authors suggested that older age, consolidation on chest CT images, and lymphopenia were associated with disease progression of COVID-19.



Return of JS *Harusame* and JS *Takanami*

Return of JS *Harusame*

On June 19th, JS *Harusame* returned to JMSDF Sasebo base, its home port, after completing its seven-month mission as the 35th Deployment Surface Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement (DSPE) in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. JS *Harusame* departed Sasebo with approx. 180 personnel on board in November 2019.

The DSPE implements counter-piracy measures with one JMSDF destroyer. They strive to ensure the safety of ships navigating in the area in two different manners; direct

escort of private vessels across the Gulf of Aden, and zone defense in the assigned areas in the Gulf of Aden. The destroyer also carries eight Japan Coast Guard officers who conduct judicial law enforcement activities, including arresting and interrogating pirates, as required.

Since the first deployment in March 2009, the DSPE has escorted 3,916 private ships (as of June 30, 2020) without a single case of pirate attack.



Return of JS *Takanami*

On June 30th, JS *Takanami* returned to JMSDF Yokosuka Base, its home port, after completing its mission as the first Deployment Surface Force for Information Gathering. Minister Kono attended the return ceremony and praised the achievements of personnel who engaged in the mission. JS *Kirisame* replaced JS *Takanami* as the second surface force on June 9th and has been engaging in the current information gathering activities.

In response to rising tensions in the Middle East, the execution of information gathering activities in the region was approved by a Cabinet Decision made last December

to promote whole-of-government approach for ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East and the safety of Japan-related vessels. Based on the decision, as Japan's independent effort, JS *Takanami* was dispatched as the first surface force in February this year in order to strengthen the information gathering posture necessary to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels.

JS *Takanami* and JS *Kirisame* as the Deployment Surface Force for Information Gathering have so far confirmed a total of 9,507 (as of June 30th, 2020) vessels with no particular abnormalities found in Japan-related vessels.



The MOD/JMSDF will continue to put its all efforts into the counter-piracy operations and the information-gathering activities in the Middle East region.

Recent Telephone Conferences

Defense Minister's Telephone Conferences

UAE/Papua New Guinea

Minister Kono had a video teleconference with Minister Bowardi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 9th and had a telephone conversation with Minister Soloma of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) on June 16th.

In these conversations, Minister Kono and the respective ministers exchanged views on issues such as the roles to be played by the defense authorities given the global spread of COVID-19. Minister Kono explained the JSDF activities on the cruise ship *Diamond Princess*, activities to take measures at the airport and to prevent community-spread infection, as well as the infection-preventative measures undertaken in the JSDF operation and analysis of cases examined at the SDF Central Hospital, among other topics, by using a presentation document. Each of the ministers explained the recent situation with COVID-19 and measures taken in their respective countries. The ministers of each country agreed to share information, knowledge and lessons learned about the measures towards overcoming COVID-19.

In addition, the ministers exchanged views on the regional situation. Minister Kono also expressed the importance of continuing and strengthening defense cooperation and exchange with each country.

In the conversation with Minister Bowardi, Minister Kono

explained the information gathering activities for ensuring the safe navigation of the Japan-related vessels in the Middle East. The two Ministers agreed to continue close communication for ensuring peace, stability and the safe navigation of vessels in the Middle East.



In his talks with Minister Soloma, Minister Kono underlined that both countries will continue to work together to realize the success of the PNG military band's performance at the next or future JSDF Marching Festival, as an achievement of the capacity building project extended to the band since 2015. They also touched upon subjects, including the capacity building project in the engineering field which is currently being developed and the Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD), which has been postponed as a precaution against COVID-19. State Minister Yamamoto attended the telephone conversation because he visited PNG for the first time as Minister-class MOD official and had a meeting with Minister Soloma in February this year.

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff's Telephone Conferences



General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, had teleconferences with General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff of Canada and General Claudio Graziano, Chairman of the European Union Military Committee respectively on June 12th.

General Yamazaki also had a teleconference with Lieutenant

General Mohamed Farid Hegazy, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces on June 23rd. In these teleconferences, the leaders exchanged opinions on each country's situation affected by COVID-19 and each force's activities to prevent the spread of the virus. In addition, General Yamazaki and respective leaders reaffirmed the importance of the defense cooperation and exchanges between Japan and each country/union, and agreed on strengthening cooperation to address common challenges for the peace and stability in the international community as well as the region.

JGSDF Chief of Staff's Telephone Conferences

General Yuasa, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), had a teleconference with General Paul J. LaCamera, Commander of the U.S. Army Pacific on June 19th. They shared each other's recognition on the defense cooperation between ground components of Japan and the U.S. The teleconference was convened with the attendance of Major General Viet X. Luong, Commander of the U.S. Army Japan.



JMSDF Chief of Staff's Video Telephone Conferences

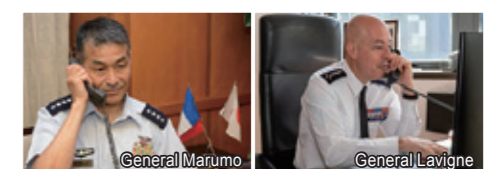
Admiral Yamamura, Chief of Staff, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) held a VTC with Admiral Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet on June 25th. Also he held a VTC with Admiral Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy on June 26th. In these conferences, the leaders had a candid discussion and agreed to continue close cooperation and information sharing, in order to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" despite the COVID-19 situation.



JASDF Chief of Staff's Telephone Conferences

General Marumo, Chief of Staff, JASDF had a teleconference with General Philippe Lavigne, Chief of Staff, French Air Force on June 10th. In the talks, they reaffirmed the agreement of "Strategic Orientation" regarding defense cooperation and exchange and maintaining robust cooperation between the two air services.

The two air senior leaders also discussed their views on impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.



JMSDF Training and Exercises

Bilateral Exercise with the U.S. Army

On June 15th, the JMSDF conducted a bilateral exercise with the U.S. Army over the sea and air zone in the southern Kanto region. *JS Kaga*

and two UH-60Ls of the U.S. Army conducted a helicopter deck landing and departing training. The JMSDF

improved its tactical skills and strengthened cooperation with the U.S. Army through this training.



Overseas Training Cruise

On June 9th, the FY2020 Overseas Training Cruise (first half) unit left Kure Base. This year, the JMSDF has divided the overseas training cruise into two periods due to the JMSDF operations. The first-half unit will sail for a month and half without port

call, except one at Singapore for supply, in order to avoid the risk of COVID-19 infections.

The Overseas Training Cruise is implemented for junior officers who have graduated from general Officer Candidate Course at JMSDF Officer

Candidate School. The Cruise is aimed at getting them to acquire necessary knowledge and skills and to expand their views on domestic and overseas environments as well as to develop the qualities that are required as JMSDF junior officers.

- Duration: 44 days, from June 9th to 22nd
- Vessels: Training Vessel *JS Kashima* and *JS Shimayuki*
- Personnel: approx. 500 (including approx. 150 who completed general Officer Candidate Course)
- Port call: Singapore (Changi) ※supply only (no landing)

On June 22nd, the training unit held a goodwill training with the Republic of Singapore Navy in the South China Sea to promote mutual understanding and a relationship of trust. The Frigate *RSS Stalwart* from the Singaporean Navy joined the training unit for tactical maneuver

and communications training. On June 23rd, they conducted a bilateral training with the U.S. Navy's *Gabrielle Giffords*. This training contributed to improving the tactical skills of the JMSDF and to strengthening the cooperation with the U.S. Navy. Furthermore, on June 27th, they held

another goodwill training for tactical maneuver and communications training with the Indian Navy's destroyer *INS Rana* and the corvette *INS Kulish* in the Indian Ocean. Through this training, they promoted mutual understanding and a relationship of trust with the Indian Navy.



Bilateral Training with the U.S. Navy



Bilateral Training with the U.S. Navy



Farewell Pass with the Singapore Navy



Goodwill Training with Singapore



Goodwill Training with Singapore



Goodwill Training with India



Goodwill Training with India



Goodwill Training with India



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