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SPECIAL FEATURE

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MOD Efforts for the Vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) "

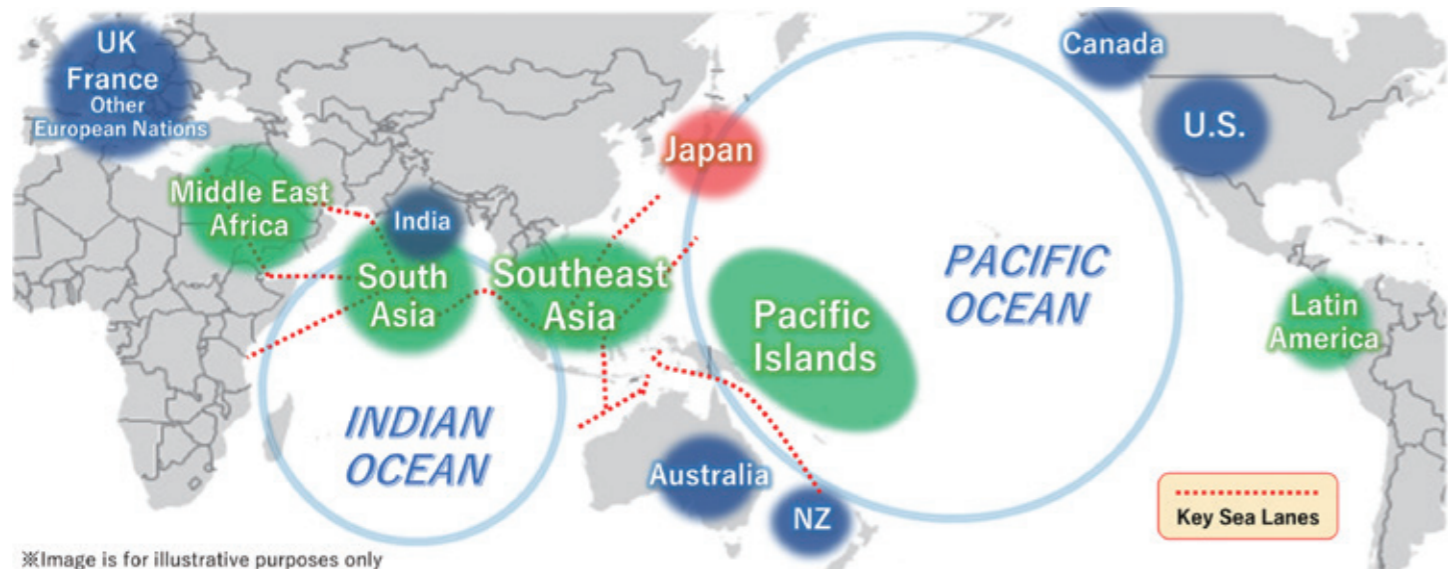
A free and open maritime order, which relies on the rule of law, is the foundation for the stability and prosperity of the international community.

As the Indo-Pacific region is the core of the world's vitality supporting more than half the world's population, it is especially vital for global stability and prosperity to realize the stable and autonomous development of this region.

At the same time, there are a number of challenges existing in the region, including in Japan's vicinity, such as the rapid modernization of military forces and intensification of military activities.

In light of this situation, the Ministry of Defense/Japan Self-Defense Forces (MOD/JSDF) clearly states in the National Defense Program Guidelines (2018) that, "In line

with the vision of free and open Indo-Pacific, Japan will strategically promote multifaceted and multilayered security cooperation, taking into account characteristics and situation specific to each region and country. As part of such efforts, Japan will actively leverage its defense capability to work on defense cooperation and exchanges which include joint training and exercises, defense equipment and technology cooperation, capacity building assistance, and interchanges among military branches. The MOD/JSDF therefore aims to create a security environment favorable to Japan, through efforts to: (1) ensure the stable use of major sea lanes through defense cooperation and exchanges, (2) prevent contingencies through confidence building and mutual understanding, and (3) contribute to the peace and stability through activities in the region in cooperation with partner countries.



Regions to enhance cooperation in achieving FOIP

Defense cooperation and exchanges are being strengthened with Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Island countries, along which key sea lanes are located, as

1. Southeast Asia (ASEAN countries)

Japan has further strengthened defense cooperation and exchanges with ASEAN countries based on the consistency between FOIP and the "ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP)," which was issued by ASEAN in June 2019 while pursuing synergies between FOIP and AOIP. Various concrete cooperation activities are being continually advanced with ASEAN countries, such as capacity building, bilateral exercises, and defense equipment and

2. South Asia

With Sri Lanka, members of the Sri Lankan Air Force were invited to observe training, such as the training in

3. Pacific Island Countries

Commencing in 2015, ongoing capacity building program is provided to Papua New Guinea (PNG) for the establishment and development of a military band. In addition, the JASDF conducted the multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise operation "Christmas Drop" with the United States, Australia and

4. Middle East and Africa

With Middle Eastern countries, Japan has been actively participating in multilateral security councils in the Middle East and promoting JSDF port calls and aircraft visits. In

A new pamphlet introducing the MOD's approach in achieving the vision of FOIP has been published.

well as other regions in the Indo-Pacific, including the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

technology cooperation, including the transfer of TC-90 training aircraft to the Philippines.

In addition to these bilateral relationships, cooperation is also being advanced within multilateral frameworks such as ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and Japan shares "Vientiane Vision 2.0" with ASEAN countries, which is a guideline for future ASEAN-Japan defense cooperation.

search, detection and rescue at sea, conducted by the Japan Air-Self Defense Force (JASDF) air rescue unit.

New Zealand. And, in the airdrop exercises, Japan has dropped various donations to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Furthermore, ships and aircraft have also provided materials through various port calls and aircraft visits, further strengthening relations.

addition, a training program on the operation of heavy machinery was provided to Djibouti as part of support for the enhancement of disaster response capacity.

Please check the details from here:
https://www.mod.go.jp/j/publication/book/pamphlet/pdf/indo_pacific_e.pdf



Japan's Missile Defense

Currently, Japan has been facing the threat of North Korea's missile capabilities. North Korea is assessed to have already successfully miniaturized nuclear weapons to fit ballistic missile warheads, and it possesses and deploys several hundred ballistic missiles capable of reaching almost every part of Japan. North Korea is also working to improve its missile technology and attack capabilities by increasing the range of its missiles, enhancing its ability to launch multiple missiles simultaneously, increasing its capacity for surprise attacks, and developing new types of missiles that fly at low altitude to delay detection.

Japan began developing the Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system in FY2004 to be fully prepared to respond to ballistic missile attacks. To date, Japan has made steady progress in enhancing its BMD capabilities by such means as installing ballistic missile defense capabilities to Aegis-equipped destroyers and deploying the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3).

As a result of these efforts, Japan is now equipped with a multi-layered defense system with upper tier interception by Aegis equipped destroyers and lower tier interception by PAC-3, both interconnected and coordinated by the Japan Aerospace Defense Ground Environment (JADGE). To further improve Japan's BMD capabilities, the following efforts are currently underway:

- Development of advanced interceptor missiles for BMD (SM-3 Block IB and Block IIA)
- Introduction of enhanced capability type PAC-3 missiles (PAC-3MSE)
- Capacity enhancement for Aegis-equipped destroyers and increasing the number of Aegis-equipped destroyers

New threats have emerged in recent years, such as hypersonic weapons designed to break through current missile defense systems. They are considered difficult to intercept because after they are launched by ballistic missiles they travel at ultra-high velocities at low altitudes with high mobility.

Today, airborne threats to Japan are becoming increasingly complex and diverse. In response to these new threats, the MOD/JSDF has been reinforcing its comprehensive air and missile defense capabilities to establish a structure with which to conduct integrated operation of air defense assets possessed by each JSDF component, such as fighter aircraft, airborne early warning and control aircraft, and surface-to-air guided missiles, in addition to those solely for missile defense, including radars and Aegis-equipped destroyers.

These efforts make it possible to, for example, guide an interceptor missile to a target that is not captured by its own sensor using information from other sensors. In this manner, we will increase the range and capacity of our air defense capabilities.



*JADGE (Japan Aerospace Defense Ground Environment) is a core system for the command and control as well as communication functions. It centrally processes the information regarding aircraft captured by radars installed nationwide, and it provides fighters with instructions required for scrambling against aircraft intruding into Japanese territorial airspace and air defense combat operations. In addition, it controls Patriot and radar, etc. in response to ballistic missiles.

Comprehensive Air and Missile Defense (Image)

Recent Senior-Level Teleconferences

Defense Minister's Teleconferences

Minister Kono had a telephone conference with Minister Ismail Sabri of Malaysia on July 20th.

Minister Ismail Sabri and Minister Kono exchanged views on the role of defense authorities in light of the spread of COVID-19, on the regional situation including the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

Minister Kono had a telephone conference with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg on July 21st, and had a video teleconference with Chief of Army Staff Bajwa of Pakistan on August 6th. In the respective conferences, Minister Kono and each leader exchanged views on the role of defense authorities given the global role of COVID-19 and on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges.

On August 12th, Minister Kono had a telephone conference with Lord Minister Ma'afu of the Kingdom of Tonga.

Furthermore, he had a video teleconference with Minister Seruiratu of Fiji on August 19th. In the conferences with each country there was an exchange of views on the role of defense authorities under the circumstances of the global spread of COVID-19 and on defense cooperation and exchanges with each country.

Additionally, Minister Kono had also a video teleconference with Minister Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia. In the conference, they exchanged views on defense cooperation and exchanges.



Chief of Staff's Teleconferences

<Chief of Staff, Joint Staff>

General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, had a video teleconference with Lieutenant-General Melvyn Ong Su Kiat, Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces on August 4th, and with Lieutenant General Thiab Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence Force on August 19th. In each conference, they

confirmed the importance of promoting bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. They also confirmed they would continue to cooperate on common challenges for the peace and stability in the region as well as the international community. In addition, they exchanged views on the situation affected by COVID-19 and each

force's activities to prevent the spread of infection.



<Chief of Staff, JGSDF>

General Yuasa, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) had a telephone conference with Lieutenant General Richard Burr, Chief of Army, Australian Army on July 8th. Lt Gen Burr explained the "2020 Defence Strategic Update" that had been launched

by Australia, and in light of the current situation with COVID-19 spreading globally, they exchanged views on future bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges in order to uphold and reinforce a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and promoted to strengthening cooperation between

the two armies.



<Chief of Staff, JMSDF>

Admiral Yamamura, Chief of Staff, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), had a video teleconference with Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo Bacordo, Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy on July 22nd. During the conference they shared the importance of continuing defense cooperation and exchanges such as goodwill training, even amidst COVID-19. They also agreed to continue maintaining

and strengthening relations between their navies towards the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

exchanges. They also confirmed that they will continue to closely cooperate in upholding and reinforcing the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision.

Admiral Yamamura also had a video teleconference with Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, Chief of Navy of Australia on August 5th. During the conference they exchanged views on a variety of topics, such as future bilateral exercise and high-level



<Chief of Staff, JASDF>

General Marumo, former Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (JASDF), had a telephone conference with General Kenneth S. Wilsbach, Commander, Pacific Air Forces of the United States on August 4th. General Marumo congratulated General Wilsbach on his

assuming the new role of commander in July, and they reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-U.S. Alliance in the region and their commitment to maintaining and strengthening firm cooperation between their air forces under the shared vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."





Japan-U.S. Bilateral Exercises and Exchange

Joint visit by JSDF Chief of Staff and Commander of U.S. Forces in Japan to the Tohoku region

On July 21st and 22nd, Gen. Yamazaki, Chief of Joint Staff, and Lt. Gen. Schneider, Commander of the U.S. Forces Japan, visited JASDF Misawa Air Base, JGSDF Camp Sendai and other key locations in the Tohoku region. The two generals conducted these visits to grasp the situation surrounding reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance, which was marked by the recent 60th anniversary of the signing of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

At Misawa Air Base, they checked the operation status of F-35A fighters of the 302nd Squadron, 3rd Air Wing.

At Matsushima Air Base, which suffered from the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the generals gave words of encouragement to members of Blue Impulse, 4th Air Wing, 11th Squadron.

Next, at Camp Sendai, the generals looked back on the joint disaster relief operation in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake at the "TOMODACHI Memorial Hall," a museum within Camp Sendai named after "Operation TOMODACHI," the assistance operation conducted by the U.S. forces after the earthquake.

Furthermore, both generals visited Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima Prefecture, where the representatives provided the generals an explanation of the situation at the time of the earthquake and expressed their gratitude for the water spraying operations conducted by the JSDF at the time.

The two generals have further strengthened the close bond between JSDF and USFJ through these visits, and mutually pledged that they will contribute to ensuring the peace and stability of the region as well as the globe.



JMSDF participates in RIMPAC 2020

The JMSDF participated in Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2020 with an aim on improving tactical skills and enhancing mutual understanding and trust with participating countries. RIMPAC is a multinational exercise hosted by the U.S. Navy, held in the surrounding waters and airspace of the Hawaiian Islands.

Exercise RIMPAC has been conducted almost every other year since 1971, and the JMSDF has participated

since 1980. This year marked the 21st time for JMSDF to participate, however, its scale has been downsized and the training period has been shortened to two weeks due to the impact of COVID-19.

During the exercise, approx. 550 JMSDF personnel, helicopter destroyer JS *Ise* and its two aircraft, as well as JS *Ashigara* conducted anti-air, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare training with various countries.



Bilateral exercises between JMSDF and the U.S. Forces

On August 6th, the JMSDF JS *Amagiri* conducted a deck landing and take-off training with the U.S. Army's two UH-60L helicopters in the sea and airspace of south of the Kanto region. JMSDF focused on improving its tactical skills and enhancing the cooperation with U.S. Army through this training.

From August 15th to 17th, JS *Suzutsuki* and the U.S. Navy USS *Mustin* conducted various tactical exercises in the East China Sea.

Further, from August 15th to 18th, JS *Ikazuchi* participated in various tactical exercises in the waters of south of Okinawa together with several U.S. navy vessels including the aircraft carrier USS *Ronald Reagan*.

Through these exercises, the JMSDF improved its tactical skills and strengthened cooperation with the U.S. forces.



Bilateral training between the JASDF and the U.S. Forces

On July 17th, the JASDF conducted a bilateral training with two B-1B Lancers of the U.S. Air Force in the airspace over the Sea of Japan and western Kyushu. Four F-15s each from the 2nd Air Wing (Chitose), the 5th Air Wing (Nyu-tabaru) and the 6th Air Wing (Komatsu) participated in the exercise. Four F-2s were sent from the 8th Air Wing (Tsuiki). They underwent navigation and formation training.

On July 27th, the JASDF conducted a bilateral training with a B-1B Lancer of the U.S. Air Force in the airspace around Japan. Four F-15s each from the 6th Air Wing (Komatsu) and the 9th Air Wing (Naha), three F-2s from the 7th Air Wing (Hyakuri), and four F-2s from the 8th Air Wing (Tsuiki) from the JASDF conducted navigation and formation training.

On August 7th, the JASDF conducted a bilateral training with a B-1B Lancer in the airspace over the Sea of Japan

and around the Okinawa islands. From the JASDF, two F-15s from the 2nd Air Wing (Chitose), four F-15s from the 9th Air Wing (Naha), four F-2s each from the 7th Air Wing (Hyakuri) and the 8th Air Wing (Tsuiki) participated in navigation and formation training.

On August 18th, JASDF aircraft conducted a bilateral training with three B-1B Lancers, ten F-15s and one E-3 airborne early warning and control aircraft from the U.S. Air Force in the airspace over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and vicinity of the Okinawa islands. Two U.S. Navy F/A-18s and three U.S. Marine Corps F-35Bs also joined in these exercises. From the JASDF, four F-15s each from the 2nd Air Wing (Chitose) and the 6th Air Wing (Komatsu), eight F-15s from the 9th Air Wing (Naha), and four F-2s from the 8th Air Wing (Tsuiki) were dispatched to conduct navigation, formation and air defense training with them.



Through these training activities, the JASDF improved Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities and the tactical skills of its personnel.



Bilateral Anti-Piracy Training with EU Maritime Force and Republic of Korea Navy

On July 16th and 17th, the JMSDF's JS *Onami*, assigned to the 36th Deployment Surface Force for Counter Piracy Enforcement, conducted a bilateral training in the west of the Gulf of Aden with the Spanish Navy frigate "Santa Maria" belonging to the EU Maritime Force, and with "Dae Jo Yeong," a Korean Navy destroyer respectively.

With "Santa Maria," JS *Onami* conducted a variety of training to be prepared mainly for piracy cases, such as anti-surface firing and responding to small vessels in close proximity. With "Dae Jo Yeong," JS *Onami* conducted communications training.

The Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, where the deployment surface force is implementing its activities, are important areas through which approx. 19,000 vessels, including 1,700 Japan-related vessels, pass annually. Against the backdrop of increasing number of incidents caused by pirates armed with machine guns, rocket launchers and other weapons, the JSDf has deployed destroyers to provide escort for private vessels navigating in these waters since March 2009. On top of

that, in order to deal with piracy in such vast maritime areas more effectively, the JSDf has also dispatched fixed-wing patrol aircraft to conduct warning and surveillance operations against any suspicious situations.



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