

JDF

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Minister of Defense Succession Ceremony

The new Suga cabinet was formed on September 16th and the House of Representatives member Nobuo Kishi was appointed as the 21st Minister of Defense.

On September 17th, newly-appointed Minister Kishi arrived at the Ministry of Defense (MOD) where he was presented the salute from the guards of honor. He then gave instructions to the officials at the inauguration ceremony. In his address, Minister Kishi expressed his enthusiasm in a statement saying; "I am deeply honored to be assigned the duty of defending Japan alongside the 250,000 members of the MOD/Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). Defense is the foundation of our nation's existence and I am reminded of the weight of that responsibility.

As you are well aware, the security environment surrounding Japan is shifting at an extremely rapid pace, and is growing increasingly severe and uncertain.

In addition, new domains such as space, cyberspace, and electromagnetic spectrum have become vital, and advanced technologies that are possible game changers are to fundamentally alter the face of national security.

Furthermore, Japan has experienced large-scale natural disasters such as earthquakes and record downpours frequently occurred in recent years.

To respond to these severe circumstances, I will do my utmost to fulfill my role alongside everyone to protect the lives of the people of Japan and ensure their peaceful living and to contribute to the peace and stability in the international community.

To uphold the responsibilities entrusted to us by the people, I would like for us to maintain a high recognition of ethics, to devote ourselves to diligent self-improvement, and to cooperate to fulfill our duties to the utmost."

The following day, a succession procedure was performed in which the former minister passed his duties onto the new minister.



About



Date of birth:
1st April, 1959



Constituency:
Yamaguchi Prefecture
2nd Electoral District



Domicile:
Yamaguchi Prefecture

Political Career

Jul. 2004: Elected to the House of Councilors (HC)
Aug. 2008: Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense (Reshuffled Fukuda cabinet)
Sep. 2008: Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense (Aso cabinet)
Jul. 2010: Re-elected to the HC (2nd term)
Oct. 2011: Chairman of the Special Committee on Okinawa and Northern Problems of the House of Councilors
Dec. 2012: Elected to the House of Representatives (HR)
Sep. 2013: Parliamentary Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
Dec. 2014: Re-elected to the HR (2nd term)
Aug. 2016: State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Oct. 2017: Re-elected to the HR (3rd term)
Sep. 2020: Minister of Defense

Overview of FY2021 Budget Request

At the end of September, the MOD presented an overview of its FY2021 budget request.

To steadily increase defense capacities and to construct a truly effective multi-domain defense force in the third year

of the Medium Term Defense Program (approved by the Cabinet at the end of 2018) based on the National Defense Program Guidelines, the FY2021 budget request was made based on the following.

1. Promotion of initiatives to secure highly qualified human resources, advance of women's participation and working style reform, and improvement of living and work environment

- Developing education, living, and work environments for female SDF personnel, etc.

2. Acquiring and strengthening capabilities in new domains such as space, cyberspace, and electromagnetic spectrum

- Developing Space Situational Awareness (SSA) satellite (Space-Based Optical Telescope)
- Establishing the JSDF Cyber Defense Group (tentative name), securing and developing cyber human resources
- Procuring information-gathering device which will be mounted on radio wave information gathering aircraft (RC-2), etc.

3. Strengthening maritime and air domain capabilities, stand-off defense capabilities, comprehensive air and missile defense capabilities, and maneuvering and deployment capabilities

- Conducting research to improve Middle-range Surface-to-Air Missiles (modified), etc.

4. Enhancing the sustainability and stability of defense force, including logistical support

- Promoting comprehensive contacts such as Performance Based Logistics (PBL) agreements

5. Reinforcement of the technological base

- Demonstration of vehicle-mounted counter drone laser system, etc.

6. Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and security cooperation with other countries

- Providing support for capacity building on cybersecurity, etc.

防衛省

Ministry of Defense

我が国の防衛と予算

Defense Programs and Budget of Japan

令和3年度概算要求の概要

To respond to the rapidly changing security environment, Japan intends to effectively strengthen its defense capabilities with far greater speed than in the past by allocating resources in a flexible and intensive manner to address the issues described above. In addition, Japan intends to further promote the integration of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) in all domains to optimize its organization and equipment without becoming vertically segmented.





Exercise La Perouse



Christmas Drop



Exercise La Perouse



Exercise Malabar



Japan-India 2+2

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

Countries to work with in achieving FOIP

The United States as Japan’s ally, Australia, India, the United Kingdom, France and other European countries, Canada and New Zealand are countries that not only share the values of the FOIP vision, but also have ties to the Indo-Pacific region. The MOD/JSDF has been promoting

defense cooperation and exchanges with these countries so that when engaging in initiatives with them, by working together as partners, it is possible to achieve stronger effects than when promoting efforts on our own.



Japan-U.S. Bilateral Exercise during IDP

01 United States

Working together with the United States, Japan provided capacity building assistance for the Vietnamese Navy through a seminar on underwater medicine. In addition, as part of the Indo-Pacific Deployment (IPD), several U.S. naval vessels joined in a Japan-U.S. bilateral exercise, helping to improve interoperability and contribute to regional peace and stability.

02 Australia & New Zealand

In cooperation with the United States and Australia, capacity building program on survey and heavy equipment maintenance was provided to the Timor-Leste Defense Force to improve its engineering-related capacity, which contributed to further strengthening relations. In addition, the JASDF participated in the trilateral Japan-U.S.-Australia Exercise “Cope North,” which was conducted in Guam and the surrounding seas and airspace. Through this participation the JASDF further enhanced cooperation with other participating nations.

Also, Japan, with the United States, Australia and New Zealand, held the multilateral HA/DR exercise operation “Christmas Drop.”



CopeNorth

03 UK & France

The Japan-France-Australia-U.S. multilateral naval exercise “La Pérouse” was conducted in the Indian Ocean, serving to further maintain and strengthen the maritime order, as well as to promote mutual understanding and promote trust among the participating countries.

With the UK, a more “practical” cooperative relation is being established through initiatives such as bilateral exercises between the ground components and maritime security cooperation.



Exercise La Perouse

04 India

In September 2019, the first-ever Japan-India Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting (“2+2”) was held, where it was announced that the two Ministers acknowledged security challenges and would advance bilateral security cooperation. In addition, various specific service-to-service exchanges have been promoted, including “Dharma Guardian,” a bilateral exercise with the Indian Army, “SHINYUU Maitri,” a bilateral exercise with the Indian Air Force, and the Japan-U.S.-India trilateral naval exercise “Malabar.”



Exercise Malabar

The above are the examples of approaches of MOD/JSDF for maintaining and strengthening the FOIP vision.

In order to build mutual trust among nations and establish a foundation for cooperation for solving regional security issues, the MOD/JSDF intends to strategically promote multi-faceted and multi-layered security cooperation,

while taking into account the international situation, regional characteristics, other nations’ situations and security issues.

A new pamphlet introducing the MOD’s approach in achieving the vision of FOIP has been published. Please check the detail from here:

https://www.mod.go.jp/e/publ/pamphlets/pdf/indo_pacific/indo_pacific_e.pdf



Japan-U.S. Defense Minister Conference

Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

On August 29th, former Defense Minister Kono and U.S. Secretary of Defense Esper held a ministerial defense meeting at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The two ministers exchanged views on the latest situations in the Indo-Pacific region. Concerning the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, the two ministers expressed objections to unilateral and coercive attempts to change the status quo. They also confirmed the importance of cooperation towards ensuring the rule of law and freedom of navigation, agreed to work together more closely to ensure peace and stability in the East China Sea, and reconfirmed that Article V of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty applies to the Senkaku Islands and that both nations oppose to any unilateral action that seeks to undermine Japan's administration on these islands. Furthermore, the two ministers reconfirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation with a variety of partners both inside and outside the region through joint exercises and capacity building assistance centered on Japan and the U.S. to maintain and reinforce a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. The two ministers also shared views on the latest situations regarding North Korea and agreed the importance of continued efforts from Japan and the U.S. to ensure that the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) are fully implemented through cooperation with like-minded countries.

In addition, looking to the era after COVID-19 pandemic, both ministers confirmed that Japan and the U.S. would play a more significant role



Secretary Esper

in ensuring peace and prosperity of Asia-Pacific region based on a strong Japan-U.S. alliance. The two ministers agreed that Japan and the U.S. would continue working together closely to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance in order to realize the strategies of both countries. As part of these efforts, the two ministers shared the view that it is necessary to strengthen comprehensive air and missile defense capabilities and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) activities in response to intensifying military activities and progress in military technology in neighboring countries.

Furthermore, both sides confirmed and welcomed the steady progress of efforts to relocate U.S. Marine Corps personnel stationed in Okinawa to Guam. Both ministers confirmed that the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Henoko is the only method of avoiding its continued use, and Minister Kono requested Mr. Esper's cooperation to reduce the impact on local residents, particularly those in Okinawa. They also confirmed that Japan and the U.S. would work together closely to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections and to mitigate the impact of the virus. Both ministers confirmed the importance of maintaining the readiness of U.S. forces in Japan, and based on a shared recognition that understanding and cooperation from local communities are essential for maintaining the readiness of U.S. forces in Japan, they reaffirmed their would to continue cooperative efforts between Japan and the U.S. and the importance of ensuring safe operations of U.S. forces.



Defense Minister Kono

Equipment Transfer to the Philippines

On August 25th, a contract between the Philippines Department of National Defense (PDND) and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (MELCO) for four sets of Air Surveillance Radar Systems for approx. \$100 million was enforced.

The transferred radar systems are to be newly developed and manufactured by MELCO based on the experience and expertise of developing and manufacturing the Air Surveillance Radar Systems of JASDF and anti-air radar systems of JGSDF, to meet requirements of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

The Philippines is a strategic partner for Japan, sharing principles and goals. Promoting defense equipment cooperation with the Philippines is important for ensuring peace and stability for Japan and the region. Japan has been cooperating closely with the Philippines in various fields such as joint training, capacity-building assistance, and defense equipment and technology cooperation, etc. From this point of view, the conclusion of this contract is highly significant.

Following the public release of the transfer of the Air Surveillance Radar Systems from Japan on August 28th, H. E. Mr. Jose C. Laurel V, Ambassador of the Philippines to Japan, met with former Minister Kono.

With regard to defense equipment cooperation with the Philippines, Japan has been steadily facilitating transfer of defense equipment such as JMSDF TC-90 aircraft and JGSDF UH-1H parts. Given these developments, it is likely that steady progress in equipment cooperation will further deepen the cooperative bilateral relationship.

The MOD/JSDF will continue to cooperate with PDND and MELCO to facilitate the transfer of equipment.



H. E. Mr. Jose C. Laurel V and Minister of Defense Kono

Key Facts of the Transfer Contract

- **Contracting party**
The Philippines: PDND
Japan: Mitsubishi Electric Corporation

- **Contract amount**
Approx. \$100 million

- **Contract terms and conditions**
1. **Deliverables:** Four sets of radar systems (three fixed and one mobile) and related equipment.
2. **Contract date:** August 25th, 2020

Past Defense Equipment Cooperation Cases with the Philippines

- Five aircraft were delivered (March 2018).
- 40,000 parts for UH-1H were delivered (as of September 2019).



ASDF JFPA-3



GSDF JTPS-P14



Recent Training and Exercises

On August 31st, the JMSDF and the U.S. Army conducted a bilateral exercise. The JS *Teruzuki* and two UH-60L aircrafts from the U.S. Army conducted a ship landing drill to improve the tactical skills of the JMSDF and strengthen cooperation with the U.S. Army.

On September 12th and 13th, Japan, the United States, Australia, and the Republic of Korea conducted the Exercise Pacific Vanguard 20 in the sea and airspace around Guam. The JMSDF JS *Ise* and JS *Ashigara* participated in the exercise together with USS *Barry*, the replenishment oiler USNS *John Ericsson*, submarines, and aircraft from the U.S. Navy; the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) frigates HMAS *Arunta* and HMAS *Stuart*; and the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy destroyers ROKS *Chungmugong Yi Sun-sin* and ROKS *Seoae Yu Seong-ryong*.

During this exercise, the JMSDF conducted anti-air warfare exercise and other exercises to improve tactical skills and strengthen cooperation with the USN, the RAN, and the ROKN.

The JMSDF also have participated in the Indo-Pacific

Deployment from September 7th. The JMSDF JS *Kaga*, JS *Ikazuchi*, three aircraft on board the destroyers and a submarine joined in the exercise.

Until the end of September, they conducted exercises with the Royal Australian, the Sri Lanka and the Indian Navies respectively.

The purpose of the exercise was to improve the tactical skills of the JMSDF and to strengthen cooperation with the navies of each participating country. Through this deployment, the JMSDF also worked to contribute to regional peace and stability and to enhance mutual understanding and a relationship of trust with other countries.

On September 10th, the JASDF conducted a bilateral training with the U.S. forces in the airspace above the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the airspace around Okinawa. During the training, navigation and formation, and fighter interception training were conducted by four F-15s from the 2nd Air Wing (Chitose), eight from the 5th Air Wing (Nyutabaru), four from the 6th Air Wing (Komatsu), and four from the 9th Air Wing (Naha) and two B-1 Lancers of the U.S. Air Force.



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-Migrate to our friends around the world-



July 2020: "We are tomodachi Summer 2020" Released