

JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS



Jan. / 2021

No. 131

SPECIAL FEATURE

Malabar 2020



F-4EJ Phantom II Retires
Osprey Flights Begin
Mine Warfare Exercise and
Japan-U.S. Bilateral Minesweeping Exercise

Naming and Launching Ceremony of JS Kumano
Recent Senior-Level Teleconferences
JS Shirase Departs Japan on Support Mission
for the 62nd Antarctic Research Expedition





Malabar 2020

From November 3rd to 6th and 17th to 20th, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted the Japan-U.S.-India-Australia multilateral exercise “Malabar 2020” for two phases. The 1st phase of this exercise was held in the Bay of Bengal, and the 2nd phase in the Northern Arabian Sea. This year marked the ninth iteration for the JMSDF to participate in “Malabar” since 2007.

JS *Onami* from the JMSDF, USS *John S. McCain* from the U.S. Navy, INS *Ranvijay*, INS *Shivalik*, INS *Shakti*, INS *Sindhuraj* from the Indian Navy, and HMAS *Ballarat* from the Royal Australian Navy participated in the 1st phase. In the 2nd phase, USS *Nimiz*, USS *Princeton*, USS *Sterett*, INS *Vikramaditya*, INS *Kolkata*, INS *Chennai*, INS *Talwar*, INS *Khanderi*, INS *Deepak*, and HMAS *Ballarat* participated, whereas JS *Murasame* from the

JMSDF joined on the 17th in the exercise schedule. It was the first opportunity to conduct the quadrilateral “Malabar” including Australia.

The JMSDF conducted anti-submarine and anti-aircraft warfare operations, anti-water and anti-aircraft weapon firing exercises, and replenish exercises and so on in the 1st phase, and tactical training and so on in the 2nd phase.

This exercise has contributed to enhancing tactical skills of the JMSDF and cooperation with the Navies. The Ministry of Defense (MOD)/Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF), for the purpose of maintaining and strengthening a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” place considerable emphasis on the close cooperation among us, which all share universal values such as democracy and the rule of law.



F-4EJ Phantom II Retires

On November 11th, a flight training was held publicly at Hyakuri Air Base by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) 301st squadron to commemorate the retirement of the F-4EJ Phantom II. The F-4EJ Phantom II is scheduled to meet its retirement within the Japan’s Fiscal 2020.

The F-4EJ is a converted interceptor fighter based on the F-4E used by the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. It was introduced in the 1970s and has protected the airspace of Japan for almost half a century.

The production of the F-4EJ ended in the Japan’s Fiscal Year of 1981, until then, a total of 140 F-4EJs have been

deployed. To this day, various improvements have been made to improve the aircraft’s capabilities, specifically in the following four areas: modernization of the radar and Fire Control System; improvements in navigation and communication capabilities; increase in the types and modernization of missiles that the fighter can carry; and enhancement of bombing capabilities.

However, due to its age, the F-4EJ is scheduled to be decommissioned from fighter squadrons in this December. As its successor, the deployment of the state-of-the-art stealth fighter F-35A is currently underway.





Inauguration Ceremony of the V-22 Operation



Navigating in formation



Fast Rope Training



Searching for sea mines



Deploying a boat on the water

Osprey Flights Begin

On November 6th, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) V-22 Osprey, which is temporarily stationed at Camp Kisarazu, Chiba Prefecture, conducted its first hovering within the camp and the flight outside the camp on the 20th.

The Osprey is an aircraft that combines the features of rotary-wing aircraft and fixed-wing aircraft, and it is capable of taking off from the remote islands which do not have the air base for fixed-wing aircrafts to land on. In addition, the V-22 Osprey contains high capabilities. Comparing to the CH-47JA transport helicopter currently

owned by JGSDF, the maximum flight speed is two times faster, and the flight range and altitude are three times more than the CH-47JA.

Hence, V-22 Ospreys not only conduct measures to the invasion of remote islands, but they can also be utilized for disaster relief and emergency transport.

The MOD/JGSDF plans to introduce 17 Ospreys in total, and in turn, continues to conduct flights for functional verification as well as maintaining and improving operators' skills.



Inauguration Ceremony of the V-22 Operation attended by LtGen Clardy, USMC



Inauguration Ceremony of the V-22 Operation



V-22 Osprey

Mine Warfare Exercise and Japan-U.S. Bilateral Minesweeping Exercise

From November 18th to 28th, the JMSDF conducted a mine warfare exercise and a Japan-U.S. bilateral mine sweeping exercise in Hyuganada, off the coast of Miyazaki Prefecture.

The JMSDF sent 19 ships from the Mine Warfare Force (2 minesweeper tenders, 2 minesweeper oceans, and 15 minesweepers), 3 MCH-101 aircrafts and about 1,200 members, and the U.S. Navy sent its minesweeper and about 10 explosive ordinance disposal divers for this exercise.

This exercise is the large scale bilateral exercise for minesweeping which has been conducted almost every year since 1997. Mine warfare training such as mine laying, minesweeping, and diving training were conducted upon taking the appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID19 for this year.

The exercise was aimed at maintaining the mine warfare capabilities of the JMSDF, and strengthening cooperation with the U.S. Navy.

The JMSDF Mine Warfare Force that participated in this exercise is headquartered in Yokosuka and is composed of Minesweeper Division 1 (stationed in Yokosuka); Minesweeper Division 2 (stationed in Sasebo); Minesweeper Division 3 and Landing Ship Division 1, which specializes in marine transport (stationed in Kure); and the Amphibious and Mine Warfare Center, JMSDF (Headquarter stationed in Yokosuka). Following the reorganization of the new force, the 101st Minesweeper Division (which was stationed in Kure) was disbanded on October 1st. The JMSDF newly established Amphibious and Mine Warfare Center by adding new missions, such as providing tactical support and development for amphibious warfare and educational support for air cushion vehicle operators, to the former Mine Warfare Operations Support Division.



Mine Warfare Force Commander observing the training



Japan and U.S. EOD divers having a meeting



Japan and U.S. EOD divers



Fast Rope Training



Naming and Launching Ceremony of JS Kumano

On November 19th, the naming and launching ceremony was held at Mitsui E&S Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. Tamano Shipyard for a new type of destroyer. The destroyer was named *Kumano*.

The new type of destroyer is equipped with multi-mission capabilities to engage in various operations including mine warfare, in addition to conventional ones, such as warning and surveillance. Also, compared to the destroyer of the JMSDF, whose complement is approx. 200, the number reduced to approx. 90 for JS *Kumano* due to downsizing of the body and other factors.

The JMSDF destroyers are named after weather/climate, mountains, rivers or regions. The latest destroyer was named after Kumano river, which is part of the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, a World Heritage Site.

The MOD/JSDF will continue to make headway toward building a new defense posture with 54 destroyers on the basis of the National Defense Program Guidelines.



Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense Shimada attended in place the Minister

Recent Senior-Level Teleconferences

1 Defense Minister's Teleconferences

Minister Kishi held a video teleconference with Secretary of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines, Hon. Mr. Delfin N. Lorenzana., as well as with Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Ltgen. (ret.) Prabowo Subianto on October 23rd and November 2nd respectively. In these meetings, the Ministers exchanged views on the regional security issues, including the East China Sea and the South China Sea and reaffirmed the importance of a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law. They also exchanged views on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges including promoting defense cooperation in the context of preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

In addition, Minister Kishi held a video teleconference with German Federal Minister of Defence, Kramp-Karren-



bauer on November 10th. Minister Kishi welcomed and highly appreciated the "Policy guidelines for the Indo-Pacific region" released by Germany, and he expressed high expectation for Germany's commitment in the region. The two Ministers also concurred in maintaining close communication between respective defense authorities and proactively promoting defense cooperation and exchanges to uphold and reinforce the Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

On November 14th, Minister Kishi held a telephone conversation with Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Miller. They exchanged views on the situation in the Indo-Pacific region, including the East and South China Seas as well as North Korea, and confirmed that the U.S and Japan will continue to work closely together for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

Moreover, Minister Kishi held a video teleconference with Minister of Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Ngo Xuan Lich on November 16th. They concurred in promoting bilateral defense cooperation in the context of preventing the spread of infectious diseases, including sharing expertise and lessons learned during disaster relief operations, in light of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

2 Chief of staff, Joint Staff

On November 11th, General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, had a teleconference with General Bipin RAWAT, Chief of Defence Staff of Indian Armed Forces. In this teleconference, the two leaders reaffirmed the importance to increase alignment and cooperation between the two nations for promoting the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership" to make a further leap forward, and advance defense cooperation and engagement with quadrilateral relations based on the shared view of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" among Japan, India, the United States and Australia.

On November 19th, General Yamazaki had a trilateral

video teleconference with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley and Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff General Won In-Choul.



The senior military leaders agreed to continue working together to address mutual security issues and increase multilateral cooperation while sharing the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" in order to enhance peace and stability in the region.

3 Chief of Staff, JGSDF

On October 28th, General Yuasa, Chief of Staff, JGSDF held a teleconference with German Army Lieutenant General Alfons Mais. The leaders exchanged their opinions actively on the security environment, defense cooperation and exchange between the armed forces of Japan and Germany

based on partnership and shared fundamental values. They also agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the future.



4 Chief of Staff, JMSDF

On November 2nd, Admiral Yamamura and Admiral MARGONO, COS, Indonesia Navy held a video teleconference. After discussing the past Japan-Indonesia defense cooperation achievements, both agreed to further strengthen the relationship between the both navies.

continue a close cooperation even under COVID-19 situation.

On November 13th, Admiral Yamamura and VADM McDonald, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy held a video teleconference. This is their first meeting since they met last October at Regional Seapower Symposium in Italy. Both admirals agreed to

On November 16th, Admiral Yamamura and VADM KRAUSE, Chief of the German Navy, held a video teleconference. This is their first meeting since they met last October at Regional SeaPower Symposium in Italy. Both agreed to further strengthen their cooperation to engage more actively in the Indo-Pacific region.



5 Chief of Staff, JASDF

On October 30th, General Izutsu, Chief of Staff, JASDF held a video conference with Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force. The two leaders agreed they would continue to deepen mutual friendship and

defense cooperation and exchange to realize the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific.





Departing JS Shirase

JS Shirase Departs Japan on Support Mission for the 62nd Antarctic Research Expedition

On October 27th, Captain Takeuchi, Commanding Officer of the JMSDF icebreaker JS *Shirase*, reported his departure to Minister Kishi.

The JMSDF has been participating in the Antarctic Research Expedition since 1965 (7th expedition). The JS *Shirase* is the third-generation icebreaker succeeded the JS *Fuji* and the first-generation JS *Shirase*.

On November 6th, the icebreaker JS *Shirase* departed from Yokosuka for Antarctica to conduct its support mission for the 62nd Antarctic Research Expedition. It is scheduled to arrive at Showa Station in late December.

Amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic raging worldwide, thorough measures are being taken to prevent the virus from entering Antarctica, as it is the only continent in the world with no confirmed COVID-19 cases. Approx. 180 JS *Shirase* personnel got tested and underwent a two-week offshore quarantine to make sure no one is infected. In addition, no port call will be made in Australia, where the expedition usually resupplies on both outward and return trips.

On this mission, JS *Shirase* will transport a total of approx. 1,050 tons of fuel and food and will provide support for both sea and land observations. It is scheduled to return to Japan in late February.



Departing JS Shirase



Departure Ceremony



Departure Ceremony



JDF NEWSLETTER Be the first to receive updates!
Send us a blank message at jdfmod@mod.go.jp to sign up for our newsletter.



For inquiry, contact following office:

Public Affairs Division, Ministry of Defense, Japan TEL:+81-3-3268-3111 (switch board) Web:<https://www.mod.go.jp/e/index.html>



www.facebook.com/JapanGov

[@JapanGov](https://twitter.com/JapanGov)

We Are Tomodachi
-Migrate to our friends around the world-

