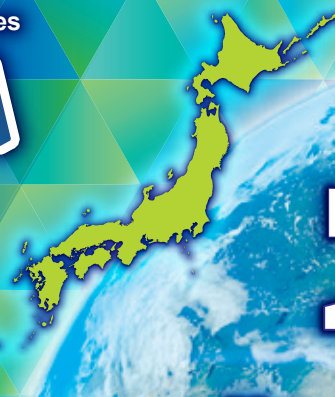


# JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS



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## ACTIVITIES

# Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training

Defense Minister Issues Instructions  
on the Procurement  
of a New Missile Defense System

Launch of the F-X development program and  
the direction of international collaboration

Recent Defense Ministerial Teleconferences

Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Telephone Conference

General Izutsu, Chief of Staff, JASDF Visits India

Multilateral Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise (Sea Dragon 2021)

Japan-U.S.-France Trilateral Exercise

Australian Liaison Officer Assigned to HQ Ground Component Command



# Defense Minister Issues Instructions on the Procurement of a New Missile Defense System

In response to the December 18th Cabinet Decision on the “Procurement of a New Missile Defense System, etc., and Strengthening Stand-off Defense Capability,” Minister of Defense Kishi issued orders to unify recognition inside the Ministry of Defense (MOD) / Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and to bring together the expert knowledge of each related department for the procurement of two Aegis system equipped vessels.

vessels in place of the land-based Aegis system. The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) will maintain these vessels. The Government will continue to consider the details including additional function and design arrangement of the vessels and will take necessary measures. In addition, the Government will continue its deliberation on the enhancement of deterrence.

## Strengthening stand-off defense capability

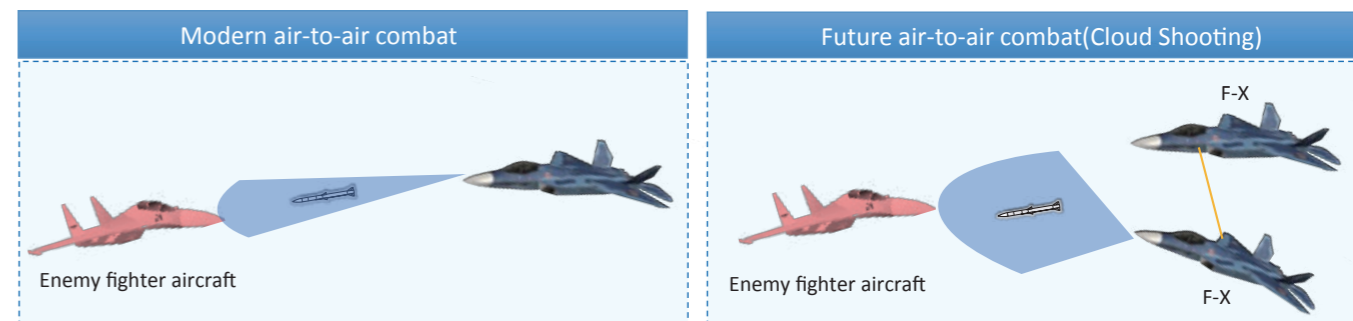
As the JSDF need to effectively intercept attacks against Japan while ensuring the safety of SDF personnel, the Government will develop upgraded Type-12 surface-to-ship guided missiles with the assumption that they will be operated from various platforms, in addition to the procurement and R&D of stand-off missiles to be advanced under the MTDP, in order to strengthen stand-off defense capability to deal with ships and others attempting to invade Japan including remote islands from the outside of their threat envelopes.

The MOD/JSDF will strive to respond to the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan in a flexible and effective manner.

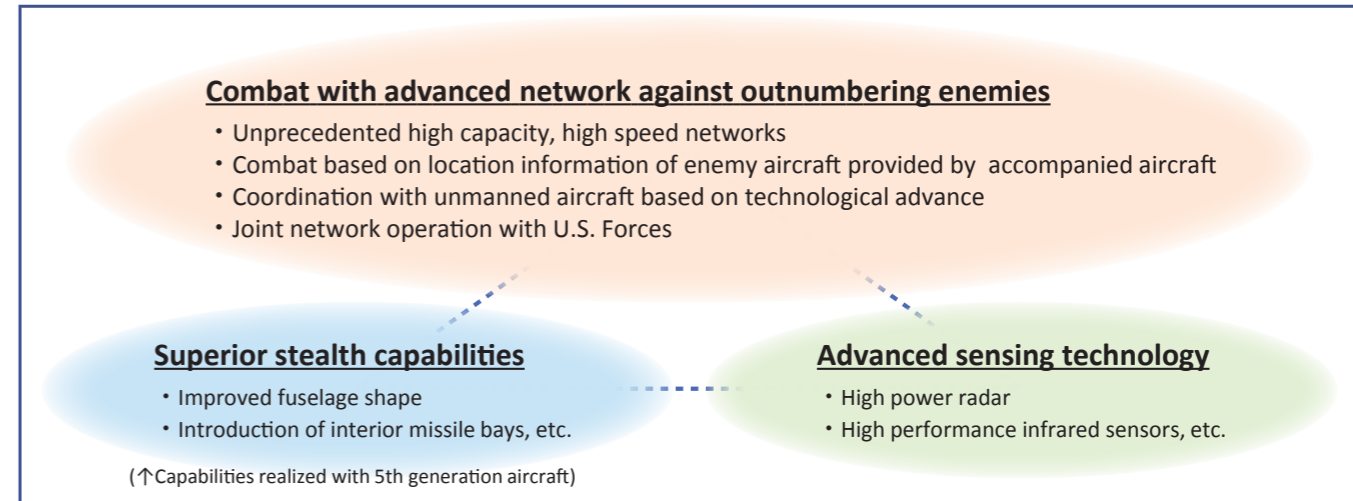
The following is the contents of the Cabinet decision.

## Procurement of a New Missile Defense System, etc.

While the Government of Japan has dealt with diverse airborne threats based on “National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019 and beyond” (NSC Decision and Cabinet Decision on December 18, 2018) and “Medium Term Defense Program (FY2019-FY2023)” (NSC Decision and Cabinet Decision on December 18, 2018, hereinafter referred to as “MTDP”), as part of its policies to be undertaken to respond to increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan more flexibly and effectively, the Government will procure two Aegis system-equipped



## Capabilities required of future fighter aircraft



**Freedom of modification and future upgrade potential** → There are currently no fighter aircraft that make this type of combat possible.

● **Sufficient upgrade potential** that enables us to flexibly respond to future threats and technological developments and **freedom of modification** that enables us to improve capabilities at our own discretion. (Example: the standardization of software for electronic equipment such as radar by introduction of **open system architecture**.)

## Establishing an infrastructure for domestic maintenance and repairs

● Domestic infrastructure from the perspectives such as (1) conducting timely and appropriate repairs and capability improvements and (2) maintaining high operational availability and readiness.

# Launch of the F-X development program and the direction of international collaboration

The Japan-led F-X development program to succeed the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) F-2 fighter jet has started in Japan’s fiscal year 2020. “Air superiority” which is the basic premise for the JSDF operations, can be regarded as what is called “public goods”, essential for the defense of Japan.

In developing the F-X, the MOD has decided to advance this program with necessary support and cooperation from the U.S., such as selecting the U.S. company Lockheed Martin as the candidate for an integration support company, and starting a new project with the U.S. from next fiscal year to ensure interoperability between Japan and the U.S.

In order to secure this “air superiority” into the future, it is vitally important to develop the next fighter jet with excellent performance, freedom of modification, future upgrade potential, and domestic defense infrastructure for maintenance and repairs, as the successor of the F-2, which is scheduled to start retiring around 2035.

Also, the MOD will continue discussions with the U.S. and the UK to pursue possibility of collaboration on the F-X at system level such as engine and avionics in order to reduce development cost and technical risk.

Following the policy that MOD/SDF will “launch a Japan-led development project at an early timing with the possibility of international collaboration in sight” as set forth in the Medium Term Defense Program (FY 2019 - FY 2023), the MOD has made a contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and embarked on the F-X development on October 30th, 2020.

The development of the F-X is an extraordinarily large program compared to the MOD’s previous aircraft development projects. In order to make this grand program a success, the MOD will develop the F-X by making maximum use of technological and human resources possessed by domestic companies and further strengthening collaboration between the government and companies, and between the companies, as well as considering the direction of international collaboration as mentioned above.

In addition, in December 2020, the MOD has released the direction of international collaboration on the F-X development as follows.



- **Combat takes place within visual range** mainly by machine guns and short-range missiles
- Mobility is the most important factor for increasing hit rate
- **With the introduction of long-range radar and missiles, battles mainly occur outside of visual range**
- **Advances in communication networks** make it possible to share location information of both sides, allowing more well-coordinated warfare
- Introduction of harder to detect fuselage (**stealth aircraft**)
- High speed computers process information from a number of highly accurate sensors in parallel (**resulting in dramatic improvements to situational awareness**)
- **Overwhelmingly dominates in battles with older aircraft with legacy sensors and no stealth capabilities**

• What specifications and capabilities will be required for the next-generation of fighter aircraft, and how will they fight?

(※) There is no clear definition of fighter generation. The above is the categories arranged for convenience.

## Recent Defense Ministerial Teleconferences

On December 15, Minister Kishi, together with German Federal Minister of Defence, Kramp-Karrenbauer, attended a virtual forum “Indo-Pacific: Japan and Germany’s Engagement in the Region,” co-hosted by NIDS and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). Both ministers delivered keynote speeches and exchanged views on regional security environment including North Korea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea as well as the bilateral defense cooperation. Minister Kishi expressed high expectation for the enhanced presence of Germany in the Indo-Pacific region based on the announcement of the German “Policy



guidelines for the Indo-Pacific region”. Both Ministers confirmed to work closely together toward the Indo-Pacific deployment of German Navy vessel which is currently being planned.



On the same day, Minister Kishi held a video teleconference with Minister of Defense of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Fernando Azevedo e SILVA, followed by the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges. They exchanged views on defense cooperation and exchanges and agreed

to further develop cooperation in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HA/DR). In this context, both Ministers also concurred in proactively promoting defense cooperation and exchanges based on the signed Memorandum, while maintaining close communication between the defense authorities.

On December 22, Minister Kishi held a telephone conversation with Defence Minister of India, H.E. Rajnath Singh. The two ministers confirmed the recent achievements including the signing of Japan-India ACSA in September and the successful completion of the naval exercise “Malabar” held by Japan, the United States, India and Australia in

November, welcoming the fact that bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation and exchanges have been promoted despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The two ministers also exchanged views on regional situations, including the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and reaffirmed their continued close cooperation.



On January 14, Minister Kishi held a teleconference with Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Ben Wallace. The both ministers affirmed to continue exchanging views regarding the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea in light of the current events occurred in the region and concurred in sending a clear message that they strongly oppose any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion or any activities that escalate tension, and that a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law is important. The two Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to closely coordinating toward the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges, and Minister Kishi expressed that he highly valued the UK’s continuous commitment to monitoring the illicit maritime activities in

contravention of the United Nations Security Council resolutions including the “ship-to-ship” transfer by North Korea. Minister Kishi greatly welcomed and highly evaluated the announcement made by Prime Minister Johnson in November 2020 to deploy a carrier strike group including the UK carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth to the region including East Asia this year as the UK commitment to the region, and Minister Kishi stated his intention to closely work with the UK to realize the deployment to the region.



On January 15, Minister Kishi held a teleconference with the Hon. Florence Parly, Minister for the Armed Forces of France. The Ministers affirmed to continue exchanging views regarding the regional issues including the East and the South China Sea in light of the current events occurring in the region and concurred to send a clear message that they strongly oppose any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion or any activities that escalate tension, highlighting the importance of a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law. Regarding North Korea, Minister Kishi expressed that he highly valued France’s continuous commitment in the face of COVID-19 difficulties to engaging in monitoring and surveillance activities



against the ongoing illicit maritime activities including North Korea’s illegal ship-to-ship transfers. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to closely coordinating toward the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges.



## Japan-U.S. Defense Ministerial Telephone Conference

On January 24, Minister Kishi and Defense Secretary Austin held a telephone conference. The summary is as follows.

The Ministers affirmed that the robust ties of the Japan-U.S. Alliance remains unwavering even with the change of administration in the United States and response to COVID-19, and that the Alliance is prepared to address any situation/contingency in the region. The Ministers confirmed that they will work together to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance to continuously address the security challenges in the region and in the international community.

The Ministers affirmed their position that they oppose to unilateral attempts to change the status quo by coercion in the East and South China Seas, and that it is important to work together to maintain and strengthen the free and open maritime order based on the rule of law including the freedom of navigation and overflight. The Ministers reaffirmed 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. The Ministers also concurred that they will cooperate to further strengthen the Alliance capabilities to deter and respond. In regard to nuclear and missile issues of North Korea, the Ministers affirmed that the two nations will work together for a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all North Korea’s WMD and ballistic missiles of all ranges. The Ministers also agreed that Japan and the United States will continue working together with partner countries to counter illicit ship-to-ship transfers of goods by North Korea. The Ministers concurred that they will strengthen cooperation with various partners both in and out of the region through measures to maintain and strengthen a Free and Open Indo-Pacific with the Japan-U.S. Alliance being the cornerstone.

The Ministers affirmed the importance of operational

readiness of the U.S. Forces in Japan as the security environment surrounding Japan becomes increasingly severe, and agreed that it is essential to gain understanding and cooperation regarding the operations of the U.S. Forces in Japan from the local communities. The Ministers agreed to continue to closely work together to steadily advance the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan. The Ministers reaffirmed that the relocation to Henoko-saki is the only solution to avoid the continued use of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma. Minister Kishi requested for cooperation in the efforts to mitigate the impact on the local communities including Okinawa.

The Ministers agreed to meet in person at the earliest timing possible, taking into account the situation of COVID-19, and Secretary Austin expressed his willingness to visit Japan at an early stage.





## Multilateral Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise (Sea Dragon 2021)



From January 14 to 28, the JMSDF participated in the U.S.-hosted Multilateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Exercise "Sea Dragon 2021". Two P-1 patrol aircraft of the JMSDF conducted anti-submarine warfare exercise with the U.S. Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Indian Navy.

The exercises with foreign navies contribute to strengthening cooperation and mutual understandings.



The JMSDF engages in the warning and surveillance mission in the vicinity of Japan with patrol aircraft such as P-1, and shares information with the relevant ministries and agencies.

## General Izutsu, Chief of Staff, JASDF Visits India

From December 9 to 11, General IZUTSU, Chief of Staff, Koku-Jieitai (JASDF), visited India on the invitation of his counterpart, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force. General Izutsu held talks with senior defense officials including Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister for Defence, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff, and Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria. He also visited an Indian Air Force unit.

In his talks with Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria and General Izutsu agreed to keep expanding and deepening defense cooperation and exchanges to strengthen the relationship between the two air forces of Japan and India even in the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic.

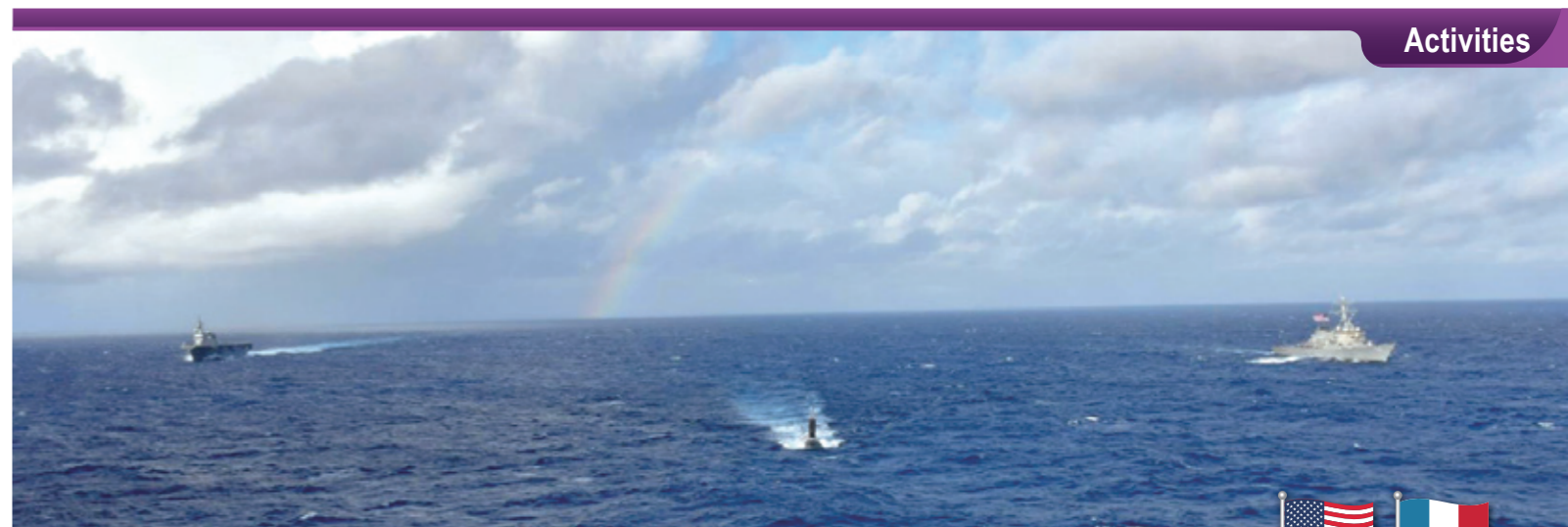
This latest visit to India enhanced the mutual understanding and the relationship of trust with the Indian Air Force and contributed to the promotion of defense cooperation and exchanges with India.

The JASDF has engaged in various types of defense cooperation and exchanges, including high-level exchanges and the Japan-India Bilateral Trainings "SHINYUU-MAITRI," which aimed to enhance bilateral air transport capabilities.

The MOD/JSDF will continue strengthening service-to-service relationships through such high level visits and bilateral trainings.



Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister for Defence (Center) / Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria (Right)



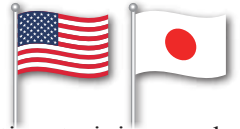
## Japan-U.S.-France Trilateral Exercise

From December 15 to 17, the JMSDF conducted a trilateral exercise with the U.S. Navy and the French Navy around Okinotorishima Island.

JS *Hyuga* from the JMSDF participated in this anti-submarine warfare exercise alongside the U.S. Navy destroyer USS *John S. McCain* and P-8A aircraft as well as the French Navy's submarine FS *Émeraude*. Through the training, the JMSDF has improved its tactical skills and mutual understanding with the U.S. Navy and the French Navy, and the cooperation and unity among the three countries under the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" were demonstrated.



# Japan-U.S. Bilateral Training



On December 16, the JASDF and the U.S. Air Force conducted the bilateral training in the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and in the vicinity of Okinawa. From the JASDF, 4 F-15s of the 5th Air Wing (Nyu-tabaru), 4 F-2s of the 7th Air Wing (Hyakuri) and 7 F-15s of the 9th Air Wing (Naha) joined this training. The USAF sent 2 B-1s to this training.

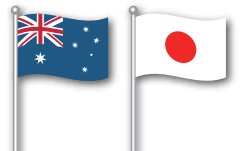
Through the navigation and formation training, and intercept training, both enhanced the Japan-U.S. bilateral response capabilities and improved tactical skills.



Furthermore, on January 12, the JASDF conducted the bilateral training with the U.S. Air Force in the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and in the vicinity of Okinawa. From the JASDF, 4 F-15s of the 5th Air Wing (Nyu-tabaru), 4 F-2s of the 6th Air Wing (Komatsu) and 4 F-2s of the 8th Air Wing (Tsuiki) participated in the training. From the USAF, 2 B-1s joined this training.



# Australian Liaison Officer Assigned to HQ Ground Component Command



On January 13, Major Howlett of the Australian Army was appointed as liaison officer at the HQ Ground Component Command. It is the first time for the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) to accept a liaison officer from a country other than our ally, the United States.

Australia actively contributes to the peace and stability of the international community through the deployment of Australian troops overseas to achieve the strategic defense objective of providing military contributions to joint operations that serve its national interest in an international order based on the rule of law.

Australia is a special strategic partner with which Japan shares strategic interests and universal values including respect for freedom, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. As such, Japan's relationship with Australia is now more important than ever before.

Japan and Australia share various values on the Indo-Pacific region. It is certain that Japan and Australia can contribute to peace and stability in the region with direct cooperation in order to achieve a security environment that is desirable for both countries.

The Defense White Paper published in February 2016 stated that, among its foreign relations, Japan will continue to place the highest priority on its alliance with the U.S. while aiming to nurture and deepen practical relations with partners in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes Japan.



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