

# JDF

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JS *Suzunami* started its duty in place of JS *Murasame*





## The Fourth Japan-UK Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting ("2+2")



On February 3, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Defense Minister Kishi held the fourth Japan-UK Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") with The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs and First Secretary of State of the United Kingdom, and The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom, via video conference. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

tion of joint exercises during this visit, as part of cooperation towards the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

(2)The four Ministers welcomed the signing of a Maritime Security Arrangement to further security cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the British Royal Navy as well as the steady progress made on the bilateral ground exercise which has taken place in Japan and in the UK to date.

(3)The four Ministers shared the view to continue cooperation on capacity-building for developing countries in a wide range of areas including maritime security in order to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

(4)The four Ministers also reaffirmed that they would further promote practical cooperation on monitoring and surveillance activities against illicit ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea-related vessels.

(5)Regarding defense equipment and technology cooperation, the four Ministers welcomed the ongoing dialogues on the Future Combat Air System/F-X at subsystem level, emphasised the importance of the research programme for the demonstration of a joint new air-to-air missile and welcomed progress made on the Project for Cooperative Research on the Feasibility of a Japan and Great Britain Universal Advanced RF system.

### 3 Other areas of Japan-UK cooperation

(1)The four Ministers welcomed progress in other domains including cyber and shared the view that the two countries would continue close dialogues, and further strengthen cooperative relations regarding economic security issues.

(2)Furthermore, the four Ministers exchanged views regarding the response to human security issues, including the global spread of the novel coronavirus disease and climate change, and shared the view to promote fair access to vaccines in response to the disease. On climate change, they confirmed the collaboration towards the achievement of "carbon neutrality" by 2050.

### 4 Regional affairs

(1)The four Ministers shared their serious concerns about the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea, strongly opposed unilateral attempts to change the status quo by coercion and confirmed the importance of a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law. They also emphasised the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and that all claims concerning maritime rights must be based on relevant provisions of the UNCLOS. From these perspectives, the four Ministers also exchanged views on China's Coast Guard Law.

(2)The four Ministers also discussed the situation surrounding Hong Kong and the human rights situation in Xinjiang and shared their grave concerns.

(3)The four Ministers confirmed that it is necessary for the international community to act as one towards the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, and reaffirmed that the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions is essential to achieve this end. The four Ministers also shared the view to continue to cooperate closely towards the early resolution of the abductions issue.

(4)The four Ministers affirmed the support of the two countries for the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)" and exchanged views on the situation in Myanmar, the Middle East, and other regions.

## Recent Senior-Level Teleconferences

### Defense Minister

On February 4, Defense Minister Kishi held a telephone conversation with Deputy Minister of Defense, H.R.H. Prince Khalid bin Salman.

Minister Kishi and His Royal Highness Prince Khalid exchanged views on bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges and current regional security issues. Minister Kishi expressed the view that free and open maritime order based on the rule of law is important.

Both concurred on 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 the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Kishi explained the information gathering activities by the SDF for ensuring the safe navigation of the Japan-related vessels in the Middle East and both agreed to continue close communication for ensuring peace, stability and safe navigation of the vessels in the Middle East.

Both concurred on proactively promoting defense cooperation and exchanges while maintaining close communication between the defense authorities.

On February 15, Defense Minister Kishi held a video teleconference with H.E. Mr. Amir Hatami Minister of

Defense and Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Minister Hatami congratulated Minister Kishi on his appointment as Minister of Defense. Minister Kishi expressed his appreciation. Minister Kishi explained the extension of the information gathering activities for ensuring the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East and requested Iran's cooperation toward securing the safety of navigation for vessels including Japan-related vessels.

The two ministers exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East and concurred on continuing communication between the defense authorities of the two countries.



### Chief of Staff, Joint Staff

On February 17, General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, had a video teleconference with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the United States Armed Forces General Mark A. Milley for the first time since the change of administration in the United States.

The two senior leaders affirmed that the robust ties of the Japan-U.S. Alliance remains unwavering even with response to COVID-19, and that the Alliance is prepared to address any situation/contingency in the region, in

line with the latest Japan-U.S. summit and defense ministerial telephone talks.

The two senior leaders also discussed the latest security situation surrounding Japan and affirmed their position that they oppose to unilateral attempts to change the status quo by coercion in the East and South China Seas, and exchanged their views on China's new coast guard law in this context. Furthermore, they shared the view on the importance of strengthening the U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region and

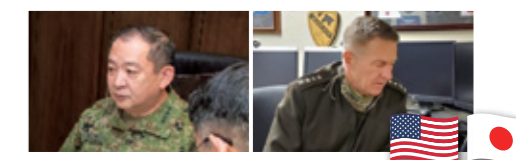
that they will strengthen cooperation with various partners both in and out of the region through measures to maintain and strengthen a Free and Open Indo-Pacific with the Japan-U.S. Alliance being the cornerstone.



### Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)

On February 2, General Yuasa, Chief of Staff, JGSDF, had a teleconference with Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army General James C. McConville. The two senior leaders

agreed on further deepening defense cooperation between the JGSDF and the U.S. Army, and enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance.



### Chief of Staff, Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF)

On January 28, General Izutsu, Chief of Staff, JASDF, held a video teleconference with Lieutenant-General A.D. Meinzinger, Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force. Through the talks, the two leaders deepened their friendship with each other, and agreed to further promote defense cooperation and exchanges to uphold and reinforce "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" even in the COVID-19 situation.

From February 3 to 4, General Izutsu participated in the Chiefs of the Air Staff Conclave hosted by the Indian Air Force via VTC. In the conclave, General Izutsu gave a speech on a theme of "Significance of Air Power in the Indo-Pacific Region" and shared the importance of cooperation in the region. General Izutsu exchanged views with air chiefs including Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff,

Indian Air Force to enhance mutual understanding and trust. General Izutsu has gained valuable insights for the JASDF to promote engagements in the field of air and space.



### Introduction

At the beginning of the meeting, Defense Minister Kishi stated the points below.

This meeting—following last month's Teleconference between the two defence ministers—is a testament to the fact that Japan-UK relations are getting increasingly close.

In the current security situation, competitions among countries that intend to create an international order more preferable to themselves and to expand their influence are becoming more evident, and such countries continue unilateral attempts to change the status quo by coercion.

China's Coast Guard Law, enforced on February 1, must not be applied in a way that contravenes the international law. As Defense Minister responsible for whatever is going on in the field, I resolve to defend Japan's territorial land, sea and air at all costs. Today, I would like to point out my strong concerns over these matters.

'Freedom of navigation and overflight' is an important value shared between Japan and the UK. I am convinced that the planned visit by the UK's Carrier Strike Group to East Asia this year will contribute to the promotion of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Japan-UK defense cooperation is expanding its scope into areas on infection prevention measures, in addition to the new fields such as space and cyber domains.

I would like to level up Japan-UK relations with long history and tradition into a new stage.

### 1 General Remarks

(1)The four Ministers affirmed that, at a time when the security environment surrounding Japan and the UK is undergoing changes, and basic values and principles are facing challenges, the two countries, as global strategic partners, would further enhance cooperation towards the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. In this context, the four Ministers confirmed their commitment to continue to provide leadership in maintaining regional security and upholding the rules-based international order, as well as their opposition to attempts to coerce others in the region including by economic means.

(2)The four Ministers shared the view that, in light of the UK's G7 Presidency and COP26 Presidency this year, Japan and the UK would deepen cooperation not only on security and defence, but also in a wide range of areas and take the lead together on international initiatives towards post-COVID-19 new order and rules.

### 2 Japan-UK security and defence cooperation

(1)The Japanese side welcomed the UK's announcement of the planned visit by HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and her Carrier Strike Group to the region including East Asia this year as an indication of the further commitment of the UK to the Indo-Pacific region. The four Ministers also shared the view to coordinate towards the implementa-



## Japan-U.S. Joint Tomodachi Rescue Exercise (Trex21)

From February 12 to 13, the MOD/JSDF and the U.S. Armed Forces conducted the FY2020 Japan-U.S. Tomodachi Rescue Exercise (Trex).

The exercise was mainly conducted in Kochi Prefecture and Tokushima Prefecture. Through various exercises for deployment of response forces, evacuation and rescue, and transport of relief supplies, the JSDF, U.S. Forces Japan, and disaster prevention organizations maintained and enhanced disaster relief capabilities for the Nankai Trench earthquake.

For preventing the spread of COVID-19, they thoroughly took general measures including avoiding “the 3Cs” and disinfection.



## Bilateral Exercise with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit of the U.S. Marine Corps

From January 28 to February 4, the JGSDF participated in the bilateral exercise conducted by the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa Prefecture and its surrounding waters.

In this exercise, the JGSDF Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade, the 1st Helicopter Brigade, as well as the JGSDF Western Army Aviation Group participated alongside the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Amphibious Squadron 11 of the U.S. Navy to conduct the landing training and deck landing/takeoff training with CH-47 Helicopter.

It is considerably meaningful for the JSDF to maintain and enhance the capability of remote island defense by participating in the exercise with U.S. Marine Corps who owns excellent mobility and readiness in Okinawa, which lies in a strategically important area in terms of the national security. The participation in this exercise also contributes to improving the bilateral response capability and strengthening the deterrence of Japan-U.S. alliance.

Since it is necessary to improve the tactical skills and maintain the readiness even under the current circumstance of pandemic, the JGSDF participated in this exercise by taking appropriate measures to prevent COVID-19 infections.

### Exercise overview

#### Main exercises

- Command post training
- Command and staff activities by Ground Component Command
- Air ground damage reporting
- Deployment of reinforcements
- Transportation of goods by various means and bilateral exercises with U.S. Forces (drop of relief supplies, search and rescue operations)
- Maritime search and rescue (SAR) operations (using transport ship JS Shimokita as the operational base), establishing offshore Staging Care Unit (SCU) and coordination with Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)

#### Participating forces

- JSDF: Joint Staff Office
- JGSDF (Ground Component Command, Eastern Army, Middle Army, Western Army)
- JMSDF (Self Defense Fleet, Yokosuka District Headquarters, Kure Regional District Headquarters)
- JASDF (Air Defense Command, Air Support Command)
- U.S. Armed Forces: U.S. Forces Japan (U.S. Army Japan, U.S. Air Force Japan)
- Others: DMAT, etc.

#### Scale of exercise

- JSDF: approx. 830 personnel, 2 naval vessels, 15 rotorcraft, 9 fixed-wing aircraft
- U.S. Armed Forces: approx. 60 personnel, 3 UH-60 rotorcraft, 1 C-130 fixed-wing aircraft



## Mine Warfare Exercise and Special Minesweeping Exercise (Japan-U.S. bilateral exercise)

From February 1 to 10, the JMSDF conducted the mine warfare exercise, and also the bilateral Special Minesweeping Exercise with the U.S. Navy in Ise Bay. The JMSDF sent its two minesweeper tenders, one minesweeper, 13 minesweeper oceans, three MCH-101s to these exercises. During the mine warfare exercise, mine laying, mine-sweeping, and diving training were practiced. In the Special Minesweeping Exercise with the U.S. Navy, 10 underwater explosive ordnance disposal personnel from the

U.S. Navy participated and bilaterally conducted diving training with divers of the JMSDF.

The JMSDF has been conducting exercises related to mine warfare to maintain and improve the skills in mine-sweeping. With all possible measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections during these exercises, the JMSDF aimed at maintaining and improving mine warfare capacities, as well as strengthening the cooperation with the U.S. Navy.





## Online Educational Program for Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

From February 1 to 5, the 7th Engineer Group, 4th Engineer Brigade, Middle Army, JGSDF, provided an online educational program for Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) road surveying instructors. This program is part of a phased MOD capacity building project aimed at successively enhancing the instruction skills of RCAF road surveyors to support their contribution to UN peacekeeping operations. This is the first capacity building program to be implemented online by the MOD during the COVID pandemic.

In 2012, JMOD commenced its provision of capacity building assistance to Cambodian Military Engineers in support of their contribution to UN PKO (Civil Engineering). In 2017, the MOD commenced phased ‘train-the-train-

er’ educational programs on road surveying techniques in order to develop a pool of RCAF instructors. A total of five candidates surveying instructor officers at the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and ERW Clearance (NPMEC) participated in this online iteration of the MOD’s phased project.

During this online iteration, the MOD bridged Kyoto and Phnom Penh using online conference systems. JGSDF instructors provided lectures, drawing practice and examinations on surveying techniques, etc. to develop participants’ instruction skills. We wish for the participants’ further success in performing PKO and training new RCAF road surveyors.



## Cope North 21

From January 18 to February 28, the JASDF conducted exercises including a Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral exercise in Cope North 21 based at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Various drills such as air defense combat and tactical attack training were conducted under realistic training environment to enhance the Japan-U.S. bilateral response capability and tactical skills of the JASDF through this exercise. This exercise also included Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise which aimed to improve the interoperability among the participated countries.

During the exercise, the JASDF sent six F-15J/DJs, three F-2As, one E-767 from 2nd Air Wing (Chitose), 8th Air Wing (Tsukiki) of Air Defense Command, and one C-2 from

3rd Tactical Airlift Group (Miho) of Air Support Command, as well as Base Defense Development and Training Squadron (Hyakuri) and so on, which were totally 11 aircraft and approx. 250 personnel.

Although, this exercise was conducted under the circumstance of COVID-19, the JASDF took appropriate measures to prevent infection such as wearing masks, avoiding 3Cs, sanitizing hands, besides the reduction of the training scale comparing last year (21 aircraft and approx. 500 personnel joined last year) and the minimization of person to person contact during the enter/exit of country and exercise.

The MOD/JGSDF will continue the activities including exercises to contribute to the peace and security of Indo-Pacific region.



# JS *Suzunami* started its duty in place of JS *Murasame*



On January 20, JS *Suzunami*, the 4th Deployment Surface Force for Information Gathering started operations replacing JS *Murasame*, the 3rd Force. JS *Suzunami* and its crews are gathering information to ensure the safety of



Japan-related vessels, mainly in the high seas of the Gulf of Oman and the northern Arabian sea.

After departing from Ominato on December 20, 2020, JS *Suzunami* conducted PCR tests for all crews. Furthermore, in order to maintain health condition of the crews, JS *Suzunami* remained in the waters of near Japan for 14 days holding drills before advancing to the operational area.

On February 11, JS *Murasame* returned to Japan, and the returning ceremony was held at Yokosaka. Defense Minister Kishi attended the ceremony to commemorate the return of JS *Murasame* which engaged in the information gathering activities in the Middle East. After he was debriefed, Minister Kishi decorated the deployed force and its commander.

The MOD/SDF will continue this activity to ensure the safety of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East.

## Apology and correction

There was an error in the 12th line of the article "Australian Liaison Officer Assigned to HQ Ground Component Command" on page 8 of this magazine No. 133 (March 2021).

[ Error ] Japan will continue

**[ Correct ] Australia will continue**

We deeply apologize for the inconvenience caused to our readers and all concerned.

## Notice: End of Newsletter Delivery



It is with regret that we inform you of our decision to terminate the distribution of JDF Newsletter with the one for Vol.134 (April 2021).

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who have supported our Newsletter over the years. Thank you for your understanding.

Information will continue to be posted on the following website.

We look forward to your continued support.

<https://www.mod.go.jp/e/>



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