

JDF

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Japan-Germany Defense Ministerial Meeting



On Mar 22, DM Koizumi welcomed H.E. Boris Pistorius, Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany in Yokosuka, where the Japan–Germany Defense Ministerial Meeting was held.

At the outset, DM Koizumi stated that, amid the rapidly and dramatically changing global security environment, in order to address challenges facing the international community and to strengthen deterrence in the region, it is more important than ever for the two countries to work closely together. Minister Pistorius expressed views to the same effect. To this end, they concurred that when necessary to ensure the security of both countries and peace and stability in the region, Japan and Germany would consult with each other and consider appropriate responses, and that they would conduct the necessary consultations on a regular basis to this end.

Furthermore, the two ministers welcomed the steady expansion of bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges across all three services—land, maritime, and air—including the friendly visit to Germany last September by JASDF F-15 fighter aircraft as part of their first-ever deployment to Europe.

In addition, the two ministers exchanged views on the current situation surrounding Iran as well as regional security issues, including those in the Indo-Pacific, and confirmed that they would continue to coordinate closely.

The two ministers confirmed that they will continue to further deepen Japan–Germany defense cooperation and exchanges in various forms, under their shared recognition that security in the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific is inseparable.

Eighth Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2")

On Apr 1, DM Koizumi and Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, held the Eighth Japan–France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") with H.E. Ms. Catherine VAUTRIN, Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of the French Republic, and H.E. Mr. Jean-Noël BARROT, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The meeting marked the first in-person "2+2" in seven years.

The Japanese side welcomed the visit and emphasized the importance of further strengthening Japan–France cooperation in diplomacy and defense amid a rapidly changing security

environment. In response, the French side reaffirmed the value of Japan as an "Exceptional Partner" and expressed its intention to further deepen bilateral ties, including through close coordination within the G7 framework.

Japan explained its recent security initiatives, including the revision of key national security documents, the review of the defense equipment transfer framework, and efforts related to the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). France welcomed these developments and reiterated its strong commitment to the Indo-Pacific region.



The ministers welcomed the steady progress in defense cooperation, such as joint exercises and port calls by French military assets in Japan, and discussed cooperation in space, cybersecurity, relations with NATO and the EU, and nuclear disarmament. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the Indo-Pacific, China, North Korea, Ukraine, and the Middle East, and confirmed their intention to continue working closely together.

Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting

On Apr 1, DM Koizumi held a Japan-France Defense Ministerial Meeting with H.E. Catherine Vautrin, Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans of the French Republic. At the outset of the meeting, the two ministers signed the Japan-France Defense "Roadmap."

At the outset, DM Koizumi stated that as situations in various regions have become increasingly interconnected, cooperation with France, Japan's "special partner," has become ever

more necessary, and emphasized that, from the perspective of strengthening deterrence in the region, it is of critical importance to further enhance cooperation with France. Minister Vautrin expressed views to the same effect.

They further concurred that, when necessary to ensure the security of both countries and peace and stability in the region, Japan and France would consult with each other and consider appropriate responses, and that they would steadily pursue, during peacetime, the cooperation necessary to this end.



In addition, the two ministers exchanged views on the current situation surrounding Iran as well as regional security issues, including those in the Indo-Pacific, and confirmed that they would continue to coordinate closely.

Based on their shared recognition that security in the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific regions is inseparable, the two ministers confirmed that, with a view to strengthening regional deterrence, they would further deepen defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries based on the Japan-France Defense "Roadmap."

Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Defence of Sri Lanka

On Mar 18, DM Koizumi met with Hon. Major General Aruna Jayasekara (Retd.), Deputy Minister of Defence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in Tokyo. DM Koizumi noted that as the international community enters a new era of crises, strengthening defense cooperation between Japan and Sri Lanka is increasingly important toward realizing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). Deputy Minister Jayasekara responded that Sri Lanka’s strategic geographical location entails significant responsibility, particularly in maritime security, and expressed his intention to deepen bilateral cooperation, including in the defense field.

The two sides exchanged views on regional issues such as the recent situation in the Middle East, and welcomed the steady progress in bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges,

including the port call of the JMSDF destroyer Onami to Colombo Port and a goodwill exercise with the Sri Lanka Navy.

Based on these discussions, they agreed to move forward with strengthening defense cooperation with a sense of urgency. Specifically, they concurred on enhancing maritime security cooperation through activities such as goodwill exercises and observer invitations to ship-riding programs, advancing capacity-building efforts in areas including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), and continuing discussions to further deepen personnel exchanges, building on last year’s participation of Sri Lankan officer cadets in a short-term exchange program at Japan’s National Defense Academy.



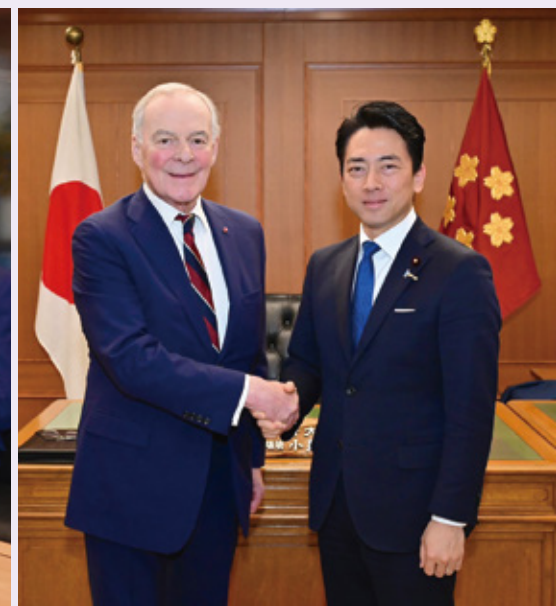
Courtesy Call by Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force on DM Koizumi

On Mar 26, DM Koizumi received a call from Lt Gen André Steur, Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force, who visited Japan to observe the first-ever Japan-Netherlands-U.S. trilateral exercise “Kazaguruma Guardian.” Both agreed to further deepen Japan-Netherlands defense cooperation.



Courtesy Call by a Member of the House of Lords, Chair, the British-Japanese Parliamentary Group to DM Koizumi

On Mar 16, DM Koizumi received a courtesy call from Vis. Trenchard DL, Member of the House of Lords, Chair, the British-Japanese Parliamentary Group. They confirmed to closely work together to push forward collaboration in various fields toward a new golden age of defense cooperation.



Courtesy Call by a U.S. Senate Delegation on SMOD Miyazaki



On Apr 1, SMOD Miyazaki received a courtesy call from U.S. Senator Shaheen and her delegation welcoming their visit to Japan. He expressed appreciation for bipartisan support for the Japan-U.S. Alliance and exchanged views on strengthening the Alliance and regional security.



Courtesy Call by Director of the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program on ADM Saito



ADM Saito received a courtesy call from ADM Houston, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. With gratitude for the safe operation of the nuclear-powered ships, the two leaders exchanged views from each perspective on education and training.



Overview of 4th EWG on Maritime Security

From Mar 25 to 27, the Philippines and Japan, co-chairs of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Maritime Security in the 2024-2027 cycle, co-hosted the 4th iteration of the EWG in Japan.

In preparation for the Joint Cooperative Activity (JCA) at sea planned as the culminating event of the current EWG cycle, a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) was conducted focusing on maritime activities, including disaster response and marine environmental protection.

Participants discussed future cooperation in the maritime domain and shared perspectives aimed at further enhancing cooperation.



Courtesy Call by Director of the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program on PVM Yoshida



On Apr 1, PVM Yoshida received a courtesy call from ADM Houston, Director of the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. They discussed Japan-U.S. cooperation and regional security, and PVM Yoshida expressed appreciation for the safe operation of nuclear-powered vessels.



Courtesy Call by Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force on CSJJS

On Mar 26, CSJJS Gen Uchikura received a courtesy call from Lt Gen André Steur, Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force. They shared their views on the increasingly severe international security environment and confirmed the steady progress of Japan-Netherlands defense cooperation in recent years. In addition, Gen Uchikura welcomed the increasingly visible engagement by Royal Netherlands Forces in the Indo-Pacific, including the ongoing Japan-Netherlands-U.S. joint exercise “Kazaguruma Guardian.”

JJS will continue to deepen defense cooperation with Netherlands, recognizing the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security.



Kazaguruma Guardian

From Mar 23 to Apr 3, JASDF conducted a Japan-Netherlands-U.S. trilateral exercise, Kazaguruma Guardian, with F-35 fighter aircraft and other assets of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force and the U.S. Air Force.

Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force and Commander of the U.S. Fifth Air Force visited JASDF Misawa Air Base

On Mar 27, Gen Morita, Chief of Staff, JASDF, Lt Gen Steur, Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force, and Lt Gen Carey, Commander of the U.S. Fifth Air Force, visited JASDF Misawa Air Base and held a joint press conference.

Recognizing that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and of the Indo-Pacific are inseparable, they reaffirmed the importance of trilateral cooperation among like-minded partners, centered on the Japan-U.S. Alliance.



CSJJS held a teleconference with U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



On Mar 15, CSJJS Gen Uchikura held a teleconference with U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Daniel J. Caine. During the talk, they exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, including the Strait of Hormuz, covering recent developments and future prospects. CSJJS Uchikura stated that maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East, including the Strait of Hormuz, is extremely important for the international community, including Japan, and conveyed Japan's view that it will continue to closely coordinate with the United States and other relevant countries.

Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff, JGSDF held a bilateral meeting and luncheon with Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps

On Apr 1, GEN Arai, Chief of Staff, JGSDF and LTG Tokunaga, Vice Chief of Staff, JGSDF held a bilateral meeting and luncheon with Gen. Gering, Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

During the meeting, they sought to build a relationship of trust with Gen. Gering, who assumed his post in October 2025, and exchanged views on the future direction of cooperation between JGSDF and the U.S. Marine Corps.

JGSDF will continue to further strengthen the relationship it has built with the U.S. Marine Corps.



NWPAC26

JMSDF conducted a Japan-U.S. naval command post exercise NWPAC26 (North West Pacific 2026), enhancing combined operational capabilities. Under the U.S.-Japan alliance, JMSDF will continue to work together with our ally towards the Free and Open Indo-Pacific.



the JMSDF SH-60K conducted a bilateral exercise with the U.S. Navy MH-60R

On Mar 19, the JMSDF SH-60K conducted a bilateral exercise with the U.S. Navy MH-60R. Strengthening ties with allies contributes to regional peace and stability. The JMSDF will continue working with U.S. Navy to build a safer security environment.



Nichi-Gou Trident 26

From Mar 17 to 21, JMSDF conducted Japan-Australia bilateral exercise Nichi-Gou Trident 26 with HMAS TOOWOOMBA. JMSDF will continue to strengthen cooperation with the Australian Navy.



Overseas Training Cruise units conducted a goodwill exercise with the Papua New Guinea Defense Force

On Mar 14, the Overseas Training Cruise units conducted a goodwill exercise with the Papua New Guinea Defense Force. Marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, JMSDF will further strengthen cooperation toward a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.



Space Operations Wing Activation Ceremony

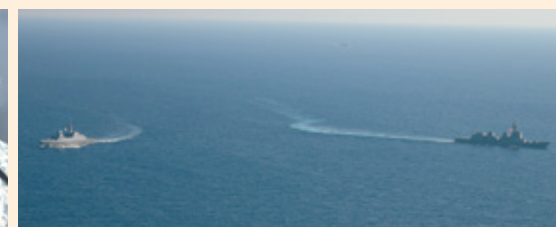
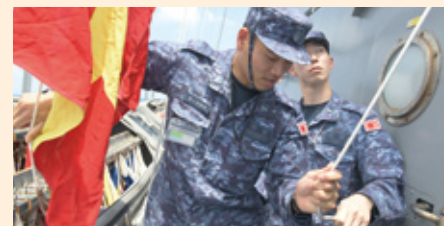
On Mar 28, JASDF held a ceremony at Fuchu Air Base to mark the activation of Space Operations Wing.

As JASDF transitions into the Japan Air and Space Self-Defense Force (tentative name), it will continue to strengthen its defense capabilities in the space domain and contribute to ensuring the stable use of outer space.



JS ASahi conducted a goodwill exercise with the Republic of Singapore Navy

In 2026, the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Singapore. JS ASahi conducted a goodwill exercise with the RSS SUPREME. JMSDF promoted mutual understanding and friendship with the Republic of Singapore Navy.



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