

JDF

JAPAN DEFENSE FOCUS
Sep. 2026 No.199



DM Koizumi's Visit to the ROK

DM Koizumi visited Wonju Air Base in the ROK 🇰🇷 🇯🇵

On June 27, DM Koizumi visited Wonju Air Base with Minister of National Defense Ahn during his visit to the ROK. The base is home to the Black Eagles aerobatic team, which flew to Naha this January. This marked the first visit to the base by a foreign defense minister.



Japan-ROK Defense Ministerial Meeting 🇰🇷 🇯🇵

On June 28, DM Koizumi held a bilateral meeting with ROK Minister of National Defense Ahn. They highly appreciated the steady progress of Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchanges.



DM Koizumi also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and exchanged views. They shared their assessments of the security environment surrounding their countries, and DM Koizumi introduced the current state of Japan-ROK defense cooperation and exchanges.



On the same day, DM Koizumi held a candid exchange of views with Japanese and Korean youth, together with Minister Ahn. They discussed a wide range of topics, including defense policy, and were greatly inspired by the fresh perspectives.



In addition, DM Koizumi played a friendly game of table tennis with Minister Ahn and visited the Defense Media Agency with him.



Courtesy Call on President of Palau by DM Koizumi



On June 2, DM Koizumi paid a courtesy call on President Whipps of Palau. DM Koizumi expressed his appreciation to President Whipps for the opportunity to meet again, following their meeting in January this year. He also emphasized that Palau is an important partner for Japan, sharing the values such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, and called for continued cooperation to realize 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'. In response, President Whipps expressed his support and conveyed his appreciation for the support provided by the Government of Japan to Palau.

DM Koizumi expressed appreciation for Palau's participation in the Japan-Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD) and welcomed the steady progress in Japan-Palau defense cooperation. He also referred to initiatives in areas such as maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), reiterating the importance of cooperation with Pacific Island countries.



Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministerial Meeting [June 5]



On June 5, DM Koizumi held a bilateral meeting with Defense Minister Sjafrie of Indonesia. They agreed to start discussions in the working group on defense equipment and technology cooperation, including the transfer of Asagiri-class destroyers and other equipment.



Courtesy Call on President of Indonesia by DM Koizumi and the Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministerial Meeting [June 12]



On June 12, DM Koizumi paid a courtesy call on President Prabowo of Indonesia at the President's private residence, Kertanegara, where they exchanged views, joined by Minister of Defense Sjafrie.

DM Koizumi stated that, based on the relationship of trust with Minister Sjafrie, he would like to work closely with him to further strengthen defense cooperation under the Defence Cooperation Arrangement (DCA) signed in May this year. President Prabowo welcomed the steady progress in Japan-Indonesia defense cooperation.

DM Koizumi emphasized that people-to-people exchanges, including high-level exchanges and the acceptance of Indonesian students at Japan's National Defense Academy, constitute an important foundation for strengthening bilateral relations, and that, building on this foundation, Japan would continue to promote defense cooperation for which President Prabowo expressed his full support.

DM Koizumi noted that strengthening Indonesia's maritime deterrence capabilities would contribute to regional peace and stability and underscored the need to enhance maritime security cooperation. In light of this, DM Koizumi and Minister Sjafrie concurred to com-

mence consideration of further areas of cooperation, including the sharing of classified information, more efficient use of ports, and cooperation in logistics and maintenance services.

DM Koizumi also stated that discussions under the new framework for defense equipment transfer, including the possible transfer of Asagiri-class destroyers, would contribute to strengthening maritime security cooperation. President Prabowo expressed his expectation for tangible progress in defense equipment and technology cooperation. The two Ministers

concurred to advance discussions in the working group under their leadership and work closely toward realizing comprehensive cooperation, including education and training, maintenance and sustainment, and operational aspects.

At the Japan-Indonesia Defense Ministerial Meeting held in conjunction with the courtesy call on President Prabowo, DM Koizumi and Minister Sjafrie confirmed that they would continue to work closely together to implement and realize the items agreed upon with President Prabowo.



JMSDF Conducted a Bilateral Exercise with the Netherlands

JMSDF destroyer JS Murasame conducted a bilateral exercise with the Royal Netherlands Navy frigate HNLMS De Ruyter. Through the exercise, they reaffirmed their commitment to continuing cooperation to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.



Japan-Canada Defense Ministerial Meeting

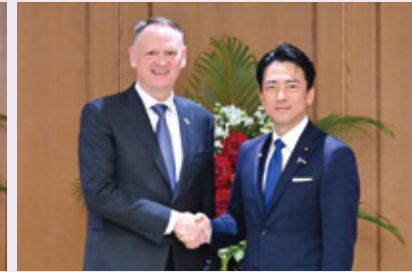
On June 24, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Canadian Minister of National Defence McGuinty.

DM Koizumi welcomed Minister McGuinty's visit to Japan since March this year and expressed his satisfaction that they have been able to meet frequently, maintain close communication, and build a strong relationship of trust.

DM Koizumi referred to Japan's revision of the Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology and their Implementation Guidelines in April this year, and expressed his appreciation for Canada's support for this revision.

They welcomed the recent entry into force of the

Agreement between Japan and Canada concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, and concurred to continue discussions toward generating new defense equipment and technology cooperation projects, building on this momentum.



Japan-Netherlands Defense Ministerial Meeting

On June 16, DM Koizumi held a Defense Ministerial Meeting with Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Wèrmer.

DM Koizumi welcomed the port call of Royal Netherlands Navy frigate HNLMS De Ruyter to Tokyo, noting that it demonstrates the Netherlands' engagement in the Indo-Pacific region in a tangible manner and contributes to strengthening Japan-Netherlands defense cooperation. He also expressed his expectation for the Netherlands' continued engagement in the region, including through the deployment of vessels and aircraft.

Both Ministers exchanged views on bilateral defense cooperation, including joint exercises and regional affairs, and confirmed that they would continue closely working together to further strengthen defense cooperation based on the recognition that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and

Indo-Pacific is inseparable. They also confirmed the importance of the early entry into force of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).

DM Koizumi welcomed Minister Wèrmer's interest in a defense equipment and technology transfer agreement and other legal frameworks, and proposed the acceptance of short-term students from the Dutch Armed Forces to the National Defense Academy of Japan, which Minister Wèrmer indicated she would consider positively.



DM Koizumi Met with Secretary of Türkiye Defence Industries

On June 15, DM Koizumi met with Prof. Dr. Görgün, Secretary of Türkiye Defence Industries, during his visit to Japan. They welcomed recent progress in bilateral defense industry exchanges and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation.

In addition, the secretary discussed with ATLA Commissioner Aoyagi on potential cooperation in the area of defense equipment, and later visited Japanese defense-related companies, where he was briefed on Japan's defense equipment and related technologies.



DM Koizumi Met with Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs

On July 2, DM Koizumi held a meeting with Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sybiha. DM Koizumi stated that Japan's commitment to supporting Ukraine remains unwavering.



Courtesy Call by Italian Ambassador to Japan on DM Koizumi

On July 2, DM Koizumi received a courtesy call from H.E. Mr. Mario Andrea Vattani, Italian Ambassador to Japan. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation in various fields including defense equipment and technology such as GCAP and mil-to-mil exchanges, and to enhance deterrence in the region.



SM Miyazaki Met with Norwegian State Secretary to Minister of Defence

On June 4, SM Miyazaki held a meeting with Norwegian State Secretary to Minister of Defence Flåm.

SM Miyazaki welcomed State Secretary Flåm's second visit to Japan in this one year. State Secretary Flåm conveyed his appreciation to SM Miyazaki for hosting the visit.

The meeting included a discussion on defense policy, regional affairs, and bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. They shared the view to further promote defense cooperation and exchanges in various areas including the high-level exchanges, unit-to-unit engagement, defense equipment and technology cooperation, space-related cooperation, and cooperation through NATO.

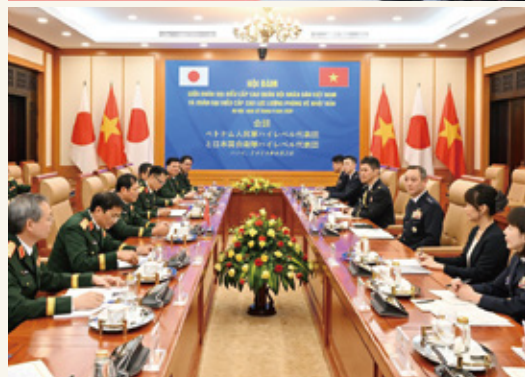


CSJJS Conducted an Official Visit to Vietnam

From May 31 to June 3, CSJJS Gen Uchikura conducted an official visit to Vietnam. During the visit, he held a meeting with GEN Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff, Viet Nam People's Army, and Vice Minister of National Defence, and paid courtesy calls on GEN Phan Van Giang, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Senior LTG Nguyen Van Hien, Member of the Central Party Committee, Member of the Central Military Commission and Deputy Minister of National Defence. Coming shortly after Prime Minister Takaichi's visit to Vietnam in early May, this visit provided a timely opportunity to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Japan and Vietnam have long enjoyed a traditionally strong relationship, underpinned by a history of enduring defense cooperation. High-level exchanges at the Chief of Staff level, including this visit, have consistently served as key drivers for advancing bilateral defense ties. Following GEN Cuong's official visit to Japan in 2023, defense cooperation between the two countries had steadily progressed. Gen Uchikura's visit further contributed to enhancing this momentum.

This year marks the 10th anniversary since Japan first advocated the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific". Amid an increasingly severe and complex security environment, JJS reaffirmed its commitment to promoting defense cooperation with Vietnam, a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, toward the realization and further update of FOIP.



Valiant Shield 26

JSDF participated in Valiant Shield 26, a U.S.-led multinational exercise. Throughout the exercise, JSDF enhanced joint and combined operational capabilities—including cross-domain operations—through training such as integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) and anti-surface warfare (ASUW). The exercise also further strengthened partnership with the U.S. and participating nations.

CSJJS and USFJ Commander Visited JMSDF Kanoya Air Base

On June 29, CSJJS Gen Uchikura and Lt Gen Jost, USFJ Commander observed the ongoing U.S.-led multinational exercise Valiant Shield 26. Also, at JMSDF Kanoya Air Base, they confirmed the temporary deployment of Typhon and HIMARS, and received briefings from the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, which operates these assets.

The temporary deployment of highly mobile U.S. military assets to a JSDF facility and the implementation of bilateral training enhance the U.S. military's rapid deployment capability, as well as the readiness and interoperability of both JSDF and U.S. forces, thereby contributing to further strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance.



Chief of Staff, JASDF, Invited Chief of Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force

Gen Morita, Chief of Staff, JASDF, welcomed AVM Webb, Chief of Air Force of the Royal New Zealand Air Force to Japan. Gen Morita and AVM Webb exchanged views on Japan–NZ defense cooperation between the two air services.



MARARA26

From June 4 to 17, JSDF participated in the multinational exercise MARARA 26 in Tahiti, French Polynesia, hosted by the French Armed Forces. “MARARA” means “flying fish” in Tahitian.

This exercise focused on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) and simulated a natural disaster scenario, in which participating nations worked together to conduct relief activities.

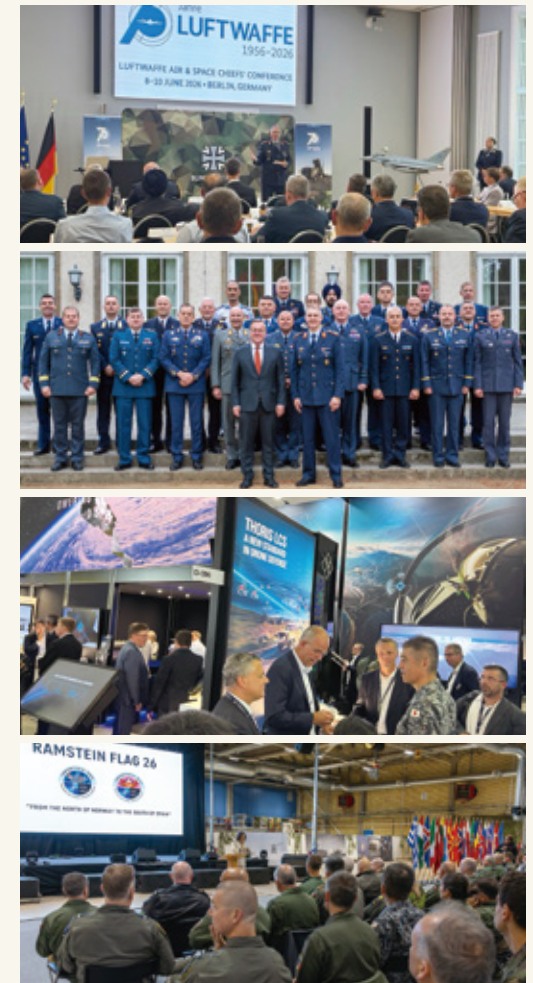


Vice Chief of Staff, JASDF, Visited Europe

From June 7 to June 18, Lt Gen Momma, Vice Chief of Staff, JASDF, visited Germany for the Luftwaffe 70th Anniversary celebrations, including the Luftwaffe Air and Space Chiefs’ Conference (LASCC) and ILA Berlin 2026. During the visit, he also observed Exercise Ramstein Flag 2026 (RAFL26) conducted in Norway, Finland, and Sweden.

Lt Gen Momma met with Lt Gen Lutz Kohlhaus, Deputy Inspector of the German Air Force, Maj Gen Timo Herranen, Commander of the Finnish Air Force, Maj Gen Jonas Wikman, Commander of the Swedish Air Force, and other international air chiefs to enhance mutual understanding and promote defense exchanges. He also deepened the understanding of NATO Allied Air Command’s activities by observing RAFL26.

JASDF reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening cooperation with European partner air forces and embody the recognition that the security of Euro-Atlantic and of the Indo-Pacific are inseparable.



Resolute Dragon 26

From June 20 to 30, JGSDF conducted the field training exercise Resolute Dragon 26 in Japan with the U.S. Marine Corps. Through the exercise, JGSDF and the USMC strengthened bilateral interoperability for island defense.



Southern Jackaroo 26

From May 29 to July 3, JGSDF conducted Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral field training exercise Southern Jackaroo 26 in Australia. Now in its 13th iteration, this exercise featured trilateral training, including ground combat operations and live-fire exercises. Through this training, the JGSDF strengthened coordination with US and Australian forces and enhanced operational capabilities.



Live-MINEX26 (Japan-U.S. Bilateral Mine Countermeasures Exercise)

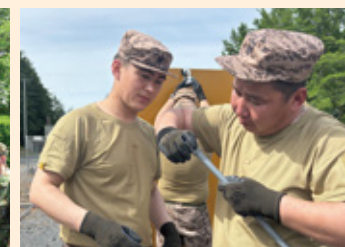
JMSDF conducted mine disposal and minesweeping exercise in the vicinity of Iwo-to Island. The exercise enhanced JMSDF's mine warfare capabilities and interoperability with the U.S. Navy.



JGSDF Conducted a Capacity Building Project for Mongolian Armed Forces

From May 18 to June 19, JGSDF conducted a Capacity Building Project on PKO (Civil Engineering) for the Mongolian Armed Forces at the JGSDF Engineer School (Camp Katsuta). During this program, instructors from the Engineer School and other units provided Mongolian personnel with education on construction techniques necessary for establishing PKO camps. This included instruction on layout, design, construction plans, and methodology for installing water supply and drainage systems.

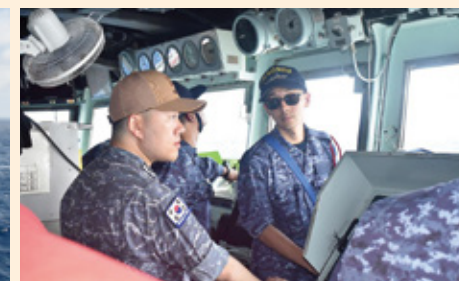
In addition, the Engineer School hosted cultural exchange activities to deepen mutual understanding and goodwill.



Japan-ROK Search and Rescue Bilateral Exercise

JMSDF conducted a Japan-ROK Search and Rescue Bilateral exercise with the ROK Navy —the first such exercise in nine years

since 2017. Through this exercise, both sides enhanced their search and rescue capabilities and strengthened bilateral cooperation.



For inquiries, contact the following office:

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



X(Twitter):
Modjapan_en



Facebook:
mod.japn



Instagram:
modjapan_en



Scan this QR code to go to our website.



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

