

JOINT STAFF PRESS RELEASE

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1 May 2021
Joint Staff

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff's Visit to the U.S.

General Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, attended the Change of Command ceremony of the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in State of Hawaii, U.S. on Saturday, 1 May JST (Friday, 30 April HST) and had dialogues with U.S. major component commanders.

General Yamazaki expressed his appreciation and respect to Admiral Philip Davidson, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command for his various achievements in further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

He then had a meeting with a new Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral John Aquilino to share their views on the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region and the current situation surrounding Japan. They agreed with each other that they would make every effort to develop the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhance its deterrence and response capabilities.

General Yamazaki also talked with General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The two senior leaders shared their situational awareness and discussed their engagement in further strengthening the Japan-U.S. cooperation in the future based on the results of the recent Japan-U.S. summit meeting and Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2"). In addition, they reconfirmed that the two countries would reinforce their deterrence and response capabilities and the U.S. would unwaveringly commit itself to the defense of Japan under the Article V of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. They agreed that Japan and the U.S. will continue to firmly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East China Sea and promote multi-lateral cooperation, with the Japan-U.S. Alliance as its cornerstone, in order to realize the vision of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Furthermore, General Yamazaki had a series of meetings with USARPAC Commander, General LaCamera, PACAF Commander, General Wilsbach, MARFORPAC Commander, Lieutenant General Rudder, and SOCPAC Commander, Brigadier General Rudd. General Yamazaki shared his situational awareness with each of them and discussed how Japan and the U.S. would enhance their deterrence and response capabilities through various bilateral exercises and other opportunities.

