



November 11 2021

Joint Staff

Joint Site Visit and Joint-Senior Leadership Seminar (J-SLS)
with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

From 8 to 9 November, General Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Japan Joint Staff and Admiral Aquilino, Commander, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command had Joint Site Visit to the ASDF Naha Air Base, the GSDF Camp Amami and the GSDF Camp Yonaguni. Following this event, from 9 to 10 November, both senior leaders had Joint-Senior Leadership Seminar in Tokyo.

During the site visit, they shared the situational awareness on the Southwestern region of Japan and observed the JSDF unit deployment and their activities in the region.

During the Joint-Senior Leadership Seminar they also shared their view on the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region and exchanged their visions on the direction for the future bilateral defense cooperation. They also had various discussion on Japan-U.S. bilateral initiatives and deepening the bilateral cooperation to secure the regional peace and stability. Through these discussion, they agreed that to conduct bilateral activities seamlessly, regardless of the situation peacetime or contingency and most importantly build shared understanding on common security challenges and strengthening the alliance.

During the discussion, Gen Yamazaki said, “Even in the midst of a drastically changing security environment, the Japan-U.S. alliance have been unwavering cornerstone of the regional peace and stability for more than 60 years, and will everlasting. To this end, I always share the future vision with Admiral Aquilino,

likewise in this J-SLS, responding to any contingency by accumulating effective efforts, such as bilateral training and exercise.” Admiral Aquilino answered, “The strong tie between the JSDF and the U.S. Forces is the important representative aspect of the Japan-U.S Alliance. The dedication to the universal values that we shared such as freedom, democracy and rule of laws makes our tie ever further robust. The event like this Joint Senior Leaders Seminar helps to bilaterally prepare for challenges tomorrow.”

Furthermore, both leaders agreed that the Japan-U.S. Alliance is vital to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, and Japan Joint Staff, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and the U.S. Forces Japan remain committed to strengthening the Alliance together. Two leaders also emphasized the necessity of continued discussion on how the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation should respond to the security challenges properly.

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At Naha Air Base



GEN Yamazaki (left) asks a question during a briefing at Naha Air Base



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino listens to a briefing on equipment



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino look out the window of a JGSDF CH-47 Chinook during an aerial tour



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino inspect facility of Camp Amami



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino look toward the East China Sea from Irizaki Light #1



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino look toward the East China Sea from Irizaki Light #2



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino look toward the East China Sea from Irizaki Light #3



GEN Yamazaki greet ADM Aquilino at Camp Ichigaya



GEN Yamazaki and ADM Aquilino discuss actively during the seminar



A group photo of major participants