



International Cadets' Conference 2024

27th International Cadets' Conference

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1. Message from the President



The President of NDA **KUBO Fumiaki**

Representing the National Defense Academy of Japan, I would like to welcome all the participants from abroad. We held this conference on line for the last two years. We even had to cancel it three years ago. Given this background, you would understand how happy we are this year.

I am hopeful that you learn a lot at this conference about how cadets from a different cultural background think about current international situation, leadership, and leadership education and training in the military academy, while coming to the understanding that many of you actually share a sense of mission, discipline, and dedication to your country.

On this occasion, I would like to express my own personal respect and appreciation to all of you, in Japan as well as abroad, who have chosen a career to defend your own country and your own people. In this sense, this conference is not just another exchange by regular students or young people, but this is truly a special kind of exchange by those of you who have committed yourselves to defending your country.

I would like you to take this opportunity to broaden your perspective as much as possible. I am sure that the cadets in Japan will learn a lot from you, but also I strongly hope that this conference serves as a catalyst for all the participants from abroad to learn about the international situation in Asia, a role of Japan in this region and the world, and the Japanese culture and society in general.

In closing, it is my sincere hope that you enjoy the conversation and exchange of ideas among yourselves for the next couple of days.

Thank you for coming and thank you for your service.

2. Message from the Chief of Cadet Executive Committee



**27th ICC Chief of Cadet Executive Committee
SATO Amane**

My name is SATO Amane, and the Chairperson of this year's International Cadets' Conference. I am a senior cadet here at the NDA and assigned to the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force.

After enduring nearly four years of the pandemic, we are finally able to resume ICC in person. This conference serves as a valuable opportunity for cadets from all around the world to gather and exchange opinions on international affairs and security. Global circumstances have become increasingly precarious, with potential threats such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Israel-Gaza crisis, and the possibility of a crisis in Taiwan clearly requires an immediate resolution.

That is why it is meaningful to have opportunities for discussions and deepen our connection throughout this Conference.

Let's make this week a fulfilling time together.

3. About NDA



【Founding vision of NDA】

The National Defense Academy of Japan (NDA) is the only and integrated institution to train the Army, Navy and Air force cadets as the future leaders of the Japan's Self-Defense Forces(JSDF) .

【Academic Program】

NDA has 14 departments: 11 Science and Engineering departments and 3 Humanities and Social Sciences departments. At the time of advancement to the second year, cadets are divided into these departments according to their personal preferences and grades.

《Science and Engineering》

- Applied Physics
- Applied Chemistry
- Earth and Ocean Sciences
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Communications Engineering
- Computer Science
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechanical Systems Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering

《Humanities and Social Sciences》

- Humanities
- Public Policy
- International Relations

【Military Program】

In their first year, all cadets undergo the same basic military training. After they are assigned to GSDF, MSDF or ASDF, their training differs according to the service to which they have been assigned. During the academic term, all cadets receive two hours of basic field training each week, plus a six-week intensive training course in various SDF bases each year.



General



GSDF



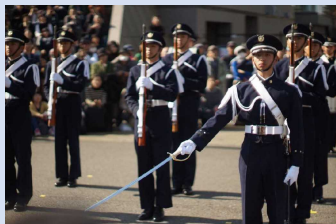
MSDF



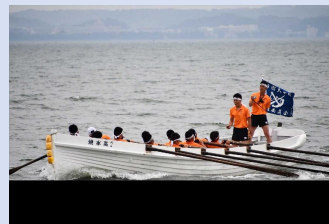
ASDF

【 Extracurricular Activities 】

In General, all cadets are required to join one of the sports clubs. These are held after classes on weekdays and on holidays, and cadets are actively involved in exchanges with other universities through sports and other activities.



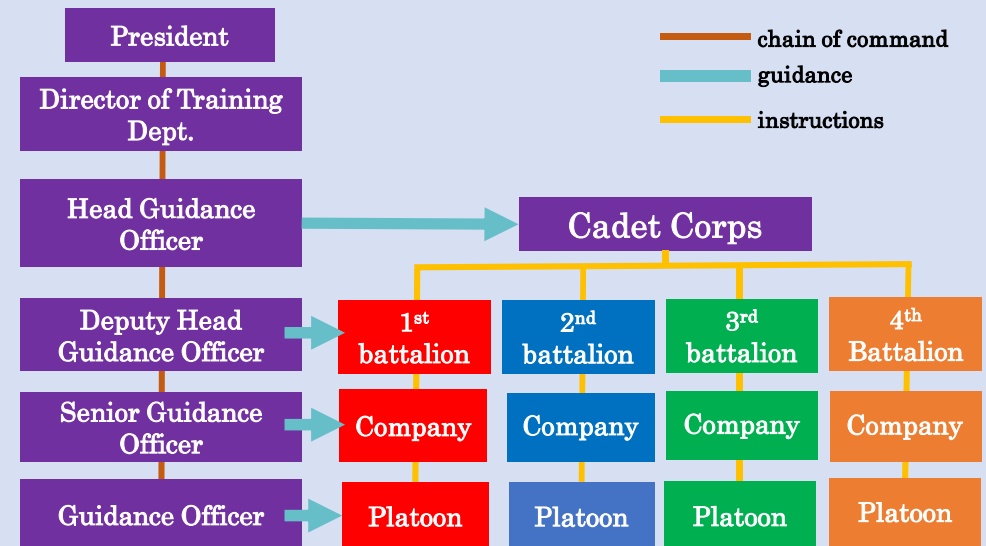
GOH(Guard of Honor)



Cutter

【Cadet Corps】

The Cadet Corps is an organization whose purpose is to deepen mutual understanding among students, to promote harmony and solidarity, to facilitate their communal life, and to helping them to be future leaders.



The Cadet Corps is composed of four battalions. Each battalion has four companies; and each company has three platoons. (About 40 cadets belong to one platoon.)

4. About ICC

ICC is the International Cadets' Conference hosted by the NDA. Some cadets from other countries are invited to this conference. The purpose of ICC is to promote mutual understanding and trust that will lead to the future security of Japan and other countries through discussions on international affairs and security. We place emphasis on the following two points.



1. Provide students with opportunities for international exchange (Cultivate an international mindset)
2. Expand students' international perspectives and improve their awareness of international affairs and language skills

----- 《Themes of Past ICC》 -----

17 th ICC	Leadership Matters: How to Develop Leaders in the New/Uncertain Era
18 th ICC	The Time We Become Leaders –Our Future for the Coming Decades-
19 th ICC	The Borderless Battlefield Together We Lead
20 th ICC	Challenges of Military Leadership in the Changing Battle Fields
21 st ICC	To be Leaders
22 nd ICC	To be Leaders: Changing World, Same Values
23 rd ~24 th ICC	(Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
25 th ICC	To be Leaders: Changing World, Same Values
26 th ICC	Various Perspective on the Future Security

5. Main Theme & Plenary Session

~Theme~

Various Perspective on the Future Security

The purpose of this session is to share each country's position and values to facilitate smooth communications and discussions during the subcommittees. In order to discuss various topics, it is of utmost importance to first deepen our understanding of each other's values. By understanding each other's similarities and differences through the presentations, we will be able to have a deeper discussion in the subcommittees on the following day.

The theme of this year's plenary session is the same as the conference theme: "Various Perspective on the Future Security". The forms of warfare are becoming more diversified, and without reforming the security system depending on the times, neither national security nor international security can be improved. At this ICC, we need to discuss the future of security and how to respond to new technologies and new domains from multiple perspectives.

In the plenary sessions, participants from each country will give a presentation on the current security environment from the four perspectives set by each subcommittee. We sincerely hope that this plenary session will be fruitful for all cadets attending this ICC.



6. Invited Countries

- Australia
Australian Defence Force Academy
- Canada
Royal Military Collage of Canada
- France
École Navale
- Germany
German Air Force Officer School
- India
National Defence Academy
- Italy
Italian Army Military Academy
- Republic of Korea
Korea Air Force Academy
- United Kingdom
Royal Air Force Officer Training Academy
- United States of America
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy
United States Air Force Academy
University of North Georgia



7. Keynote Speaker



IKEDA Tokuhiro

Vice Admiral (Ret.) JMSDF
Director of National Security
Institute, Fujitsu Defense &
National Security, Ltd

1981	Graduated from NDA and joined MSDF.
2012-2014	Commander, Fleet Escort Force.
2014-2015	Commandant, Sasebo District.
2015-2016	Commandant, Kure District.
2016	Retired from MSDF.
2018-2020	Senior adviser, National Security Secretariat.
2019-2020	Member of MDA PT, National Headquarters for Ocean Policy.
2021-2023	Senior Fellow, Asia Center, Harvard University.
Currently	Member of Indo-Pacific Study Group, Japan Institute of International Affairs. Member of "Japan-U.S. Alliance Study", Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

8. Each Subcommittees



Theme of Subcommittee
Role of the Military

Chairperson
MAEDA Ryoma

Service: GSDF
Battalion: 1st Battalion
Specialty: Public Policy
Club: Kendo

This year, our subcommittee will be presenting various aspects of the military from different countries to deepen mutual understanding. Today, when the distinction between peacetime and contingencies has disappeared, there is an increasing need for a renewed understanding of the role of the armed forces. Therefore, we will introduce the activities of the armed forces in Japan and the environment surrounding them to deepen the understanding of what the armed forces should be.



Theme of Subcommittee
**Future Military
Forces in Space Field**

Chairperson
ONO Anju

Service: ASDF
Battalion: 2nd Battalion
Specialty: Earth and Ocean Sciences
Club: Handball

In recent years, the use of space fields has become an essential part of the infrastructure of both the public and private sectors. Space has already been positioned as an “operational domain” and space security has become an issue for Japan and other countries. The technical role of the Self-Defense Forces and the military in space security will be discussed to ensure the stable use of space fields. Approximately 70% of the cadets at the National Defense Academy are science majors, and many of them are less familiar with law and international relations, which are often on the ICC agenda. Future Military Forces in Space Field subcommittee is attracting attention as a new area of security as well as a popular scientific field of study. We hope that more cadets will become interested in ICC and acquire an understanding of international affairs and diverse values, which are essential for cadets, as they enjoy discussing space fields.



Theme of Subcommittee
**Future Security
Envisioned by LAWS**

Chairperson
ASAMA Yukito

Service: GSDF
Battalion: 3rd Battalion
Specialty: International Relations
Club: Kendo

I am ASAMA Yukito, this year's 3rd Battalion ICC Chairperson. The theme of our subcommittee is "Future Security Envisioned by LAWS (Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems)". In recent years, unmanned and AI-equipped weapons have been developed and deployed in actual warfare. Among them, LAWS is one of the weapons that has attracted the most attention. On November 1 last year, the first committee of the UN General Assembly held a discussion on LAWS. Our subcommittee will discuss the combat procedures and operational modalities of LAWS by analyzing them from the perspective of international law and granting specific situations.



Theme of Subcommittee
**Relationship
between Soldier and
Civilian**

Chairperson
USAMI Matsuri

Service: GSDF
Battalion: 4th Battalion
Specialty: Applied Physics
Club: Hand Ball

The current global security environment has become more diverse and complex due to the emergence of new domains, technologic advancements and transformations in the international society. In such circumstances, we believe that nations need to redefine their civil-military relationship. To effectively respond to the ever-changing nature of modern warfare, cooperation between the military and civilians at various stages, including recruitment, cutting-edge technology, and strategy, is indispensable.

As officer candidates, we envision becoming the core of future armed forces, and therefore, it is essential for us to cultivate a foundation for contemplating civil-military relations. We hope that this conference can contribute to that goal by addressing relevant topics.