



News Release

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Lieutenant General Koichi Isobe Joins Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA as a Distinguished Senior Fellow

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA), a leading U.S.-Japan think tank, has named **Lieutenant General Koichi Isobe (JGSDF, Ret.)** a distinguished senior fellow (non-resident).



General Isobe served for thirty-five years in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF). Currently, he is a strategic advisor for Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., as well as the JGSDF advisor for Yamasakura Exercise. His previous senior fellowships include the Harvard University Asia Center (July 2017 to June 2019) and the Asia Pacific Initiative (July 2017 to June 2021).

In his final two years of service, General Isobe was commander of the Eastern Army, an area of responsibility that covers the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, ten prefectures, and almost half of the Japanese population. During his tenure, he deployed more than one hundred thousand Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) personnel in three big disasters: October 2013's typhoon flood and landslide on Izu-Oshima Island, February 2014's record-breaking snowfall in the Kanto region, and September 2014's volcanic eruption at Mt. Ontake.

Unique among JSDF general and flag officers, General Isobe held senior Joint Staff positions twice: as director J-5 (July 2009 - August 2011) and vice chief of staff (August 2012 - August 2013). In addition, he served as a linchpin of Japan-U.S. military coordination via Operation Tomodachi during the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011 while serving as J-5. As vice chief of staff, General Isobe initiated the Amphibious Warfare Study Forum among the JSDF three-service senior leaders.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant of the JGSDF, General Isobe attended the National Defense Academy (JSDF's three-service joint military academy) and was a helicopter aviator who flew OH-6 and CH-47. After graduation from Command and General Staff College, JGSDF, he served at the Japan-U.S. Security Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (August 1989 - August 1991). His command positions included 9th Division Aviation Squadron, Central Readiness Force, 7th Armored Division, and Eastern Army.

General Isobe earned a master's degree in military studies from Marine Corps University, where his thesis earned the Brigadier A. W. Hammett Award. He also received a master of science degree in national resource strategy from National Defense University. General Isobe's awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

For further information, please contact Associate Communications Officer Kathryn Bubolz at kbubolz@spfusa.org.

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About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA) is a non-partisan 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to deepening the understanding of and strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and Japan for the benefit of a free and open international community. Its activities focus on security and diplomacy, through exchanges, dialogue, analysis, publications, and networking. Follow us on X, formerly Twitter, @SasakawaUSA and visit our website at [Sasakawa USA](https://www.sasakawausa.org).