

# *Embassy of Japan*

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## *Press Release*

### *Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron Kashima visits Majuro*

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Date: October 13, 2021  
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron Kashima made an historic first visit to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and was escorted by Sea Patrol to the Delap Dock. It was welcomed with people waving both Japan and the Marshall Islands flags, while cadets aboard the training squadron performed a Marshallese tune “Kotor Line in” upon approaching.

Training squadron Kashima conducts international training cruise every year for newly commissioned officers to develop their seamanship through various training at sea, foster their international perspectives and promote friendship with port call countries. Kashima departed Kure City in Hiroshima Prefecture at the end of August and called at Nome, Dutch Harbor, and Hawaii in the United States before calling at Majuro. Kashima docked at the Delap Dock on October 13 but its crew members did not disembark due to COVID-19 preventive measures. The vessel is scheduled to depart Majuro on October 14, call at the waters off Weno Island in the Federated States of Micronesia before returning to Hiroshima Prefecture in late October.

Upon arrival at the Delap Dock, a virtual courtesy call to Honorable Casten Nemra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, was made by Rear Admiral ISHIMAKI Yoshiyasu, Commander of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron.

Rear Admiral ISHIMAKI expressed his gratitude to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for accepting the training squadron’s port visit despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 preventive measures. Rear Admiral ISHIMAKI emphasized that the key to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region lies in a “free and open ocean” and the Maritime Self-Defense Force will continue to work for sustainable maritime order based on rule of law.

Honorable Casten Nemra warmly welcomed Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force’s first visit to Majuro, emphasizing that the visit demonstrates not only strong bilateral relationship but also historical ties between Japan and the Marshall Islands. Minister Nemra expressed his hope that the visit by Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force will continue to call at the Marshall Islands and looked forward to future visits.

**For more information, please contact:**

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Photo credit: Sea Patrol



