UTSA’s East Asia Institute Presents:
Japan-U.S. Inseparable Bond: Past, Today, Future
Perspectives on Security & Military Relations

The East Asia Institute (EAI) will host Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Koichiro Bansho who will be giving a lecture entitled “Japan-U.S. Inseparable Bond: Past, Today, Future” Perspectives on Security & Military Relations from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 in the HUC Travis Room (UC 2.202) on UTSA’s main campus. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Lt. Gen. Koichiro Bansho will speak and explain the importance of the Japan-U.S. inseparable bond from the historical and security perspectives. He will go over the history of the alliance between the two countries, look at past and present relations, and talk about future of the alliance going forward.

Bansho, a retired lieutenant general from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), started his military career as an officer in 1980 with the Infantry and Ranger Specialty after graduating from the National Defense Academy.

After completing the Command and General Staff College, in 1989 he was assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as military staff. Bansho also graduated from the U.S. Army War College (Master of Strategic Studies) in 2000, then became the Chief of the Public Affairs Office for the Ground Staff Office (GSO).

Bansho commanded the first Japanese Contingent to Iraq which was deployed in al-Samawah in 2004. After his service as Chief at the Public Affairs Office of the GSO, Bansho was assigned as a Commandant of the JGSDF Officer Candidate School. He then became the Director of Policy and Programs Department (G5) at GSO in 2009. In addition, Bansho was the Chief of Japan-U.S. Bilateral Coordination Center for the first ever Japan-U.S. bilateral disaster relief operation known as “Operation Tomodachi,” which was created when Japan suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.

After his missions for G5 and the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operation, Bansho was assigned as the Commanding General of the 3rd Division in 2011, where he then
was assigned to the Vice Chief of Staff of the JGSDF in 2012, followed by taking command of the Western Army responsible for the defense of Southwestern region of Japan from 2013 to 2015.

After serving Japan for 35 year and retiring from the JGSDF, Bansho assumed the position of Senior Adviser to the Marubenni Corporation on December of 2015, and has been serving as a member of the Advisory Board of the Nation Security, Secretariat, and Cabinet Secretariat since Sept. 2016.

For more information regarding the event, please contact the East Asia Institute at 210.458.8550, eai@utsa.edu, or visit the EAI’s homepage at http://www.utsa.edu/eai.

The UTSA East Asia Institute’s mission is to promote appreciation and understanding of East Asian societies and cultures both on campus and in the community through research, outreach, networking, education, student/faculty exchange, and business development and cooperation. The East Asia Institute organizes seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, film festivals, visual art exhibitions as well as bringing in performing art groups from China, Japan, Korea, and other Asian nations. It also encourages faculty research collaborations both within UTSA and with participating East Asian university researchers.