



111207-N-TO330-146 AYASE, Japan (Dec. 07, 2011) – Capt. Eric Gardner, commanding officer of Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi pounds mochi with Rear Adm. Satoshi Kikuchi of Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) during a Mochi Pounding party at the JMSDF Gym on NAF Atsugi. JMSDF invited U.S. Naval personnel to participate in this end of the year tradition. The JMSDF and U.S. Navy participate in both on-base training exercises and social events throughout the year, strengthening ties between the two nations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Vivian Blakely/Released)