

【Press Release】

April 28 2026
Air Staff Office

Japan-U.S. Bilateral Search and Rescue Training (Cope Angel 26)

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and the United States Forces conducted bilateral search and rescue training to enhance the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan–U.S. Alliance. The details are as follows:

1. Purpose

Enhance the tactical proficiency of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and the Japan–U.S. bilateral response capabilities.

2. Dates

Apr 20 - Apr 27, 2026

3. Location

Naha Air Base and its surrounding waters and airspace

4. Participating Units

- a. JASDF: U-125A and UH-60J, Air Rescue Wing
- b. U.S. Forces: HH-60W, 18th Wing
MQ-9, 319th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron
Safety Boat, III Marine Expeditionary Force

5. Training

Search and rescue training