

(Press Release)

June 26, 2026
Air Staff Office

Participation in Royal Australian Air Force-hosted Multilateral Exercise “Pitch Black 26”

The Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) will participate in Pitch Black 26, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), as follows:

1. Purpose
Enhance the tactical proficiency of units, improve Japan-United States-Australia trilateral interoperability, and deepen mutual understanding with the participating countries.
2. Date
July 17 to August 7, 2026
(Period from deployment to redeployment: July 15 to August 14)
3. Location
RAAF Base Darwin and the surrounding airspace
4. Participant
6 F-35As, 3rd Air Wing
2 E-2Ds, Airborne Warning and Control Wing
Approximately 250 members
5. Training
Tactical Attack, Air Defense, Air Combat and Air-to-Air Refueling