

(Press Release)

June 26, 2026
Air Staff Office

Japan-United States-Australia Trilateral Exercise “Southern Cross 26”

The Koku-Jieitai (JASDF) will conduct exercise with the United States Air Force (USAF) and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as follows:

1. Purpose

Enhance the tactical proficiency of units, strengthen the Japan-United States bilateral response capabilities, and improve Japan-United States-Australia trilateral interoperability.

2. Date

July 6 to July 16, 2026

(Period from deployment to redeployment: June 23 to July 17)

3. Location

RAAF Base Darwin, RAAF Base Tindal and their surrounding airspace

4. Participant

6 F-35As, 3rd Air Wing

2 E-2Ds, Airborne Warning and Control Wing

1 KC-46A, 3rd Tactical Airlift Wing

Approximately 290 members

5. Training

Tactical Attack, Air Defense, Air-to-Ground Bombing, Air-to-Air Refueling and Joint Maintenance