



JS CHOKAI Departs to the U.S.

JS CHOKAI will undergo modifications and conduct crew training in the United States from September 26, 2025, to mid-September 2026 to acquire Tomahawk launch capabilities.

Prior to departure, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted a Tomahawk dummy munition loading training with support from the U.S. Navy.

The Ministry of Defense (JMOD) will continue to work for early building of stand-off defense capabilities.



※These photos show Japan-U.S. personnel conducting a Tomahawk dummy munition loading training prior to departure.



DM Nakatani Pays a Courtesy call on the President of Sri Lanka

On September 29, then-Defense Minister Nakatani paid a courtesy call on the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Disanayaka in Tokyo.

DM Nakatani and President Disanayaka welcomed the progress of defense cooperation between the two nations under the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges signed in 2019. They also concurred that strengthening bilateral cooperation including in the area of defense is essential for peace and stability of the entire region, in light of increasingly complex and unpredictable regional and global security environment.

President Disanayaka expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the assistance extended under the Official Security Assistance (OSA) initiative and welcomed the progress as part of the efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of security.

DM Nakatani, in turn, expressed the intention of Japan to steadily implement

unit-to-unit cooperation and personnel exchanges, as agreed with Deputy Minister of Defence Jayasekara during his visit to Sri Lanka in May.

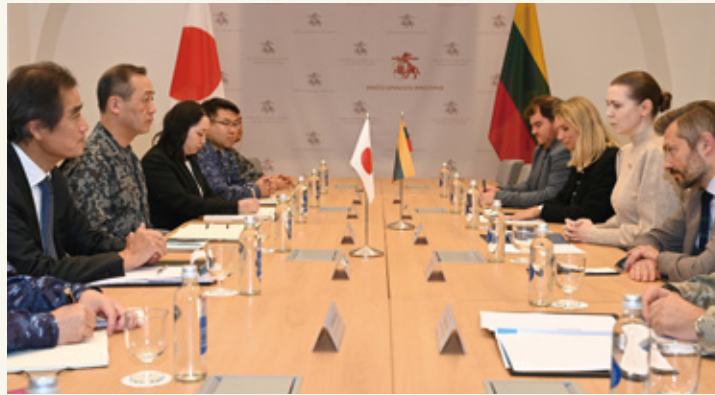
Both sides agreed to further develop defense cooperation and exchanges between the two countries.



Chief of Staff, JJS, Visits to Lithuania

From October 2 to 3, General Uchikura, Chief of Staff, Japan Joint Staff (JJS), made an official visit to the Republic of Lithuania at the invitation of General Vaikšnoras, then-Chief of Defence of Lithuania. This marked the first-ever visit to Lithuania by a Chief of Staff, JJS.

During their meeting, the two generals exchanged views on the strategic environment and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing Japan-Lithuania defense cooperation, particularly in the areas of cyber security and special operations. They also shared the understanding that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is inseparable, emphasizing the importance of strengthening ties between Japan and its like-minded partners in Europe.



As part of the visit, Gen Uchikura paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ms. Šakalienė, Minister of National Defence of Lithuania. He welcomed Lithuania's growing interest in the Indo-Pacific region, noting the country's adoption of the "Strategy for Security and Defence Engagement in the Indo-Pacific Region" in 2025 and the successful Japan-Lithuania Defense Ministers meeting held in May.

To deepen his understanding of Lithuania's defense capabilities, Gen Uchikura also visited the Mechanized Infantry Brigade "Iron Wolf," the Lithuanian Land Force, and the National Cyber Security Centre.

Lithuania is a strategic partner of Japan. The two countries signed the Japan-Lithuania Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges in October 2023, further solidifying their collaboration. The JJS remains committed to deepening this partnership and contributing to regional and global security.

PVM Kaneko Visits to Bulgaria

On September 23–24, then-Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Kaneko visited Bulgaria and met with Minister of Defence Zapryanov and Deputy Minister of Defence Iliev.

They exchanged views on bilateral defense cooperation, including high-level exchanges, collaboration through NATO and the EU, and support for Ukraine, based on the shared recognition that Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security are inseparable. Both sides affirmed their commitment to further strengthening defense ties under the "Strategic Partnership between Japan and Bulgaria" signed in May 2025.

During the visit, PVM Kaneko toured Graf Ignatievo Air Base, where he observed fighter aircraft. He also paid courtesy calls on President Radev and Deputy Prime Minister Donchev, reaffirming their intention to expand bilateral defense cooperation.

Additionally, PVM Kaneko visited the NATO Centre of Excellence for Crisis Management and Disaster Response (CMDR COE) and the G.S. Rakovski National Defence College. At the College, he delivered a speech on the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing the shared recognition of the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security.



Chief of Staff, JGSDF, Participates in IPACC

General Arai, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), visited Malaysia from September 22 to 25, to attend the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)—his first overseas trip in this role.

Ahead of the conference, he held bilateral meetings with General Clark (U.S. Army Pacific), Major General Ozanne (French Army), and General Delage (Sri Lanka Army) to reinforce ties with allied and like-minded nations, deepen mutual trust, and discuss future cooperation.

On September 25, GEN Arai met with General Muhammad (Malaysian Army), General Stuart (Australian Army), General Nafarrete (Philippine Army), General Walker (British Army), and General Boivin (Canadian Army). These talks focused on continuing and strengthening defense relationships and shared efforts toward regional peace and stability.

He also held a bilateral meeting with General George, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, to discuss the future of Japan-U.S. military cooperation and the development of mutual trust.

Through these engagements and visits to Malaysian Army units, GEN Arai reaffirmed the JGSDF's commitment to contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.



Chief of Staff, JMSDF, Meets Chief of Indonesian Navy

On September 29, Admiral Saito, Chief of Staff, JMSDF, met with ADM Ali, Chief of Indonesian Navy, to discuss how Japan and Indonesia can further strengthen the maritime collaboration towards a Free and Open International Order.

The JMSDF will promote multilateral and multi-layered defense cooperation and exchanges with Indonesian Navy.



Chief of Staff, JASDF, Meets Deputy Chief of Royal Australian Air Force

On October 1, General Morita, Chief of Staff, Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), and Lieutenant General Momma, Vice Chief of Staff, JASDF, held a meeting with Air Vice-Marshal Reynolds, AM, Deputy Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, who visited Ichigaya, where Air Staff Office locates in Tokyo, in conjunction with the ongoing trilateral training “Bushido Guardian 25” (as described on page 7) at Misawa Air Base in the northern part of Japan (Aomori Prefecture).

Through their discussion, they reaffirmed the strong bilateral and trilateral cooperation among Japan, Australia and the U.S., and expressed their commitment to pursuing further progress across various areas. They also shared expectations for the achievements of Bushido Guardian 25, in which F-35As from the three nations are participating.

The JASDF will continue to develop its partnership with the Royal Australian Air Force and contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.



Bilateral HA/DR Exercise “Doshin-Bayanihan5-25”

The JASDF conducted a Japan-Philippines bilateral exercise from October 7 to 11 in the Philippines. The exercise included airdrop operations, load/offload training, mass casualty training, and subject matter expert exchanges on aeromedical evacuation. Through these activities, the JASDF and the Philippine Air Force improved their capabilities in Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR) and strengthened cooperation between the two air services.

During the exercise, the JASDF transported support goods prepared by the Philippines from Tacloban Air Base (Leyte Island) to Mactan Air Base (Cebu), in response to the earthquake in Cebu.

Japan and the Philippines applied the Japan-Philippines Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)—which came into force on September 11—for the first time to the bilateral HA/DR exercise “Doshin-Bayanihan5-25” and the above-mentioned transportation.



Japan-Vietnam Capacity Building Project on Underwater Unexploded Ordnance Clearance

From September 15 to 22, the JMOD and the JMSDF conducted a capacity building project on underwater unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance in Vietnam. This initiative, which has been ongoing for three years, culminated in ten Vietnamese participants successfully passing practical exams. Through this project, Japan and Vietnam have further deepened their bilateral defense ties.



Japan-Cambodia Capacity Building Project on PKO Engineering

From September 24 to 29, the JMOD and the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) invited five personnel from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces to Japan for a capacity building project focused on peacekeeping operations (PKO) engineering. The program featured lectures on crane operation, safety management in construction, and techniques for conducting drone surveys.

Japan remains committed to deepening its partnership with Cambodia and will continue to promote regional peace and stability through such collaborative projects.



Bilateral Field Training Exercise “Resolute Dragon 25”

From September 11 to 25, the JGSDF and the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) conducted the field training exercise “Resolute Dragon 25” in Japan to enhance deterrence, response capabilities, and interoperability in island defense operations.

The exercise began with bilateral counter-landing training simulating an island invasion, held at Hijyudai (Oita Prefecture, western Japan), Oyanohara (Kumamoto Prefecture, also western Japan), and Yausubetsu (Hokkaido, northern Japan) Maneuver Areas. Coordination between the JGSDF’s Cross-Domain Operations (CDO) and the USMC’s Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO) strengthened joint operational skills.

Live-fire training was also conducted, involving the JGSDF’s 2nd Artillery Brigade, Middle Army Artillery Regiment, the USMC, and the U.S. Army, improving proficiency and interoperability.

French Army officers observed the training at sites including Subcamp Takayubaru (Kumamoto Prefecture), promot-

ing discussion and understanding of Japan-U.S. alliance capabilities and Japan-France cooperation.

The exercise concluded on September 25, successfully enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of both forces. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to Indo-Pacific regional stability and expressed gratitude to local communities for their support.



Multilateral Exercise “SAMASAMA2025”



From October 13 to 14, the JMSDF participated in the multilateral exercise “SAMASAMA 2025” hosted by the U.S. Navy (USN) and the Philippine Navy (PN). JS Onami, which is currently forward-deployed for counter piracy operations in the Middle East, participated in the exercise.

The exercise “SAMASAMA,” meaning “together” in Tagalog, has been hosted by the USN and the PN for the purpose of strengthening cooperation among the participating countries and ensuring stability in the region.

Through the exercise, the JMSDF improved its tactical capabilities and strengthened cooperation with the participating navies and other military forces. Strengthening the so-called mini-lateral relationship between Japan, the U.S. and the Philippines is as important as the Japan-U.S. bilateral relationship in order to maintain and strengthen rules-based international maritime order in the Indo-Pacific.

The JMSDF will further enhance cooperation with the allied and like-minded navies through defense cooperation and exchanges, particularly through multi-lateral exercises.





Trilateral Training “Bushido Guardian 25”

The JASDF conducted the trilateral training “Bushido Guardian 25” with the Royal Australian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force from September 29 to October 10 in Japan.

On September 30, Lieutenant General Yajima, Commander of Air Defense Command, and Air Vice-Marshal Reynolds, AM, Deputy Chief of Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, visited Misawa Air Base. Together with Colonel Davidson, Commander of the 35th Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force, they met with the detachments. The leaders reaffirmed the importance of cooperation among Japan, the U.S., and Australia, highlighting the historic nature of the trilateral training taking place in Japan and the involvement of F-35As from all three nations.

The JASDF will continue to enhance interoperability through Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral training, working closely with the U.S. Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force to contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

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Atlantic Eagles

From September 14 to October 1, the JASDF conducted the “Atlantic Eagles” mission—a landmark friendly visit to North America and Europe. The mission involved four F-15 fighters, several transport and tanker aircraft, and approximately 180 personnel, taking part in visits to air bases in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany. This marked the first time JASDF fighters reached Europe and Canada.

DM Nakatani, in his September 12 press conference, emphasized the significance of dispatching JASDF aircraft for goodwill visits and exchanges, noting that Canada and European nations have increased their engagement in the Indo-Pacific. He highlighted that this mission demonstrates a shared recognition of the inseparable security ties between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. At the recent Japan-UK defense ministerial meeting, both sides welcomed the deployment of Self-Defense Force fighters in Europe, reaffirming the spirit of international cooperation and the vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.



Throughout the mission, the JASDF engaged in bilateral activities, media events, and unit exchanges with local air forces, strengthening defense cooperation. “Atlantic Eagles” symbolizes Japan’s commitment to global partnerships and its growing role in promoting peace and stability in the region under the recognition that the security of Euro-Atlantic and of the Indo-Pacific are inseparable and interconnected.



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