

# JOINT STAFF PRESS RELEASE

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## Japan-US Bilateral Joint Exercise "Keen Sword 21 (FTX)"

Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and U.S. Forces will conduct a bilateral field exercise "Keen Sword 21" as follows.

This exercise, based on ironclad Japan-U.S. relationship, aims to ensure the combat readiness and enhance interoperability of both forces through various trainings. The JSDF and U.S. Forces are maintaining necessary posture and capability to contribute to peace and stability in the region by conducting exercises like Keen Sword.

### 1 Purpose of the Exercise

JSDF will conduct an exercise on SDF joint operation and Japan-US bilateral response to improve SDF combat readiness and Japan-U.S. interoperability.

### 2 Period

From 26th Oct. 2020 to 5th Nov. 2020

### 3 Place

- (1) Sea and air spaces surrounding Japan, JSDF installations, U.S. Forces installations in Japan
- (2) Tanegashima Island (JSDF only), Gajazima Island (JSDF and U.S. Forces)

### 4 Director of the exercise

#### (1) JSDF

Vice Admiral SHIMO Junichi,  
Director General, Operations Department, Japan Joint Staff

#### (2) U.S. Forces

Rear Admiral (Lower half) Michael Boyle,  
Director, Maritime Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet

## 5 Exercise items with high priority

- (1) Joint operations pertaining to amphibious operation
- (2) Ground Operations
- (3) Maritime Operations
- (4) Air Operations
- (5) Joint Logistics Support
- (6) Response to Cyber Attacks
- (7) Joint Electronic Warfare
- (8) Space Situation Awareness

## 6 Major participating units

### (1) JSDF

- Japan Joint Staff, Ground Staff, Maritime Staff, Air Staff, and Defense Intelligence Headquarters
- Ground Self-Defense Force  
Ground Component Command, each Army, etc.
- Maritime Self-Defense Force  
Self-Defense Fleet, each District, etc.
- Air Self-Defense Force  
Air Defense Command, Air Support Command, etc.

### (2) U.S. Forces

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Air Force, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, U.S. Forces Japan, etc.

### (3) Others

A ship from the Royal Canadian Navy is going to participate in some parts of the exercise.

## 7 Approximate number of participants

- (1) JSDF: 37,000 personnel, 20 ships, 170 aircraft
- (2) U.S. Forces: 9,000 personnel
- (3) Canada: 1 ship

## 8 Others

- (1) Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise began in FY 1985. Since then, JSDF and U.S. Forces have been holding the exercise annually with few exceptions (FTX and CPX alternately). KS21 marks 15<sup>th</sup> FTX.
- (2) JSDF will invite military attachés to Japan from United Kingdom, France,

Canada, Australia, India, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea to observe the exercise.