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Joint Staff

(Announcement)

Japan-ROK-U.S. conduct second Exercise Freedom Edge

AT SEA - Japan, the Republic of Korea, and United States begin the second iteration of exercise Freedom Edge (Freedom Edge 24-2), a trilateral multi-domain exercise, Nov. 13, 2024.

Freedom Edge continues to demonstrate defensive posture and unbreakable will of Japan, the ROK, and the U.S. to promote trilateral multi-domain interoperability and protect freedom for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, including the Korean Peninsula.

This exercise reflects outcomes of Freedom Edge, which was executed in June among the three partner nations for the first time, as concurred at the Camp David Summit in August 2023. Freedom Edge 24-2 aligns to and operates in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Trilateral Security Cooperation Framework, signed in July by the trilateral defense ministers. At the signing, the defense leaders renewed their commitment to contribute to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, in the Indo-Pacific region, and beyond.

Ships and aircrafts from Japan, the ROK, and the U.S., participate in the exercise to include: Japan's JS HAGURO, P-3, F-15, F-2 and E-767; Republic of Korea's ROKS Seoae-Ryu-Seong-ryong, ROKS Chungmugong-Yi-Sun-sin, P-3, F-35 and F-15; and the United States' USS George Washington, USS Higgins, USS McCampbell, USS Dewey, P-8, F-35, F-18 and KC-135.

This iteration demonstrates state-of-the-art air defense capabilities with the integration of 5th generation fighters into a sophisticated multi-domain defense infrastructure. Their incorporation into complex Ballistic Missile Defense, Air Defense, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Counter Piracy and Defensive Cyber trainings, ensures that their combined military and self-defense forces can operate together at the highest level against any threat.

The three countries will continue to closely cooperate to further expand their cooperation in a complex security environment.