



April 2026
Joint Staff Office

Participation in the U.S.-Philippines hosted Multinational Exercise BALIKATAN 26

The Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) will participate in the U.S.-Philippine-hosted Multinational Exercise BALIKATAN 26, as outlined below.

This exercise is a multinational exercise jointly hosted by the United States and the Philippines, and the JSDF has participated continuously since first joining the exercise as an observer in 2012.

This year, with the application of the Japan-Philippines Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), the JSDF will conduct field training involving the use of weapons within Philippine territory.

Through this exercise, the JSDF will seek to maintain and enhance their joint operational capabilities, while strengthening cooperation with the United States, the Philippines, and other participating countries, thereby contributing to the creation of a security environment that does not tolerate unilateral changes to the status quo by force.

1. Objective

The JSDF will participate in the U.S.-Philippine-hosted Multinational Exercise BALIKATAN 26 to maintain and enhance its joint operational capabilities for cross-domain operations, and to contribute to the creation of a security environment that does not tolerate unilateral changes to the status quo by force.

2. Period

From Monday, 20 April 2026 to Friday, 8 May 2026

3. Location

Republic of the Philippines

4. Participating Countries (excluding Japan)

The Philippines, the United States, Australia, Canada, France and New Zealand

5. Participating Units, etc.

Approximately 1,400 personnel from the Joint Staff Office, Ground Staff Office, Ground Component Command, Northern Army, JGSDF Fuji School, JGSDF Anti Aircraft Artillery School, JGSDF Logistics Command, Self-Defense Fleet, Information Warfare Command, Air Staff Office, Air Defense Command, Air Support Command, Air Training Command, Air Communication System & Wing, Iruma Hospital, JSDF Joint Operations Command and JSDF Cyber Defense Command as well as JSDF assets including the DDH *Ise* and DD *Ikazuchi*, the LST *Shimokita*, C-130H transport aircraft, US-2 Amphibious Search and Rescue Aircraft, and Type 88 Surface-to-Ship Missile Systems, will participate.

6. Training Events

- (1) Multinational Maritime Exercise
- (2) Amphibious Operations Exercise
- (3) Counter-Landing Live-Fire Exercise
- (4) Maritime Strike Exercise
- (5) Integrated Air and Missile Defense Exercise
- (6) Cyber Attack Response Exercise
- (7) Joint Medical Operations Exercise
- (8) Airfield Damage Repair Exercise

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Ministry of Defense