



May 22, 2026

Participation in “Valiant Shield 2026”

The Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) will participate in the U.S.-hosted multilateral exercise “Valiant Shield 2026” as outlined below.

Valiant Shield is a biennial field training exercise conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces in the Western Pacific. Since 2024, it has been conducted as a multilateral exercise, and the JSDF has participated since that year. This will be the JSDF’s second participation.

Through participation in this exercise, the JSDF will enhance its tactical capabilities, strengthen coordination with allies and like-minded countries, and further reinforce deterrence and response capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region, thereby contributing to the defense of Japan and the peace and stability of the region.

1 Purpose

To enhance the JSDF’s tactical capabilities, strengthen coordination with allies and like-minded countries, and reinforce deterrence and response capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region.

2 Dates

June 22 (Mon) – July 1 (Wed), 2026

3 Locations

- (1) JSDF facilities and U.S. Forces Japan facilities and areas in Japan
- (2) Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture
Amami City and Tatsugo Town, Oshima District, Kagoshima Prefecture
- (3) Airspace and waters surrounding Japan
- (4) Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
- (5) Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam, and surrounding airspace and waters, Guam

4 Exercise Items

Various tactical exercises

5 Participating units

(1) JSDF

Joint Staff Office, JSDF Joint Operations Command, Ground Component Command, Northern Army, North Eastern Army, Eastern Army, Middle Army, Western Army, Self Defense Fleet, Air Defense Command, Air Support Command, Air Training Command, Air Development and Test Command, Space Operations

Wing, Central Air Base Group, Air Staff College, Air Materiel Command, JSDF Central Hospital, JSDF Iruma Hospital, etc.

(2) U.S.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM)

(3) Other Countries

Multiple like-minded countries are expected to participate in selected training events.