



Sep 29, 2026
Japan Joint Staff

FY2026 Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise "Keen Sword 27"

The Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and U.S. Forces will conduct the FY2026 Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise (Keen Sword 27) as outlined below.

This exercise enhances Japan-U.S. bilateral joint operational capabilities based on the strong Japan-U.S. Alliance.

Through this exercise, the JSDF and U.S. Forces will maintain and strengthen the posture and capabilities necessary to actively contribute to regional peace and stability.

1. Purpose

To train and verify Japan-U.S. joint responses in various contingencies and the JSDF's joint operations, thereby maintain and improve bilateral joint operational capabilities.

2. Period

From Monday, October 19, 2026 to Thursday, October 29, 2026

3. Locations

- (1) JSDF facilities and U.S. military facilities and areas in Japan
- (2) Civilian airports and ports
- (3) Public and private land in Japan
- (4) Sea and airspace surrounding Japan

4. Exercise Controllers

- (1) JSDF: Admiral Tateki Tawara, Commander, JSDF Joint Operations Command
- (2) U.S. Forces: Admiral Stephen Koehler, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

5. Major Training Events

- (1) Integrated Air and Missile Defense Training
- (2) Bilateral Joint Offensive Anti-Ship Operations Training
- (3) Ground Operations Training
- (4) Maritime Operations Training
- (5) Air Operations Training
- (6) Amphibious Operations Training
- (7) Cyber Attack Response
- (8) Information Warfare Training
- (9) Joint Communications Training
- (10) Space Domain Awareness Training

- (11) Joint Electromagnetic Warfare Training
- (12) Joint Logistics Training
- (13) Agile Combat Employment / Distributed Operations Training
- (14) Critical Infrastructure Protection Training
- (15) Experimentation Activities

6. Units participating in the exercise

- (1) JSDF
 - a. Staff Offices and Others
Japan Joint Staff, Ground Staff Office, Maritime Staff Office, Air Staff Office, and Defense Intelligence Headquarters
 - b. Japan Ground Self-Defense Force
Ground Component Command, Regional Armies, etc.
 - c. Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force
Self Defense Fleet, Regional Districts, etc.
 - d. Japan Air Self-Defense Force
Air Defense Command, Air Support Command, etc.
 - e. Joint Units
JSDF Joint Operations Command, JSDF Intelligence Security Command, JSDF Cyber Defense Command, and JSDF Maritime Transport Group, etc.
- (2) Foreign Forces
 - a. U.S. Forces
U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, and U.S. Forces Japan
 - b. Australian Defence Force
Headquarters Joint Operations Command, etc.
 - c. Other Foreign Forces
Canadian Armed Forces, French Armed Forces, German Armed Forces, Royal Netherlands Armed Forces, New Zealand Defence Force, and Armed Forces of the Philippines

7. Scale of Participation (JSDF)

Approximately 45,000 personnel, 6,100 vehicles, 40 vessels, and 260 aircraft

8. Other

The Japan-U.S. Bilateral Joint Exercise began in FY1985 and has been conducted almost annually, alternating between field training exercises and command post exercises. This year's field training exercise marks the 18th iteration.