



PRESS RELEASE

July 10, 2026
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

Japan–NATO Bilateral Exercise

The Overseas Training Cruise units conducted a bilateral exercise with the NATO Maritime Groups as described below in order to strengthen cooperation with NATO.

1. Objectives

- (1) To improve JMSDF's tactical capabilities
- (2) To strengthen cooperation with the NATO Maritime Groups

2. Period

July 8–9

3. Exercise Area

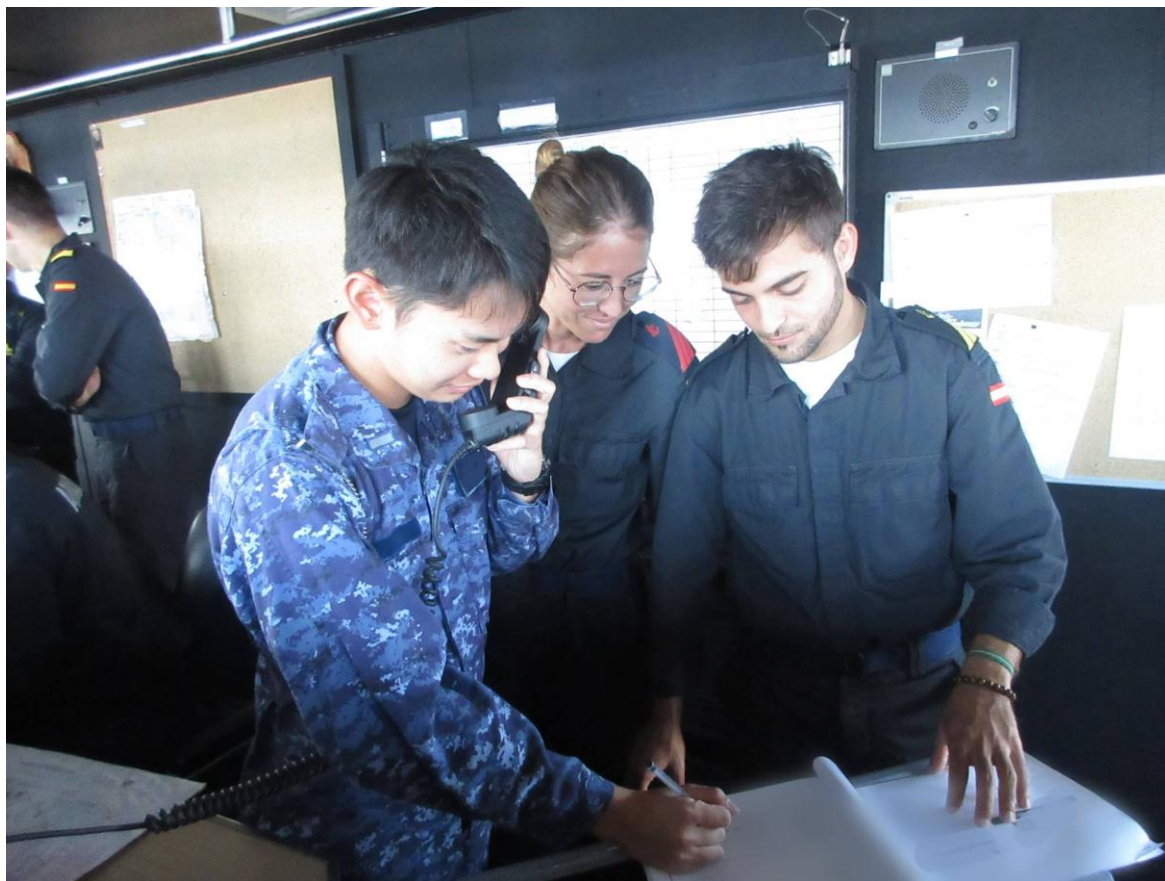
Off the coast of New York

4. Participating Units

- (1) JMSDF: JS *KASHIMA*, JS *YAMAGIRI*
- (2) Standing NATO CTF ATLANTIC:
 - (a) Spanish Navy
ESPS Juan Carlos I, ESPS *CASTILLA*,
ESPS Blas de Lezo, ESPS *Reina Sofia*
ESPS *Patiño*
 - (b) Royal Netherlands Navy
HNLMS *VAN AMSTEL*

5. Type of Exercise

PHOTOEX, Cross Deck, Replenishment at Sea Exercise and LINKEX



Personnel exchange aboard ESPS *Blas de Lezo*



JS YAMAGIRI(left), ESPS *Patiño*(center), JS KASHIMA during Replenishment at Sea Exercise



Scene of PHOTOEX



JMSDF personnel seeing off each vessels