

Embassy of Japan

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Press Release

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force conducts Joint Maritime Training in the Marshall Islands

Date: August 31, 2026
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Friday, August 28, 2026, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted a boarding inspection exercise with the Sea Patrol Division of the Marshall Islands Police Department (MIPD) and other law enforcement agencies of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) on MIRS Jelmae, the patrol vessel donated by Australia. The exercise aimed to improve maritime onboard search techniques through hands-on training to support the RMI's law enforcement efforts against suspicious vessels and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing boats, by addressing the emerging challenge of drug trafficking in the RMI waters and protecting the safety and livelihoods of the people in the RMI.

The JMSDF training team visited Majuro from Monday, August 23, to Saturday, August 29. The visit is part of the JMSDF's Indo Pacific Deployment 2026 under Japan's updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" (see https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/page25e_000278.html). The FOIP initiative aims to make the countries to be more resilient and prosperous together in the Indo-Pacific region based on "freedom", "openness", "diversity", "inclusiveness", and "the rule of law". The five-day joint training demonstrated close multilateral cooperation as a key element of the FOIP, not only for ensuring safe and free maritime travel and fishing for the RMI people, but also for enhancing the peace and stability in the Pacific region.

The training team had worked closely with MIPD and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) advisors and had been in coordination with the Office of the National Security (ONS) and the US Coast Guard in Guam. During their visit to Majuro, the JMSDF team conducted a five-day joint training session, with the Sea Patrol Division, Immigration Office, and Majuro Atoll Local Government (MALGOV) Maritime Police from Monday, August 24, to Friday, August 28.

At the opening, one of the JMSDF members said, "by conducting this joint training under the FOIP, our partnership will be more effective and mutually beneficial." In response, Mr. Harris Kaiko, Chief of Surveillance in the Sea Patrol Division, mentioned that the JMSDF's support helps the RMI protect its sovereignty, its people, and its ocean for future generations.

On Friday, August 28, the closing reception was co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan and the RAN. The reception was attended by Honorable Wisely Zackhras, Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor, Mr. Chris deBrum, Director of the ONS, H.E. SOMA Hirohisa, Ambassador of Japan, and H.E. Paul Wilson, Ambassador of Australia, along with the joint training participants. In their remarks, the VIPs highly commended the collaboration of the RMI law-enforcers, the JMSDF training team, and the RAN advisors and reaffirmed their commitment to the continued multilateral partnership in maritime security.

For more information, please contact:

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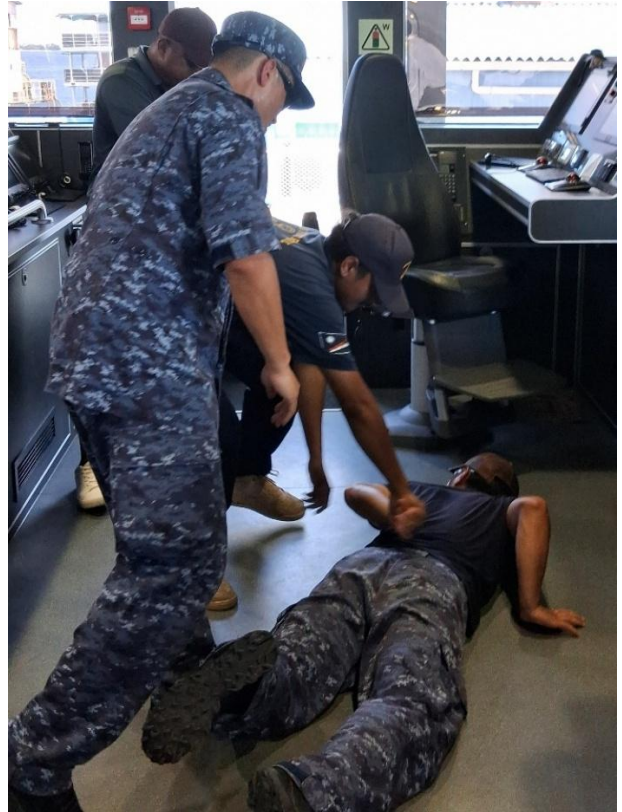
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【Photos】



Onboard training (1)



Onboard training (2)



Onboard Training (3)



Onboard training (4)



Onboard Training (5)



Onboard Training (6)