

USCG and JCG cooperation

USCGC *Kimball* and Japanese Navy training vessel *Kashima* conduct at-sea exercise near Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Over the past year, the United States and Japan have increasingly strengthened their relationship in the maritime domain through the shared mission set of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and the US Coast Guard.

The *Kimball* crew and the JMSDF crew, aboard the Naval Training Vessel *Kashima*, operated alongside one another in the Aleutian Island chain to exchange visual communications, followed by honours, as their respective crews lined their ship's rails for a uniform salute.

This display of maritime cooperation and mutual respect emphasizes both the United States' and Japan's continued commitment to one another and to partnership at sea.

Captain Thomas D'Arcy, CO of *Kimball* commented: *'The Kimball crew welcomed the opportunity to meet the Kashima and conduct a professional exercise at sea.'*

'Seeing the crews aboard the Kimball and the Kashima line the rails for the passing of honours illustrates the spirit of collaboration between the US Coast Guard and Japan's maritime forces. The exercise, movements and communications between our vessels were expertly executed and the salutes exchanged exemplify the strength of our relationship with Japan as a key partner.'

Over the past year, the US and Japan have increasingly strengthened their relationship in the maritime domain through the shared mission set of the JMSDF and the US Coast Guard. This includes search and rescue collaboration with the 14th Coast Guard District in Hawaii and the Japanese Coast Guard Training Ship *Kajima*, as well as exercises between the Japanese Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Cutters *Kimball*, *Munro* and *Bertholf* near the Ogasawara Islands and in the North Pacific, respectively.

The first joint exercise between the *Kashima* crew and a Coast Guard crew occurred in the Bering Sea in September 2020 in the form of a personnel exchange with the US Coast Guard Cutter *Alex Haley*.

Kashima is one of four training ships that belong to the JMSDF and is used to train new officers. About 110 newly-commissioned officers and more than 300 crew members are aboard the ship for its nearly two-month journey from

Hiroshima to Alaska, up to the Arctic and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, then back to Japan.

Picture caption

The US Coast Guard Cutter Kimball and the Japan Naval Training Vessel Kashima transit together during a maritime exercise near Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on 20 September 2021.

US Coast Guard photo. USCG ©