



**JAPAN MARITIME  
SELF-DEFENSE FORCE**



**ROYAL NAVY**



**UNITED STATES NAVY**

### **2016 TRILATERAL MARITIME TALKS**

As Chiefs of three highly capable and like-minded Services, we share a common vision of enhancing the operational effectiveness of our maritime forces through increased cooperation. Based on shared national interests and a collective assessment of the future security environment, we recognize this opportunity to strengthen maritime contributions for achieving mutually desired strategic effects.

Fundamentally, the world has become dramatically more globalized, and this trend is accelerating. We seek a common way ahead that accounts for this reality. For many years now, we have coordinated our operations in the waters off East Africa and through periodic engagements in both Europe and the Western Pacific. But, there is room for deeper cooperation.

Today, we have agreed upon a course, consistent with our shared national interests, which will give our operational commanders additional opportunities to collaborate and cooperate both in exercises and operations.

We believe this increased trilateral cooperation will help secure a future that not only serves the interests of our three nations, but the interests of all nations who depend upon the free flow of commerce and trade through the global maritime commons.

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Maritime Self-Defense Force

Sir Philip Jones  
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*Dated 20 October 2016*