

## North Korea Denounces U.S., South Korea, Japan Drills as War Rehearsal

August 2, 2025

– Categories: Defence & Security



North Korea has strongly criticised recent joint military exercises conducted by the United States, South Korea, and Japan, accusing the allied drills of being rehearsals for a preemptive strike against Pyongyang. The condemnation follows a trilateral maritime training held in international waters south of Korea on July 11, involving warships, aircraft, and missile defense systems from all three countries.

The United States and its allies maintain that the drills are defensive. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command stated the operations were intended to enhance interoperability, ensure regional stability, and prepare for missile threats, particularly from North Korea itself, which continues to conduct ballistic missile launches in defiance of international sanctions.

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense affirmed that the exercises are routine and necessary to counter growing missile threats in the region. Japan's Defence Ministry echoed similar sentiments, calling the trilateral cooperation essential for maintaining deterrence.

The joint drills included coordinated missile-tracking and interception operations, as well as anti-submarine warfare training. The U.S. Navy deployed missile destroyers for the operation, alongside South Korean and Japanese naval assets.

In its response, North Korea warned it would strengthen its own "deterrent posture" and take "necessary countermeasures," although no specific actions were disclosed. This statement comes amid growing concerns that Pyongyang may resume nuclear testing or escalate missile launches as part of its strategy to gain leverage in stalled diplomatic talks.

Regional analysts suggest that North Korea's rhetoric is consistent with past patterns of behaviour in response to allied military activity. However, with growing cooperation between the U.S., South Korea, and Japan, Pyongyang may perceive increasing pressure, leading to more confrontational posturing.

The United States has reiterated its commitment to defend both South Korea and Japan, emphasizing that alliances remain the cornerstone of

peace and deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. Washington also continues to call on North Korea to return to dialogue and abandon its nuclear ambitions in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions.