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## **US, AUSTRALIA AND PHILIPPINES HOLD SECOND JOINT DRILLS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA IN 2026**

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The Straits Times (13 April 2026)

*The US and Australia joined the Philippines for their second joint maritime exercises in the South China Sea in 2026, amid tensions with China in the disputed waterway.*

The drills, held from April 9 to 12, involved warships, fighter jets and surveillance aircraft in a series of coordinated operations to strengthen maritime defence capabilities, the Philippine military said on April 13.

The exercises underscored the deepening defence cooperation among the three nations and their shared commitment to regional security, it said.

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