

DEFENCE NEWS

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021 (TS21) began on 14 July 2021 with activities peaking from 18 to 31 July across Queensland. The Talisman Sabre exercise series is held every two years to test Australian interoperability with the United States and other participating forces in complex warfighting scenarios. TS21 also involved participating forces from Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. The field training component incorporated force preparation (logistic) activities, amphibious landings, ground force manoeuvres, urban operations, air combat and maritime operations. TS21 was a major undertaking for all attending nations and demonstrated the combined capability to achieve large-scale operational outcomes within a COVID-19 safe environment.

Department of Defence, Australia



A United States Marine Corps M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System firepower demonstration during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021 [Source: Corporal Jarrod McAneney, Department of Defence].

Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group 21 (CSG21) is a combined naval force which has deployed via the Mediterranean to the Far East on Operation Fortis from May to December 2021 and will include a freedom-of-navigation passage through the South China Sea. At various times, will include Australian, French, Japanese and United States naval units, among others. This first operational deployment of the carrier strike group since 2011 is the first strike group deployment for the new aircraft carrier, HMS *Queen Elizabeth*. CSG21 also is the largest ever single deployment of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters; its air wing is the largest fifth-generation fighter carrier air wing in the world. CSG21 marks the beginning of the British government's defence and foreign policy tilt towards the Indo-Pacific region.

United Kingdom Ministry of Defence



Left: Canadian frigate HMCS *Calgary* (foreground), in company with USS *America* (left) and Australian frigate HMAS *Parramatta* (right), off the coast of Queensland, during Exercise Talisman Sabre 21 (TS21) on 31 July 2021. More information on TS21 is at p. 17.

[Photo: Corporal Lynette Ai Dang, Department of Defence]