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## **JAPAN, US, SOUTH KOREAN COAST GUARDS HOLD 1ST JOINT DRILL OFF JAPAN'S COAST AS CHINA CONCERNS RISE**

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AP News (6 June 2024)

Mari Yamaguchi

Japanese, U.S. and South Korean coast guard vessels conducted their first three-way drill on Thursday off Japan's coast as the countries strengthen their maritime ties in response to increased assertiveness by China in pressing its territorial claims.

Skirmishes between Chinese and Philippine coast guard vessels have escalated in the South China Sea, triggering fears that the disputes could escalate to an armed conflict between China and the United States, a longtime ally of the Philippines.

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