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U.S. INDOPACOM

VALIANT SHIELD 2026

EXPERIMENTATION CALLING MESSAGE

GENTEXT/REMARKS/ (U) 1. This message solicits Experimentation, Innovation and Demonstration proposals for execution as part of Exercise Valiant Shield 2026 (VS26). This message outlines the Joint Exercise Life Cycle (JELC) outputs that directly support the Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command (COMUSINDOPACOM) priorities and has been coordinated with the VS26 planning leads from the USINDOPACOM J7, the Organization Scheduling the Event (OSE), and the U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) N37, the Organization Conducting the Event (OCE).

2. (U) Valiant Shield is a USINDOPACOM two-week biennial Field Training Exercise (FTX) conducted every even year West of the International Date Line (IDL) in order to (IOT) strengthen Joint, Allied and Partner (A&P) interoperability, capabilities, and cooperation. VS will be executed via Live, Virtual, and Constructive (LVC) means in a Combined Joint All Domain Operations (CJADO) environment. VS26 will include personnel and capabilities from the U.S. Armed Forces to include military forces from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand (FVEY), Japan, and France. The VS26 scenario will include Combined and Joint operations against a peer-to-near-peer adversary while concurrently conducting Defense of the Homeland in the Pacific. VS26 provides a venue for CJADO, tactical training for Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) across the spectrum of conflict, execution and advancement of joint Tactics, Techniques, Procedures (TTPs), live-fire opportunities, and execution of USINDOPACOM Joint Test and Experimentation initiatives. A scheduled culminating event for VS26 will be a Sinking Exercise (SINKEX) event.

3. (U) The USINDOPACOM J8, acting on behalf of the VS26 OSE and OCE, invites proposals for Experiments, Innovations, and Demonstrations for the execution of exercise VS26.

3.A. (U) Exercise Dates. 22 June – 01 July 2026 (Tentative)

3.B. (U) Exercise Area. West of the IDL. Select events may be conducted at other locations which may impact the ability to support certain experiments.

3.C. (U) VS26 Experiment Priorities.

3.C.1. (U) Resilient and survivable Joint Theater Architectures that support all priorities.

3.C.2. (U) Resilient Joint Kill Chain Capabilities that support Sea Denial.

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3.C.3. (U) Resilient Joint Kill Chain Capabilities that support Land Denial.

3.C.4. (U) Resilient Joint Kill Chain Capabilities that support Space and Cyber Denial.

3.C.5. (U) Resilient Joint Kill Chain Capabilities that support Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD), Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS), and Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-SUAS).

3.C.6. (U) Resilient Joint Kill Chain Capabilities that support Kinetic and Non-Kinetic Defense of the Homeland in the Pacific.

4. (U) Experimentation Submission. Stakeholders desiring to be considered for participation in VS26 shall submit a USINDOPACOM Experimentation Quad Chart and White Paper (Experiment Submission Packet) in accordance with (IAW) the guidance in this calling message **no later than (NLT) 1000 Hawaii Standard Time (HST) on 29 August 2025.**

4.A. (U) The Experiment Submission Packet is a two (2) slide quad chart PowerPoint (PPT) presentation with a Microsoft (MS) Word Document white paper limited to four (4) pages. Templates are attached to this calling message and additional sample products that align with these guidelines can be obtained by emailing the USINDOPACOM, J81 Joint Exercise Experimentation Support Cell (JEESC) Team or emailing prospective USINDOPACOM Service Component Sponsors in Paragraph (para) 8 below.

4.A.1. (U) The Experiment Submission Packet shall clearly identify the operational problem the proposed experiment is intended to address, explain how the experimental solution will be an improvement over existing program of record capabilities, and to the extent possible/if known, list the experiment support requirements including observers, aircraft crew, and ship riders, as applicable.

4.A.2. (U) **Do not change the format of either the Quad Chart or White Paper, submit the Quad Chart in PPT and the White Paper in MS Word format.** Submissions that deviate from the template will slow the review process as the J81 team waits for the submitter to send the correct documents.

4.B. (U) Unclassified Submissions. Unclassified experiment packets shall be submitted via the unclassified online portal and emailed to the J81 JEESC VS26 Team and Service Component Sponsor per the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router (NIPR) email address distribution list in para 8.

4.B.1. (U) Online Submission Portal. <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/11QMMrzFmR> (Case Sensitive).

4.B.1.A. (U) Access to the online submission portal does not require a government computer.

4.B.2. (U) Online submission portal will be accessible from **07-29 August 2025.**

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4.B.2.A. (U) All online fields require information input IOT continue forward. If the field is not applicable input “N/A” or “To Be Determined” (TBD).

4.B.3. (U) Late submissions after the designated 01 September 2025 deadline shall require three (3) star level endorsement from the Service Component Sponsor and Deputy COM, USINDOPACOM approval.

4.C. (U) Classified Submissions. Email classified experiment submission packets via the Secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR) email list in para 8 to the VS26 J81 JEESC Team and the Service Component Sponsor.

4.C.1. (U) The Service Component Sponsor shall validate and verify the classified experiment prior to the J81 JEESC VS26 team review.

4.C.2. (U) Preferred sharing of the classified experimentation documents for JELC Planning Meetings and Exercise Execution. Quad Charts and White Papers should be releasable to FVEY, Japan, and France if possible/applicable to support planning and execution. If experiment information is releasable to A&P, the experiment information owners shall use their command Foreign Disclosure Officers (FDO) and/or obtain International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)/Export Administration Requirements (EAR) approvals before any information is shared with the A&P participants.

4.C.2.A. (U) USINDOPACOM representatives do not perform FDO review or ITAR/EAR processing for Quad Charts and White Papers associated with experimentation submissions.

4.C.2.B. (U) Submissions that cannot be shared with A&P participants, shall be marked appropriately and submitted to the J81 JEESC VS26 Team and Service Component Sponsor/Experimentation POC via the approved classified email platform (SIPR or higher email).

4.D. (U) Component Sponsorship. Experimentation submission packets shall include experiment desired/requested sponsorship information. The sponsor is the party responsible that will identify and source a VS26 exercise participant as a host unit for the experiment. A sponsor is typically the Service Component Experimentation Directorate that has authority to coordinate and task subordinate service component unit support. A sponsor may also be a USINDOPACOM Joint Directorate.

4.D.1. (U) USINDOPACOM Service Components.

4.D.1.A. (U) United States Pacific Fleet (PACFLT).

4.D.1.B. (U) United States Army Pacific (USARPAC).

4.D.1.C. (U) United States Marine Force Pacific (MARFORPAC).

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4.D.1.D. (U) United States Pacific Air Force (PACAF).

4.D.1.E. (U) United States Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC).

4.D.1.F. (U) United States Space Force Indo-Pacific (SPACEFOR-INDOPAC).

4.E. (U) The INDOPACOM J81 JEESC VS26 Team in coordination with (ICW) the Service Component Sponsor will review submissions to confirm alignment to experiment priorities listed in para 3.C.1-3.C.6 and identify the best candidates for experimentation. Once the review is complete and final selections are complete, notifications will be made to experiment owners.

4.E.1. Notifications of acceptance for participation are expected by close of business (COB) HST on DD MMM 2025.

4.F. (U) Experiment Selection Criteria. Experiment selection will be based generally on alignment to para 3.C.1-3.C.6; **Technical Readiness Level (TRL) (7 is minimum, 8 and 9 are desired)**; and capabilities that can reasonably be integrated into the exercise by the planned participating units.

4.F.1. (U) TRL 7: A system prototype demonstration in an operational environment. Prototype near, or at, planned operational system. Represents a major step up from TRL 6, requiring demonstration of an actual system prototype in an operational environment such as an aircraft, vehicle, or space. Examples include testing the prototype in a test bed aircraft.

4.F.2. (U) TRL 8: An actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration. Technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. In almost all cases, this TRL represents the end of true system development. Examples include developmental tests and evaluation of the system in its intended weapon system to determine it meets design specifications.

4.F.3. (U) TRL 9: An actual system proven through successful mission requirements. Actual application of technology in its final form and under mission conditions, such as those encountered in operational tests and evaluation. Examples include using the system under operational mission conditions.

4.G. (U) Experiment submissions will be reviewed by J81 JEESC VS26 Team and the Service Component Experimentation/Sponsor Representatives against the priorities in 3.C.1.-3.C.6. The review process will include sponsor input to determine proposed Experiment Tier level, exercise event (if known), and if the experiment requires a Level 1 Concept of the Operation (CONOP).

4.G.1. (U) Experiment Tiers for VS26 are defined as:

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4.G.1.A. (U) Tier 1. Highest priority experiments are integral to the exercise design. These experiments include Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (OUSD), Department of Defense Joint Staff (JSTAFF), and USINDOPACOM priorities.

4.G.1.A.1 (U) Tier 1A. Directly supports or provides input into a Tier 1 experiment.

4.G.1.B. (U) Tier 2. High priority experiments of particular interest to USINDOPACOM Service Components and fit within the exercise design. These experiments typically support a known Warfighting capability gap. An example is an Integrated Priority List (IPL) or Integrated Prioritized Capabilities List (IPCL) shortfall.

4.G.1.C. (U) Tier 3. Experiments that do not meet Tier 1, 1A, or 2 definitions within the exercise as designed and can be executed on a non-interference basis within the exercise. These experiments typically execute at the Service Component tactical/unit level or as a stand-alone experiment and do not include joint participants.

4.G.2. (U) Level 1 CONOP. Outlines a new, emerging, and novel technology that will be experimented west of the IDL. Level 1 CONOP requires approval by COMUSINDOPACOM.

4.G.2.A. (U) Experiments that require a Level 1 CONOP will be tracked separately by the Service Component that sponsors the experiment with the following notional tracking dates:

4.G.2.B. (U) Mid-Planning Working Group (MPWG). Confirmation of the Level 1 CONOP scheduled for the USINDOPACOM Update Brief (PUB) and approval prior to the Final Planning Working Group (FPWG). The Service Component Sponsor shall schedule the Level CONOP 1 to be briefed at the PUB.

4.G.2.C. (U) Level 1 CONOP Read-out at the FPWG. Service Component Sponsors shall provide an update brief to the VS26 Experiment Working Group and appropriate exercise planners at the start of the FPWG, highlighting guidance provided from the PUB and relevant changes to the experiment plan.

4.H. (U) Knowledge Management.

4.H.1. (U) NIPR documents will be stored on the VS26 J81 Experimentation MS Teams site.

4.H.3. (U) SIPR documents will be stored on the SIPR VS26 Onebrief, Epic site, and the VS26 J81 Experimentation MS Teams site.

4.H.4. (U) Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System (JWICS) documents will be stored on the JWICS VS26 Onebrief site.

4.H.5. (U) All documents will be uploaded to the respective unclassified and classified platforms for access by the Community of Interest (COI) to reference prior to JELC events and during exercise execution.

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4.I. (U) Funding. Experiments must be funded or have a clear path to funding for VS26 participation NLT COB on Wednesday of the MPWG. This includes funding for transportation of experiment planners, data collectors, assessors, engineers, etc.; for planning and execution; for transportation of experiment equipment; for lodging and life support of experimenters at the execution venue/location; for all range and other services or equipment needed to execute the experiment; to remediate any set-up, tear-down, or rehab of the experiment area; and to complete the retrograde of the experiment equipment back to home base or point of origin prior to exercise deployment and execution. Experiments that are not funded upon submission but have a clear path to funding through the MPWG will continue to plan with the host unit and other VS26 WGs.

5. (U) JELC Calling Message. Visit Access Request (VAR) and guidance for all JELC events will be outlined in the OSE or OCE JELC Calling Message. The JELC calling message will be published approximately thirty (30) days prior to the JELC event. The JELC calling message can be published and distributed prior to the 30-day mark.

5.1. (U) The message will list the process to submit VARs; registration for the event(s); System Authorization Access Request (SAAR) for the USINDOPACOM Mission Partner Environment (MPE), NIPR, SIPR, and FVEY networks at the Pacific Warfighting Center (PWC) or JELC event meeting venue; base access process for personnel and rental vehicles; and basic administrative data to support the JELC event.

5.2. (U) The message will be forwarded to all experimenters to ensure situational awareness of the requirements for the JELC event.

5.2.A. (U) It is incumbent on the experimenters and personnel supporting and/or attending the JELC events that individual requirements are completed by all stakeholders prior to the suspense dates, travel, and arrival to the JELC venue.

6. (U) Service Component Sponsors/Experiment Representative responsibilities. To maximize opportunities for successful experiment integration, Service Component Sponsors/Experiment Representative should:

6.A. (U) Attend the VS26 JELC milestone meetings (IPWG, MPWG, FPWG). Attendance at the Initial and Final Site Surveys (if scheduled) is optional and should be considered depending on the needs of the experiment, area(s) the experiment might execute, lack of information known about the area(s), etc.

6.B. (U) Participate in all IPR meetings. These meetings are typically virtual and convened between the JELC milestone meetings to confirm ongoing planning is completing all JELC requirements and to mitigate issues early in the process.

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6.C. (U) Serve as Service Component Sponsors/Experiment Representative for experiments that meet Service Component or specific Service warfighting gaps and/or experiment priorities/requirements.

6.C.1. (U) Identify a VS26 participating unit as a host unit for the experiment, brief the unit on the experiment, and ensure the experiment owner meets and coordinates with the host unit during the planning meetings for detailed planning and requirements review, e.g.: workspace, cryptological keys, frequency de-confliction, power generation, water, bed-down, user evaluation, basic life support.

6.C.2. (U) Coordinate with the host unit and experiment owner to develop an Experimentation CONOP that includes and details Command and Control (C2), Command Relationship (COMREL), Operational Security (OPSEC), Physical Security (PHYSEC), Operational Risk Management (ORM), Public Affairs, Data Collection, and Daily Reporting.

6.D. (U) Support the J81 JEESC VS26 Team with initial review of the experiment proposals and binning/confirmation of the experiments by sponsor, proposed host unit, proposed experiment Tier, and determination of Level 1 CONOP requirement.

6.E. (U) Support initial and follow-on experiment integration starting at the IPWG with the host unit and VS26 planning WGs and continuing through exercise execution with support to the VS26 JEESC and VS26 Exercise Control Group as needed for data collection, assessment, reporting, and exercise support.

6.F. (U) Prepare for an OSE/OCE/Joint Task Force (JTF) Experimentation Review Board that will notionally occur on Thursday of the IPWG week. The review board will review each experiment Quad Chart, prospective host unit, exercise event alignment, status of funding, and if the experiment requires a Level 1 CONOP.

6.G. (U) Experimenters shall commence work with the host unit as early as possible to develop the Experimentation CONOP that will account for C2, COMREL, OPSEC, PHYSEC, ORM, Public Affairs Guidance (PAG), and Daily Reporting. Experimentation CONOP brief will be notionally reviewed by the OSE/OCE/FTX lead planners at the FPWG.

6.H. (U) Maintain contact and detail coordination, de-confliction and planning with the experimenters to ensure they remain apprised of the rapid changes to the USINDOPACOM and Service Component Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO) that might affect the planning, support, and execution of VS26 JELC events.

7. (U) Major Planning Milestones.

7.A. (U) Experiment Quad Chart and White Paper submissions (Experimentation Packet).

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7.A.1. (U) **Suspense = 29 August 2025**

7.A.2. (U) What = Unclassified Experiment Packets submitted online and emailed to the J81 JEESC VS26 Team and Service Component Sponsor/Experiment Representatives for consideration for VS26.

7.A.3. (U) What = Classified Experiment Packets emailed via the appropriate classified platform to the J81 JEESC VS26 Team and Service Component Sponsor/Experiment Representatives for consideration for VS26.

7.A.4. (U) Why = To meet suspense for J81 leadership and Service Component Sponsor/Experiment Representative review of experiment submissions, determine if proposals align to USINDOPACOM experiment priorities (para 3.c.1 - 3.c-5), and notify experiment owners of selection NLT 30-days prior to the VS26 IPWG.

7.B. (U) Proposal review by the 81 JEESC VS26 Team and Service Component Sponsor/Experiment Representatives followed by notification to experimenters: DD MMM 25.

7.C. (U) Proposal owners notified of acceptance in VS26 and endorsed for travel to the VS26 IPWG and ISS (if conducted): DD MMM 25.

7.D. (U) OSE/OCE preview of proposals, sponsors, potential host unit, and proposed experiment tiers: 02-07 SEP 25.

7.E. (U) JELC events.

7.E.1. (U) IPWG: 08-12 September 25 at the PWC, Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH), Honolulu, Hawaii (HI).

7.E.2. (U) ISS: Date and Venues TBD. Select planning personnel.

7.E.3. (U) MPWG: 08-12 December 25 at the PWC, JBPHH, HI.

7.E.4. (U) Joint Manning Document (JMD) Workshop: Date and Venue TBD. Select planning personnel.

7.E.5. (U) Blue Force (BLUFOR) Planning: Date and Venue TBD. Select planning personnel.

7.E.6. (U) FPWG: 23-27 February 2026 at the PWC, JBPHH, HI.

7.E.7. (U) Joint Reception Staging Onward Integration (JRSOI)/Communication Exercise (COMMEX): Select exercise execution participants (military, DOD civilian, contractor). Date and venues TBD.

7.E.8. Exercise execution: 22 June – 01 July 2026 (tentative).

7.F. (U) Travel and Transportation. Travel will occur to FTX and exercise execution venues to conduct site surveys, coordination, and planning with on-site POCs. Travel for Temporary Duty (TDY) to conduct planning is critical for experiment proposal owners to gain understanding of potential areas where their experimental capabilities might be

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deployed and integrated during execution. Coordination with the Service Component Sponsor/Experiment Representative and potential host unit is required for participation in the site surveys and TDY.

7.F.1. (U) Travel and lodging itineraries shall account for crossing the IDL for site surveys to ensure timely arrival for scheduled meetings and deadlines. Consult the Foreign Clearance Guide and other applicable references for travel information prior to travel.

7.F.2. (U) Transportation of experimental equipment, resources, and personnel to U.S. states, territories, and protectorates shall conform to all applicable international, federal, state, and local processes, laws, regulations, and policies. Coordination and planning shall be conducted during the JELC process.

7.F.3. (U) Transportation of experimental equipment, resources, and personnel to A&P venues shall conform to applicable ITAR, EAR, international, federal, and local processes, laws, regulations, and policies. Detailed planning and coordination for experimentation internationally shall be conducted during the JELC process.

8. (U) POCS

8.A. (U) USINDOPACOM J81 JEESC VS26 Planning Team

8.A.1. (U) VS26 J81 Lead Planner. Mr. An Quoc “Gabe” Tran, an.q.tran.ctr@us.navy.mil, an.q.tran.ctr@pacom.smil.mil, 808-477-7445.

8.A.2. (U) VS26 J81 Deputy Planner. Mr. Wayne Anno, wayne.j.anno.ctr@us.navy.mil, wayne.j.anno.ctr@pacom.smil.mil, wayne.j.anno.ctr@mail.smil.mil, 808-477-7666.

8.A.3. (U) VS26 J81 Support Planner. Mr. Martin Arriola, martin.f.arriola.ctr@us.navy.mil, martin.arriola.ctr@pacom.smil.mil, martin.f.arriola@coe.ic.gov, 808-477-7981.

8.A.4. (U) VS26 J81 Support Planner. Mr. Jon Burrow, jon.d.burrow.ctr@us.navy.mil, jon.burrow.ctr@pacom.smil.mil, 808-477-7898.

8.B. (U) MARFORPAC G9 Experimentation and Innovation Analyst. Mr. Corey Sparks, cory.l.sparks.civ@usmc.mil, cory.sparks@usmc.smil.mil, 808-477-8935.

8.C. (U) PACFLT N9 Lead Planner. Mr. Gustavo Martinez, gustavo.martinez29.ctr@us.navy.mil, gustavo.martinez.ctr@navy.smil.mil, 808 474-6464.

8.D. (U) PACAF A5/8 Branch Chief. Major (MAJ) Thomas Davis, thomas.davis.72@us.af.mil, thomas.s.davis5.mil@mail.smil.mil, thomas.davis@af.ic.gov, 808-789-7169

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8.E. (U) USARPAC G-3 Concepts Lead Planner. Mr. Thomas Hussey, thomas.l.hussey.ctr@army.mil, thomas.l.hussey.ctr@mail.smil.mil, thomas.l.hussey.ctr@army.ic.gov, 808-786-0645.

8.F. (U) SPACEFOR-INDOPAC Exercise & Experimentation Planner. Lieutenant colonel (LtCol) Darrin Hall, darrin.hall.2@spaceforce.mil; darrin.g.hall.mil@mail.smil.mil, darrin.hall@af.ic.gov, 808-789-8120.

8.F.1. (U) SPACEFOR-INDOPAC VS26 Experimentation Planner. Mr. Jesse Willis, jesse.willis.1.ctr@spaceforce.mil, jesse.l.willis7.ctr@mail.smil.mil; jesse.willis_ctr@af.ic.gov, 808-449-4117.

8.G. (U) SOCPAC SOJ37 Exercises and Experimentation Division Chief. MAJ Jeff Givens, jeffery.givens@socom.mil, jeffery.m.givens@socom.smil.mil; rc53395@socom.ic.gov, Secure Voice Over Internet Protocol (SVOIP) 706-477-1356.

Attachments: 2

Attachment 1 – experimentation quad template

Attachment 2 – experimentation white paper example

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