

# Japan planning first carriers since WWII

Japan is looking to introduce its first aircraft carriers since World War II, in a move seen as a major departure from the country's defence-oriented policy amid growing concerns over China's naval expansion

## IZUMO-CLASS HELICOPTER DESTROYER

Two largest ships in Japanese Navy – ***Izumo*** and ***Kaga*** – could be converted to carry U.S.-made F-35B stealth jets

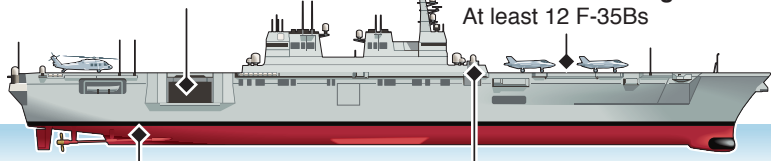
Length **248 metres**

Speed **Over 30 knots** (56km/h)

Helicopters **Up to 14** (anti-submarine and search and rescue)

Crew **470** (plus 500 troops)

**Aircraft elevators:** Two



**Propulsion:** Four gas turbines developing 112,000-hp (84,000kW)

## CARRIER COMPARISON

Displacement (tonnes)



**Nimitz-class**  
U.S. 100,000



**Queen Elizabeth**  
UK 65,000



**Shandong**  
China 63,500

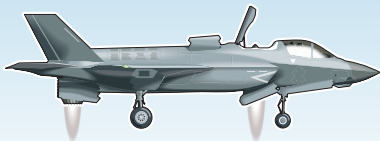


**Charles de Gaulle**  
France 42,000



**Izumo**  
Japan 27,000

*F-35B capable of short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL)*



Japan is reportedly preparing to order 100 more F-35s, adding to 42 jets already planned

**Possible fixed-wing aircraft**  
At least 12 F-35Bs

**Armament:** Two Phalanx guns and two SeaRAM missile launchers



Carriers could bolster air defence of far-flung **Senkaku (Diaoyu) Islands**, also claimed by China