



Afternoon Alert - Friday, September 2, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV and TV Asahi led with reports the bodies of two people who went missing after Typhoon Lionrock have been found in Hokkaido. The networks also reported on the ongoing search for 16 people who remain missing in Iwate. NHK and TBS gave top play to reports that more than 1,000 people are still stranded in Iwate. Fuji TV reported that another typhoon is heading for Japan and is likely to approach Kyushu on Sunday.

SECURITY

Relocation of Osprey training negates justification for Okinawa deployment On the agreement reached between the U.S. and Japan on Thursday to relocate more training drills by the Futenma-based MV-22 Ospreys to Guam and the Japanese mainland, Ryukyu Shimpo claimed that the more such drills are relocated out of Okinawa to reduce the base burden, the weaker the two governments' justification becomes for stationing the tilt-rotor aircraft in Okinawa. The daily said the Defense Ministry's assertion that the Ospreys are capable of flying for long distances proves that they do not necessarily need to be stationed at Futenma Air Station.

Japan considering drone development cooperation with Israel

Thursday evening's TV-Asahi "Hodo station" aired a 13-minute report on a Defense Ministry proposal on jointly developing UAV technology with Israel, the world's largest exporter of drones, highlighting the state-of-the-art technology possessed by the Israeli military and private companies. The report said that in order to acquire drone expertise quickly, some MOD officials are anxious to forge an R&D partnership with Tel Aviv because up until now Japan has had no choice other than to rely on U.S. drones. However, the U.S. apparently has no intention to share its UAV expertise and charges exorbitant prices whenever the ministry procures them. An unnamed MOD official said: "We should cooperate with Israel; otherwise Japan will continue to be under America's thumb.... Perhaps the drones could be marketed to ASEAN." The

broadcaster voiced concern that if Tokyo starts developing drones with Tel Aviv, they will eventually be used by the Israelis to kill Palestinians and damage the country's standing among the displaced people. Regular commentator Goto explained that many GOJ officials are negative about deepening drone cooperation with Israel on the grounds that doing so might create "more enemies than friends" for Japan in the Middle East and would not be conducive to enhancing national defense.

- [Interview with minister on Okinawa, Northern Territories, S&T](#) (Yomiuri)

TV PROGRAMS

Unprecedented damage from typhoons

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on Typhoon Lionrock, which was the first typhoon on record to make landfall in the Tohoku region. The program said the typhoon brought record rainfall to Hokkaido and Iwate prefectures, resulting in 11 deaths in Iwate. The program said in addition to the torrential rain brought by the typhoon, the continuous rain in the area this summer has caused the water level of Omoto River in Iwate to rise rapidly.

POLITICS

- [Main weaponry items included in MOD's FY2017 budget request](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Former top court justice quits bar over thesis on security laws](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Prime minister's schedule on September 1](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP paving way for extending Abe's term of office as president](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yoshiro Miwa appointed special advisor to Minister of State Kozo Yamamoto](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's age of adulthood likely to be lowered to 18 by 2020](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Asian trade pact talks to miss 2016 deadline](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Ensure special quotas in next budget lead to economic growth](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: DP presidential race](#) (Sankei)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan's economic gambit for progress on Russia territorial row](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan seeks broad energy pact with Russia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Economy Minister Seko to double as minister for economic cooperation with Russia](#) (Sankei)
- [Final arrangements being made for Japan-South Korea summit meeting](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Asian trade pact talks to miss 2016 deadline](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Saudi Arabia vow to deepen economic ties](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [American who went missing 12 years ago abducted, teaching English in North Korea](#) (TBS Online)

ECONOMY

- [Interview with Minister for Reconstruction Masahiro Imamura](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP's Koizumi to meet with agricultural cooperative leaders on Sept. 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [JA Group takes first steps toward reducing prices of agricultural materials](#) (Asahi)
- [WTO members recommend 300-plus green products for free trade](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

AMBASSADOR

- [Welcoming U.S. Ambassador to Japan Kennedy to paddy field study program](#) (Ringyo Niigata)