



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, September 8, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports on torrential rain in the Kanto and Hokuriku regions.

SECURITY

Guntenkyo asks U.S. to move Futenma out of Okinawa

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the Okinawa Municipal Council for Military Land Conversion and Base Problems, known as the Guntenkyo Council, made a request to the Okinawa Area Coordinator and the U.S. Consulate General in Naha on Sept. 7 for MCAS Futenma to be moved out of Okinawa and not kept in its current location indefinitely. The group also asked for local citizens' concerns over the U.S. military's planned deployment of F-35s to Iejima to be dispelled. The group plans to convey its requests to relevant cabinet ministers and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on Friday.

Target of Takae residents' anger shifts from police to protesters over helipad construction

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that protesters opposing the helipad construction at the Northern Training Area are criticizing the police for arresting three protesters by saying that the arrests were unlawful because they did not directly assault police officers. However, the paper wrote in a separate article that local residents are becoming increasingly frustrated with the partial blockade on Route 70 that leads to the training area because their daily activities, including commuting to school and work, have been seriously affected. Okinawa Times reported on local farmers' anger over the traffic gridlock in their neighborhood. Farmers of the Takae district of Higashi Village have attached signs to their vehicles showing their affiliation and are asking both the police and the protesters to let them

pass through. One farmer said that it took him one hour to get to his farm even though it usually takes only ten minutes. He added: "I don't necessarily support the helipad construction. But the protesters are destroying our lives. My patience is running out." The paper wrote that the target of the local residents' anger is shifting from the police to the protesters.

- [Japan will cooperate with U.S., ROK to respond to North Korea's missile launches: DM Inada](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to check background of nuclear workers to prevent terrorism](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

PM Abe comments on Emperor's abdication, DPRK's missile launches

NHK reported this afternoon that PM Abe told accompanying reporters in Laos that since many Japanese people feel that the government needs to address the issue of the Emperor's desire to abdicate, the GOJ will have to consider measures carefully. The premier also reportedly said: "We would like to listen to the views of many people including experts and intellectuals and quietly move the discussion forward without making presumptions."

Concerning North Korea's repeated missile launches, PM Abe reportedly said there is no option other than for the international community to unite and apply strong pressure against North Korea. The premier also said: "Imposing economic sanctions and applying pressure are not a silver bullet, but they could change how North Korea responds. We must make North Korea understand that if it continues to carry out nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, it will isolate itself from the international community, making it impossible to clear the way toward the future."

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 7](#) (Nikkei)
- [DP's Maehara says Lower House might be dissolved early next year](#) (Nikkei)
- [Aso becomes longest-serving finance minister in postwar era](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview: Potential successor Ishiba looks beyond Abenomics](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [LDP's Nikai leaves for Vietnam accompanied by tourism industry leaders](#) (Nikkei)

INTERNATIONAL

- [ASEAN statement underscores South China Sea impasse](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Gist of Japan-ROK summit, Sept. 7](#) (Sankei)
- [South Korea prioritizes Japan amid friction with China and Russia over THAAD](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan, China vie for ASEAN influence](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [PM Abe: “I will put my full effort behind Diet ratification of TPP”](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [TPP door is open to all, Japan’s Abe says](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe separately meets with leaders of various countries with China in mind](#) (Nikkei)
- [PM Abe fine tunes criticism of China at ASEAN meetings](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [“Seiron” column: Rethink optimistic view of Russia](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: First ease tension to start improving bilateral ties between Japan and China](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: China must harmonize responsibly with international society](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan-Russia territorial talks should be a priority leading up to Putin’s visit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe pledges 45 billion yen to bolster Asia’s antiterrorism measures](#) (Yomiuri)
- [PM Abe pledges 125 billion yen in aid to Myanmar in meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [New panel looks to tighten overtime rules](#) (The Japan News)
- [Interview with Katsunobu Kato, minister in charge of work-style reform](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan should join AIIB in order to make its own case: Hatoyama](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Japan joins global herd in fintech investment rush](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

- [Overhaul of Japan's nursing care system taking shape](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Survey reveals few municipalities have special sections for foreign residents](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Ministry to use private sector money for projects to deal with social problems](#) (Mainichi)
- [Child porn still thrives in Japan despite so-called crackdown, says rights group](#) (The Japan Times)

TV PROGRAMS

Japan's new manufacturing revolution

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported that Japan's manufacturing, which once led the world, is making a comeback in the emerging field of the Internet of Things (IoT). Japanese venture companies led by CEOs in their 30s and 40s are producing unique and innovative products, including a highly energy efficient, ultra-small supercomputer and smart rings that are expected to become the next smartphones. The program said investment in venture businesses by financial institutions and investors is surging.

