



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 14, 2016

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Fuji-TV led with a report that a UH-60 U.S. military helicopter that had participated in a military exercise in Shiga and was on its way back to Camp Zama made an emergency landing in the parking lot of a factory in Shizuoka Prefecture on Sept. 11, saying that the helicopter left the site about an hour later after its cargo was transferred to U.S. military vehicles. The network said that although the factory was closed that day and no damage was caused, no prior notice was given to the factory or the local municipality. The network quoted Gotemba Mayor Wakabayashi as saying: "It is basically private property, and the safety of our citizens is important. We asked for the government and the U.S. military to review their safety measures." The network said it is believed that the helicopter made an emergency landing because its communication with the control tower was cut off due to inclement weather. Other top news included follow-up reports on the soil problem at the new fish market in Toyosu.

## SECURITY

### GOJ determined to construct helipads before Ambassador Kennedy leaves post

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported heavily on the use of two GSDF helicopters on Tuesday to transport trucks and other heavy equipment for helipad construction in the Northern Training Area, underscoring that the unusual operation signified that the GOJ is determined to mobilize every possible tool to move forward with the construction. Okinawa Times asserted that the Abe administration is strongly committed to building the facilities by December, a month earlier than originally planned, so that Ambassador Kennedy can leave her post following the major

accomplishment of realizing the reversion of part of the massive training area, which is premised upon the completion of helipad construction.

Ryukyu Shimpo claimed that the central government is desperate to demonstrate its commitment to move forward with the helipad project ahead of Defense Minister Inada's visit to Washington for talks with Defense Secretary Carter so that she can describe the administration's efforts to deliver progress on U.S. force realignment in the island prefecture. The daily added that although the GSDF was initially hesitant to mobilize CH-47s, the transportation operation went smoothly because of instructions from DM Inada, who has strong connections with the Kantei.

### **Korean journalist trespassed on U.S. military facility in Kyoto**

Yomiuri reported online that a self-proclaimed South Korean journalist trespassed on the premises of the U.S. military X-band radar site in Kyotango, Kyoto Prefecture, in mid-July and filmed the facility. Although the man was apprehended by local police and released after the video was deleted from his camera, he apparently uploaded the footage and photos of the site and equipment later on a South Korean news website. According to the U.S. military, the published images do not harm national security since they do not contain any classified information.

### **Mageshima's owner willing to sell island to central government**

Mainichi reported online that the owner of Mageshima Island off Kagoshima, where landing practice by U.S. carrier-borne aircraft has been proposed, disclosed its plan to sell the entire property to the central government. According to the article, a Diet member from Okinawa has insisted on the use of the uninhabited islet for field carrier landing practice by the U.S. military as part of efforts to reduce the base burden on Okinawa, although the local government and municipal assembly have voiced strong opposition to the idea.

### **LDP Secretary General Nikai meets with Okinawa Governor Onaga**

TBS and TV Asahi reported at noon that LDP Secretary General Nikai met with Okinawa Governor Onaga in Naha today, saying that the Governor submitted a request to Nikai for local economic development measures, and Nikai responded by saying that the LDP will cooperate fully. TBS said while the tension between the central and Okinawa governments continues over the Futenma issue, Nikai hopes to regain Okinawa's trust since he selected the prefecture for his first trip outside Tokyo since assuming his new post.

### **Schism emerges among Takae residents over helipad construction**

Tokyo Shimbun ran an extensive report on local residents' mixed reactions to the tumult created by the face-off between the police and protesters near the helipad construction site at the Northern Training Area, saying that a schism has emerged among the 140 residents of the Takae District of Higashi Village over the construction work there. There are two kinds of residents in Takae – those who have been living there for generations and those who recently moved there to enjoy the natural

beauty of the area. In a recent survey conducted by the Ryukyu Shimpo, none of the Takae residents expressed support for the helipad construction. However, practically none of the original residents are participating in the protest campaign, but a number of newcomers are involved. Saying that it is unlikely that the GOJ will cancel the helipad project, the paper wrote that the split between old and new residents could grow further.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **[Senior North Korean official says nuclear test not directed at Japan](#)**

NTV aired a video of a meeting between Japanese lawmaker Antonio Inoki and Ri Sun Yong, vice chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, on Sept. 9, a day after North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test. The video showed the North Korean official telling Inoki that the nuclear test "was not directed at Japan." Ri was quoted as saying: "Our nuclear capability is never aimed at Japan. Japan does not need to be afraid of our nuclear program.... However, concerning the fact that Japan is leading the efforts of the U.S. to impose sanctions on our country, we have a feeling of discomfort." The network said Ri stressed that the DPRK's nuclear program is a self-defense measure against a U.S. invasion.

### **[Emperor to travel to Vietnam next spring](#)**

Most papers reported online on the disclosure by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga this morning that arrangements are being made for Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to make their first trip to Vietnam next spring.

- **[Japan, China to hold working-level maritime talks](#)** (Asahi)
- **[MOFA assigns diplomat expelled by China for spying to Taiwan](#)** (Sentaku)

## OPINION POLLS

- **[Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#)** (Asahi)

## POLITICS

- **[Hope emerges for resolution of Northern Territories dispute](#)** (Seiron)
- **[Prime minister's schedule on September 13](#)** (Nikkei)
- **[Information disclosure left to government's discretion?](#)** (Mainichi)
- **[Nikai plans to assign deputy secretaries-general in charge of Okinawa in LDP Headquarters](#)** (Okinawa Times)

- [LDP retains Inoguchi as head of research commission on Okinawa](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Commentary: THAAD deployment in Japan is one option](#) (Yomiuri)

## ECONOMY

- [NRA approves quake-resistant structure for emergency response facilities for first time](#) (Asahi)
- [Gov't neglects to address practice of inflating prices of imported rice](#) (Mainichi)
- [Tidal power generation may be economically viable in Japan](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Editorial: Implementation of growth steps must be expedited under new control tower](#) (The Japan News)

## SOCIETY

- [Japan eyes easier way to seize assets to enforce child support](#) (Kyodo)

## AMBASSADOR

### [Ambassador Kennedy, Tokyo Governor Koike confirm cooperation](#)

NHK reported on Tuesday evening that Ambassador Kennedy paid a courtesy call on Tokyo Governor Koike, saying that the Ambassador offered to send American teachers to Japan to enrich English language education in the country in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. According to the network, Governor Koike expressed her intention to promote deregulation in order to attract foreign investment. This morning's Mainichi carried a similar story.

## TV PROGRAMS

### [Kumamoto Castle](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Tuesday reported on Kumamoto Castle, which suffered major damage in the earthquakes that occurred earlier this year. NHK used drones to photograph the inside of the castle, which is off limits at the moment. The program said the powerful earthquakes led to the collapse of most of the castle's stone walls, adding that other castles across the nation have begun considering ways to protect their walls from being damaged in earthquakes.

---



**JMI** JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS