

The next alert will appear on Wednesday January 4, 2017.



Afternoon Alert - Friday, December 30, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report on travelers heading to their hometowns or elsewhere for the New Year's holidays. The network also reported on the Obama administration's deportation order for 35 Russian diplomats in response to an apparent cyberattack on the computer systems of the Democratic Party during the presidential election campaign.

SECURITY

U.S. service member arrested in Okinawa for DUI

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the Okinawa police arrested a U.S. service member belonging to Torii Station of the U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa on Thursday on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol in the town of Chatan, Okinawa, charging him with violating the Road Traffic Law (drunk driving). Although the alcohol level detected on his breath was more than 2.5 times the permissible level, the suspect partially denied the charges, claiming he thought he was no longer under the influence of alcohol when he was driving. The paper wrote that he violated the U.S. military's liberty policy banning offsite activities between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan defense minister's visit to war-linked shrine irks U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Commentary: Abe should visit Yasukuni following reaffirmation of peaceful alliance at Pearl Harbor](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Japan, U.S. must make good use of 'power of reconciliation' / Contribution to intl order to be tested](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Japan-U.S. reconciliation welcome, but where were Abe's thoughts for Asia?](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Abe's speech at Pearl Harbor is another missed opportunity](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Abe, Putin summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Why did Japan's SoftBank pledge \\$50 billion for U.S. investment?](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate rises to 64% as 84% approve of PM's Pearl Harbor visit, Nikkei spot poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe's diplomacy boosts cabinet support, the question is how to maintain it, Nikkei spot poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [57% in favor of joint economic activities with Russia, Nikkei spot poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Trends in opinion polls on the Northern Territories issue](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec. 29](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: Snap election in 2017?](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Koike and Mori](#) (Mainichi)
- [Number of Japan-U.S. joint exercises marks record high for fourth consecutive year](#) (Akahata)

EDUCATION

- [Japan's students face uncertain future under cloud of debt](#) (The Japan Times)
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