



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, January 12, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most commercial networks led with reports on the first official press conference by President-elect Trump on Wednesday, during which he said that U.S. trade with China, Japan, and other nations is one sided. The networks noted, however, that Trump failed to present concrete foreign or trade policies. NHK and NTV gave top play to reports on the heavy snow in northern Japan today, saying that there might also be snow in the Kanto region this weekend.

## SECURITY

### Tillerson says Senkakus fall under U.S.-Japan Security Treaty

NHK, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi reported at noon that Secretary of State-designate Tillerson said at a confirmation hearing on Wednesday that the Senkaku Islands in Okinawa fall under the scope of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. NHK said when asked whether the U.S. will use its military force to prevent China from attempting to take the islets by force, Tillerson responded: "We have long-standing ally commitments with Japan ... and I think we would respond in accordance with those accords.... We've made a commitment to Japan in terms of a guarantee of their defense." The network said Tillerson's remarks mean he will uphold the position taken by the Obama administration that the Senkakus fall under the scope of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. In addition, the network said while stressing the importance of U.S. economic relations with China, Tillerson denounced China by saying that creating artificial islands in the South China Sea and setting up an air defense identification zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea, including the Senkaku Islands, are illegal. He also reportedly expressed the view that the U.S. will take a tougher stance against China by saying:

"We're going to have to send China a clear signal that, first, the island-building stops and, second, your access to those islands also is not going to be allowed."

### **Osprey struck by lightning in sky over Miyazaki in 2014**

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report by British journalist Jon Mitchell, who claimed that the paper has obtained through the Freedom of Information Act an investigative report put together by the U.S. Naval Safety Center concerning an incident in June 2014, in which a Futenma-based Osprey was struck by lightning. The journalist wrote that he has learned from the report that the aircraft was struck by lightning when it was flying over a residential area in Kobayashi, Miyazaki Prefecture, as opposed to the U.S. military's explanation that the incident took place when the aircraft was parked at the Futenma base. According to the report, two of the three propellers on the right side of the aircraft were damaged and there were problems with the control system. The paper claimed in separate inside-page articles that this has disclosed the U.S. military's culture of cover-up and that the citizens of Kobayashi have expressed concern about the incident.

- **Editorial: It's in the Diet's court to examine the problems of the Osprey** (The Asahi Shimbun)
- **F-35s to be deployed to Okinawa in August** (Okinawa Times)
- **Okinawa information disclosure screening commission urges prefecture to release official documents** (Ryukyu Shimpo)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Experts alarmed by Trump's "unpresidential" media debut**

Commercial broadcasters' infotainment shows gave extensive coverage today to President-elect Trump's first press conference, with all the guest commentators and panelists expressing dismay about what they called his "terrible" media debut. They were especially troubled by his "short temper," as seen in his exchange of harsh words with a CNN reporter. One panelist said the President-elect appears to have launched a war against the mainstream media and insisted that his first press event was a PR disaster. Stressing that President Obama was "very presidential" in delivering his final address a day before, another pundit said Trump's latest media performance showed that he is still just a "feisty talker" who is not mature enough to take the helm of the world's superpower. Waseda University researcher Haruna stated that Trump failed to present himself as a leader who can unite America, projecting that he will probably cause the deep divisions in U.S. society to intensify. Sophia University Professor Maejima speculated that global leaders must have felt apprehensive because the incoming U.S. administration's foreign policy remains elusive even after his first press conference.

### **Suga comments on Trump's remarks about "trade imbalance" with Japan**

NHK and NTV reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commented at a press briefing this morning about President-elect Trump's remarks about the "trade imbalance" with Japan. Suga was quoted as saying: "Since he has not officially taken office, the Japanese government will refrain from making comments about his remarks at the press conference." Concerning the President-elect's remarks about rectifying the U.S. trade imbalance with Japan, Suga reportedly said: "In general, the government believes that active trade investment is a source of energy for U.S.-Japan economic relations. Regardless of who is the president, our position to seek further development and deepening of the bilateral economic relations will remain the same."

- [Toyota president meets with U.S. vice president-elect: source](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe begins tour of Australia, SE Asia today](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe to stress maritime security cooperation during his four-nation tour](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Philippines arranging to hold East Asia Summit in Clark Freeport Zone](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Filipinos trust U.S., Japan more than China, Russia: survey](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe packs \\$8.66bn aid package for Philippines visit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's chemical, electronics industries nervous about Trump](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Trump and auto production](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Trump and border tax](#) (Asahi)
- [Japanese women see aspirational qualities in 'de facto first lady' Ivanka Trump](#) (The Japan Times)
- [PM Abe, FM Kishida discuss Busan comfort woman statue](#) (Mainichi)
- [CCS Suga comments on comfort woman statue](#) (Sankei)
- [China voices hope of building healthy ties with Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan should prepare for China's advance to Sea of Japan](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Time is ripe for Japan to rebuild ties with China](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Russia picks China's Huawei for telecom project on Japan-claimed isles](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 11](#) (Nikkei)
- [Komeito, LDP to discuss narrowing down scope of conspiracy legislation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DP not engaging in mutual endorsement of candidates with JCP in next Lower House election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Revised version of best seller to go on sale after court suspension](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [Yokohama Port prepares to welcome LNG-fueled ships](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Japan Inc. moves toward minimum rest periods for workers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [BOJ chief voices optimism over U.S. economy before Trump remarks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to complete domestic TPP procedures, notify New Zealand this month](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Make concerted efforts to promote work style reforms / Trimming health, nursing care costs essential](#) (The Japan News)

## SCIENCE

- [Japan targets technology leaks, fears military use abroad](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Stiff fee for taking leave keeps college students from widening horizons abroad](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan's student debt crisis is real](#) (NHK)
- [Chinese students seek second chance by applying to top Japanese colleges](#) (Nikkei)

## TV PROGRAMS

### Dark side of thriving pet business

NHK's "Close-up Gendai" on Wednesday reported on the dark side of the thriving pet business in Japan. Due to the current pet boom, many breeders conduct inbreeding of dogs and cats, which causes genetic disorders such as paralysis, loss of sight, and hearing impairment. The program pointed out that genetic disorders are usually unrecognizable in puppies and kittens and many people buy them without knowing about the diseases. The program said some pet shops are making efforts to prevent the problem by conducting genetic testing before purchasing animals from breeders. The program also pointed out that the existing Animal Protection Law does not regulate inbreeding.

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