



Afternoon Alert - Friday, February 3, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports that Secretary of Defense Mattis will visit Japan today. NHK said Secretary Mattis kept North Korea in check by saying during a joint press conference in Seoul that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with an overwhelming response. Fuji TV and TV Asahi led with reports that President Trump criticized the agreement concluded between the U.S. and Australia on the resettlement of refugees from Australia.

## SECURITY

### Senior GOJ officials comment on Secretary Mattis' visit to Japan

NHK reported at noon on remarks by senior GOJ officials on Secretary of Defense Mattis' visit to Japan by today. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning: "The fact that Secretary of Defense Mattis is visiting Asia, including Japan, soon after the launch of the new Trump administration is very significant as it demonstrates the U.S. commitment to the Asia-Pacific region, and we welcome it...The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of our foreign and security policy and I expect that there will be exchanges of views on various bilateral issues with Secretary Mattis....It is extremely important for us to build a relationship of trust first." Defense Minister Inada told reporters: "I hope to have a candid exchange of views on various bilateral issues, including the deterrence provided by the alliance, enhancing response capabilities, and the USFJ realignment, and further strengthen the relationship...We think that the North Korean threat has entered a new stage....so I hope to talk about building close cooperation between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea....I've heard that he is an outspoken person, so I hope to build a relationship of trust with him

through a candid exchange of views." Foreign Minister Kishida told reporters: "We must work together, including the '2-plus-2' meetings. We will meet for the first time today, so I hope to exchange views on a wide range of issues to build a relationship of trust. I think such efforts will lead up to the summit on Feb. 10."

### **Onaga holds meeting with U.S. lawmakers in Washington**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Governor Onaga's meeting with seven members of Congress in Washington on Wednesday. Onaga insisted that the existing FRF construction plan should be reviewed from the viewpoint of environmental protection and that the Okinawan people have expressed opposition to the plan through past elections. The governor told reporters after the meeting that he had productive discussions with the U.S. lawmakers. Representatives Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Ami Bera (D-CA), David Price (D-NC), Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), Scott Peters (D-CA), and David Valadao (R-CA) attended the meeting.

### **Osprey makes "emergency landing" at Futenma base**

Okinawa Times wrote that an Osprey belonging to the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 at MCAS Futenma made an emergency landing at the airfield around 7:55 p.m. on Thursday, adding that it is not known what caused the incident or whether there was any damage. The paper wrote that the aircraft apparently landed on a taxiway near a runway and that operations at the base continued normally afterward. The paper added that several emergency vehicles with red lights flashing were seen in the vicinity of the aircraft until around 10:00 p.m.

- [U.S. cruiser ran aground off Yokosuka navy base](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: SecDef Mattis and DM Inada](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan and Israel to accelerate cooperation in cybersecurity](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- [Outline of proposals for Japan-U.S. economic cooperation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [GOJ asked Secretary Mattis to change itinerary on account of Diet schedule](#) (Sankei)
- [Kishida calls for Japan-U.S. foreign ministers' meeting at early date](#) (Mainichi)
- [Labor, management eye U.S. economic, trade policies in wage negotiations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan needs to be tenacious in communicating with U.S.: JCCI head](#) (Mainichi)

- [Cartoon: PM Abe and President Trump](#) (Mainichi)
- [Automakers take a big hit from trade friction, NAFTA](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Editorial: Trump's claim that Japan is guiding yen lower contradicts the facts](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Trump should heed agreements before alleging 'currency wars'](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov't to uniformly use term "comfort women statue"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to help companies make forays into Africa](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 2](#) (Nikkei)
- [Who spends time with Abe at prime minister's office?](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Feb. 2](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan to accept 300 Syrian refugees in next 5 years](#) (Asahi)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan's Haneda Airport set to raise landing fees](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Yokohama, five other ports selected as key ports for passenger cruise ships](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [JAEA presents plan to abolish 43 nuclear power facilities](#) (Asahi)

## TV PROGRAMS

### Marijuana grown in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on an increase in the number of people being arrested for possessing or growing marijuana in Japan. According to the program, many people are moving from cities to remote places to grow cannabis because regulations governing imported marijuana and other illegal drugs have become extremely tough in Japan. The program reported on a case in which a man who revived the Japanese tradition of industrial hemp farming in Tottori in order to develop the local economy was arrested for possessing recreational marijuana.

