



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, March 9, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK and TBS gave top play to reports that the Dutch ambassador to South Korea, who is believed to have helped a man claiming to be the son of Kim Jong Nam in a video posted on YouTube, told reporters today that while he is aware of the video, he cannot make any comment on behalf of the government of the Netherlands. Fuji TV led with a report that Tokyo Governor Koike is planning to create a study group on national politics soon. NTV and TV Asahi led with updates on scandal-hit Moritomo Gakuen.

## SECURITY

### Top U.S. military officer in Okinawa stresses need for night-time flight training

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged remarks made by Lt. Gen. Nicholson, the Okinawa Area coordinator, during a briefing to the press on Wednesday at Camp Zukeran. The papers highlighted Lt. Gen. Nicholson's comment on the U.S. military continuing midnight and early morning flights at Kadena AB and other facilities by saying that it is necessary for pilots to fly a certain number of hours during the day and at night. Okinawa Times quoted him as adding that the U.S. forces in Japan could be in a very dangerous situation if pilots were unable to conduct the necessary training. The paper wrote that the people of Okinawa will likely react strongly to the remarks by the top Marine officer in Okinawa because noise pollution generated by U.S. military aircraft has been increasing due to the U.S. military's failure to abide by its agreement with Japan on noise regulation. The paper also wrote that Lt. Gen. Nicholson's remarks on operational needs demonstrated that the U.S.-Japan agreement on noise regulation has no binding power.

Ryukyu Shimpo took up Lt. Gen. Nicholson's view expressed during the briefing that all U.S. bases on Okinawa should be jointly used by the SDF. The paper said that although he mentioned the idea from a "purely military point of view," the people of Okinawa would probably react strongly if the possibility of joint use were taken up for formal discussions because the idea runs counter to efforts to reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa.

### **Tires fall from U.S. military helicopter in Okinawa**

Tires fell from a UH-1 helicopter during external lift training in Okinawa on Tuesday, according to front-page reports in Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo. The tires fell on Landing Zone Falcon inside Camp Hansen, which is close to a residential area. The training was conducted for the first time in three months. Okinawa Times wrote that although the U.S. Marines' press office said on the same day that the tires fell inside the base, the helicopter flew above a residential area before and after the incident. The paper noted that U.S. military personnel were searching for the tires near the border between the base and the residential area right after the incident. No damage or injuries were reported. Okinawa Times wrote in a separate article that the latest incident showed "disregard for human life" and provoked outrage among residents, quoting one as saying, "The tires could have killed someone." NHK also carried a similar story this afternoon.

- [Japan open to getting ability to strike enemy bases: defense chief](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Board of Audit to check constitutionality of security law spending](#) (Asahi)
- [3 arrested for unauthorized carbon fiber equipment export to China](#) (Kyodo News)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- [Nightmarish deja vu of Japan-U.S. trade friction?](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [U.S. Amb. says "all options on table" for N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [North Korea has chemical weapons to target South: defector](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [1st statue symbolizing comfort women in Europe erected in Germany](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Russel says North Korea killed Kim Jong Nam using WMD](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan urgently needs capability to attack enemy bases](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Can Japan avoid trade conflict with the U.S.? \[Part 1\]](#) (Nikkei)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 8](#) (Nikkei)
- [Shimonoseki mayoral race turns into Abe-Hayashi proxy war](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP judicial division ok'd anti-terrorism bill](#) (Mainichi)
- [Suga says gov't official accompanied first lady to Moritomo Gakuen as part of official duties](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Diet should hear witnesses, not inane replies, on shady land deal](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan's Oct.-Dec. GDP upgraded to annual 1.2% rise](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan steps up branded farm product protection overseas](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese fuel fabrication plant meets revised safety standards](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan's nuclear watchdog OKs anti-terror plan at Sendai plant](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cracks in Onagawa plant's Unit Two complicate safety reviews](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abuse of foreign trainees spiked in 2016: Immigration Bureau](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Keidanren, Rengo finalize 100-hour cap on overtime](#) (Asahi)

## SCIENCE

- [Hitachi and German research institute jointly develop AI to prevent human error in manufacturing](#) (Mainichi)

## EDUCATION

- [Defense Minister Inada praises Imperial Rescript on Education](#) (Nikkei)

## SOCIETY

### **Kids evacuate from Fukushima, only to be bullied in new homes**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on bullying of children from Fukushima who were required to evacuate from their hometowns due to the nuclear accident. The program reported on a middle school student whose classmates forced him to pay them a total of 1.5 million yen, and a primary school student whose classmates taunted him by calling him a "germ." A survey carried out by NHK and Waseda University found that out of the 700 households that responded, 50 said their children were bullied and two of them even tried to commit suicide. Adults from Fukushima have also reportedly been bullied.

- [\*\*First lady plays different roles in Japan and U.S., says Akie Abe\*\*](#) (Mainichi)
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