



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, April 25, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and all commercial networks led with reports on the 85th anniversary today of the founding of the Korean People's Army, saying that although Pyongyang has not yet conducted a nuclear test or ballistic missile launch today, tensions on the Korean Peninsula remain high. The broadcasters reported that a meeting of the chief delegates to the Six-Party Talks from the U.S., Japan, and South Korea started this morning in Tokyo, speculating that the participating officials will confirm their nations' close coordination in dealing with the DPRK. In addition, Wu Dawei, China's special representative for Korean Peninsula Affairs, will arrive in Tokyo today to discuss the response to North Korea with MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau Director-General Kanasugi and other senior Japanese officials. Several broadcasters reported that the USS Michigan, a nuclear-powered guided missile submarine, arrived at Busan, South Korea, today.

The networks also reported extensively on the start today of bank protection work for the FRF construction at Henoko. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told a news conference this morning that the start of construction marks a solid first step toward realizing the highly anticipated complete return of the Futenma base.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump urges UNSC to impose stronger sanctions on North Korea

NHK and all commercial networks reported on President Trump's meeting on Monday at the White House with the ambassadors of the members of the UN Security Council. The President reportedly

told the participants: "The status quo in North Korea is also unacceptable, and the Council must be prepared to impose additional and stronger sanctions on North Korean nuclear and ballistic missile programs. This is a real threat to the world." NTV added that Secretary of State Tillerson plans to host a ministerial meeting of UNSC member states on April 28.

In related development, NHK reported that National Security Advisor McMaster spoke by phone with his Japanese counterpart Yachi this morning, and agreed to deepen mutual and trilateral coordination with South Korea for intelligence collection and analysis and maintain high-level vigilance in preparation for a possible nuclear test or a ballistic missile launch by the DPRK. The teleconference reportedly lasted almost 40 minutes.

The Snowden Files on Japan: Part 1—Japan under U.S. surveillance

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the alleged top secret USG documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden in 2013, saying that NHK was able to obtain 13 documents pertaining to Japan that were not disclosed at the time. The program said the documents suggest that the U.S. used Japanese taxpayers' money for its intelligence activities, placed Japan under surveillance, and provided a special surveillance program to Japan. The program said both the NSA and the MOD declined to comment on the documents. The program quoted Hiroshi Miyashita, an associate professor at Chuo University, as saying: "If Japan was providing financial assistance to the facilities, which were utilized for war, we will need to clarify the entire process and hold diplomatic talks to determine whether or not the spending was appropriate." The program also said the relationship between the NSA and Japan soured after a Korean Airlines plane was shot down by the Soviet Union in 1983, killing all 269 passengers and crew members, because the USG disclosed at the UN secret information provided by Japan.

The U.S. intelligence documents were reportedly classified into those that could not be shared and those that could be shared with the "Five Eyes" -- the U.S., the UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. Thomas Drake, a former NSA employee, told the network that "there is no limit to U.S. intelligence activities," and that "the U.S. spies on other nations."

Journalist Akira Ikegami said that since the Japanese people have trusted the U.S. as an ally, this feels like a betrayal. He said Japan should lodge a protest with the U.S. as Germany and other EU nations did in the past. Ikegami added that although it would be easy to convince the general public of the need to collect intelligence by explaining that it is used for anti-terrorism measures, it is shocking to learn that the intelligence was used by an ally for different purposes and in a way that undermined Japan's national interests.

(The second part of the "Snowden Files on Japan," which airs on Thursday, will include an interview with Snowden.)

CCS Suga declines to comment on reports that NSA provided email surveillance system to Japan

NHK reported that concerning earlier media reports that the classified USG documents leaked by former CIA employee Edward Snowden contained documents stating that the NSA provided Japan with a surveillance system that can collect email communications, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters that although he is aware of the press stories, he will refrain from commenting on them because the origin of the documents is unknown. When asked by a reporter whether Japan received the data collection system from the NSA, Suga stated that although the U.S. and Japan exchange information regularly, the GOJ does not disclose the details of those exchanges.

- [Japan, U.S., S. Korea to exert greater pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [N. Korea conducts large-scale firing drill near east coast: report](#) (Kyodo News)
- [S. Korea summons Japan diplomat in protest over claim to islets](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, UAE reach broad agreement on investment pact](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan to provide \\$62 million in financial assistance to Yemen](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Pyongyang's actions behind talk of relisting as terror state](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Japan, Australia should cooperate as 'quasi-allies' over North Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: President Trump vs. Kim Jong Un](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: President Trump vs. DPM Aso](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on April 24](#) (Nikkei)
- [Deputy CCS Hagiuda says there's nothing wrong with Abe seizing "unrivaled control"](#) (Sankei)
- [FM Kishida travels around the country to raise his profile](#) (Yomiuri)
- [NSS officials shut themselves off](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Eliminate public anxiety over bill on terrorism with clear explanations](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

U.S. military conducts parachute drop drills at Kadena AB despite local opposition

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times front-paged reports on the U.S. military's parachute drop training conducted at Kadena AB from around 7:50 a.m. through 9:20 a.m. on Monday. The papers wrote that despite requests from the governments of Okinawa Prefecture and Kadena on Sunday evening not to conduct the training, the U.S. military went ahead with it. The local governments expressed their anger by saying that the U.S. should respect the 1996 SACO Agreement, which stipulated that parachute drop training would be relocated to Iejima. Okinawa Times wrote that the U.S. military said that it conducted the drills at Kadena because it had been unable to conduct them on Iejima for 133 days due to bad weather and other reasons, and that it consulted with the GOJ before deciding to do the training at Kadena. The U.S. military reportedly said that the safety of the people of Okinawa is one of its greatest concerns.

- [Takeoffs and landings at Futenma increased even without Ospreys](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Civic groups in western Japan oppose use of their soil for Henoko project](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [65% of Okinawans say Henoko landfill work "inappropriate," Asahi Shimbun-Okinawa Times-QAB joint opinion poll of Okinawa residents](#) (Asahi)
- [58% of Okinawans support Gov. Onaga, Asahi Shimbun-Okinawa Times-QAB joint opinion poll of Okinawa residents](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun-Okinawa Times-QAB joint opinion poll of Okinawa residents](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

Deputy foreign minister given additional portfolio on TPP

Nikkei reported online that the the GOJ decided today to have Deputy Foreign Minister for economic affairs Katakami take on additional duties connected to the TPP, saying that he will represent Japan as the chief negotiator at a meeting in Canada in early May where the participants are expected to discuss the effectuation of the regional free trade deal without U.S. participation.

- [Saga governor green-lights restart of Genkai nuclear plant](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

- [AI to improve productivity of livestock farming](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [MEXT to cultivate AI specialists via public-private collaboration](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [60% of Japan's junior high schoolers dislike studying by second year: poll](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

