
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, July 6, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on the heavy rain in the Kyushu region, saying that special emergency warnings have been issued for Fukuoka and Oita prefectures.

INTERNATIONAL

Defense Minister Inada, Secretary Mattis confirm enhanced deterrence

NHK reported online that Defense Minister Inada held a teleconference with Secretary of Defense Mattis on Wednesday evening following North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile. Inada reportedly told Mattis that North Korea's repeated provocations are unacceptable and stressed the need for the U.S. and Japan to work together closely. The network said Secretary Mattis expressed a similar view, adding that the two ministers agreed to further strengthen the deterrence and the response capability of the U.S.-Japan alliance. In addition, the Secretary reportedly reiterated the view that the U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan, including extended deterrence, is unyielding. The two ministers also confirmed close trilateral cooperation between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea.

Pentagon spokesperson says threat posed by North Korea is "limited"

NHK reported this afternoon that in response to an announcement by North Korea that it successfully test-fired an ICBM for the first time, Pentagon spokesperson Davis described the missile on Wednesday as a new type of two-stage ballistic missile that "we have not seen before." Davis also reportedly expressed the view that the threat to the U.S. is "limited" because North Korea did not test the technology to have a warhead reenter the atmosphere because the missile was intentionally launched upward and the horizontal flight distance was shorter than for an actual ICBM. He also reportedly pointed out that North Korea failed to demonstrate the ability to mount a nuclear weapon on the missile. According to the network, a research group at Johns Hopkins University,

which is well-known for its analysis on North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, analyzed that if the missile was launched at the right angle, it would have flown for 6,700 to 8,000 km, placing Hawaii and Alaska within its range. The group also reportedly pointed out that North Korea may deploy ICBMs for actual use within two years as it has become clear through the latest missile launch that North Korea's missile development is moving ahead faster than expected.

- [U.S. affirms commitment to defend Japan against N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: N. Korea's proclamation of 'ICBM' launch cannot be overlooked](#) (The Japan News)
- [Ex-PM Mori to visit Russia to hold talks with Putin: source](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: It is critical to identify viable economic projects for the northern territories](#) (The Japan News)
- [Commentary: Japan and Germany must unite to protect the Western order](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SECURITY

- [Interception of N. Korean ICBMs by Japan difficult under current conditions](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview with Abe on Tokyo election, Kake Gakuen issue, relations with China, ROK, more](#) (Mainichi)
- [Lawmakers agree to reopen parliament, PM favoritism claims on agenda](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Komeito chief says constitutional revision not on policy agenda](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Most LDP members steer clear of constitutional revision meeting after Tokyo election debacle](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP constitution panel mulls stronger PM powers, extending lawmakers' terms in emergencies](#) (Mainichi)
- [Outline of LDP constitutional revision proposals emerges](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Time for reflection as the LDP gets thumped in Tokyo elections](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [DP members dissatisfied with Renho continuing as party leader](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe administration must stop trying to control bureaucracy's information](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan, EU to seal free trade deal to promote open economy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Hard-won pact shows Japan, EU still carry free trade torch](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan seen boosting aid to dairy farmers after EPA deal with EU](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan, EU to set common rules for environmental and safety regulations for cars](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan given lowest ranking in global warming countermeasures survey of G20 participants](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan to set up casino control commission](#) (Mainichi)
- [Blue sky budget for nuclear fuel cycle policy](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Spoken English tests among entrance exam reforms Japan's students will face in 2020](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

- [Japan's population falling rapidly, No. of births drops below 1 mil.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FOCUS: Japan's child poverty level improves, but still way to go](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Haneda Airport to install face recognition gates for locals](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Transgender activist urges young people to "be yourself, no matter what they say"](#) (Asahi, Mainichi)
- [Young bureaucrats' policy paper for brave new world resonates with Japanese youth](#) (TV / Social media)
- [Tiny Fukushima uni thinks global, nurtures creatives in "Geek Dojo"](#) (Asahi)



Okinawa officials dismiss possible U.S. military use of Naha airport

Thursday's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo both front-paged remarks made during a prefectural assembly conference on Wednesday by Director Kiichiro Jahana of the Executive Office of Governor Onaga, in which he commented on the 2013 U.S.-Japan agreement that called for the use of Japanese commercial airports by the U.S. military in the event of a contingency as one of the eight conditions for returning MCAS Futenma to Japan. Speculating that the pact probably envisaged the use of Naha Airport, Jahana underscored that the prefecture will never allow the U.S. military to use Naha Airport on the grounds that it is extremely congested and that doing so would have adverse effects on tourism. Governor Onaga seconded his top assistant's view, noting that he was appalled by Defense Minister Inada's saying at the Diet on June 15 that unless all of the eight conditions are met, the Futenma base will not be returned even if a replacement facility is built off Camp Schwab as agreed upon.

- [Ceremony to mark partial reversion of Futenma Air Station to be held around Aug. 1](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Brigadier General Thomas D. Weidley installed as 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commander](#) (Okinawa Times)