
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, August 10, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports that the Korean People's Army announced through North Korean state media this morning that it is mulling the launch of mid-range ballistic missiles toward Guam. According to the statement, a plan will be submitted to Kim Jong Un by mid-August for a total of four missiles to fly over Shimane, Hiroshima, and Kochi and land in waters about 30 to 40 km off Guam.

INTERNATIONAL

State Department spokesperson says U.S. to resolve DPRK issue through diplomacy

NHK reported that despite the unprecedentedly strong language used by President Trump and Defense Secretary Mattis against North Korea over the last few days, DOS spokesperson Nauert told reporters on Wednesday that the position of the Trump administration not to seek regime change in North Korea remains the same. She also reportedly said the U.S. will continue to seek to resolve the issue through diplomacy. When a reporter claimed that the Trump administration is sending conflicting messages to North Korea, Nauert reportedly responded by saying that the U.S. government is "speaking with one voice" and that the policy of increasing pressure on North Korea remains unchanged.

- [North Korea plans 4-missile salvo targeting Guam](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's new top diplomat faces struggle defining himself](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Japan offers Iraq helping hand as terrorism fight rages on](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [GRIPS professor says int'l community should seek dialogue with DPRK](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: U.S. withdrawal from TPP has huge impact on region](#) (Sankei)
- [Galuzin may be next Russian ambassador to Japan, Russian newspaper](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, China to seek cooperative measures for "One Belt, One Road" initiative](#) (Nikkei)
- [Sony, Shimizu lead Corporate Japan's quest to go carbon neutral](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [The Asahi Shimbun's "Press Council for Tomorrow"](#) (Asahi)
- ["China-Japan-ROK summit should be held in autumn," Communist Party of China official](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [FM Kono promises to aid Duterte's infrastructure projects, war on terrorism](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Kono must stick to Japan's principles in improving China, S. Korea ties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Japan-China foreign ministerial meeting](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

Suga, Onodera comment on North Korea's provocations

NHK reported at noon that in response to North Korea's announcement this morning that its military is mulling the launch of mid-range ballistic missiles toward Guam, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning: "We must never tolerate North Korea's provocations. We strongly urge North Korea to abide by UNSC resolutions, including the latest one, and refrain from further provocations."

Defense Minister Onodera was asked at a Diet session this morning whether the launching of missiles by North Korea toward Guam would constitute a situation that poses a clear danger to Japan's existence, which would enable Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense. He was quoted as saying in response: "Japan's role in defense is to serve as a shield. The role of the U.S. is to enhance deterrence with its solid attack capability. Considering the fact that Japan's deterrence will be enhanced if we combine these two roles, we cannot deny the possibility that Japan's existence would be in danger if the U.S. side lost its deterrence or attack capability."

USS Ronald Reagan returns to Yokosuka

Yomiuri reported online that the USS Ronald Reagan returned to Yokosuka Naval Station this morning after completing a three-month tour in the Western Pacific amid rising tension on the Korean Peninsula. Rear Adm. Charles Williams, the Task Force 70 Commander, stressed the contributions that the carrier group has been making to regional peace and stability. Capt. Michael Donnelly, the Ronald Reagan's skipper, explained that while at sea the flattop has enhanced interoperability with the MSDF and other navies. "We were able to conduct training to respond to contingencies," he said.

- [Gist of Japan's 2017 defense white paper](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: State Minister for Okinawa Esaki](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Swiftly explain cause of Osprey crash, disclose necessary information](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: The MV-22 Osprey](#) (Akahata)

POLITICS

- [MOD creates new post of information disclosure inspector](#) (Mainichi)
- [To succeed Abe, Kishida says, "I must win when I fight"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Economic revitalization chief Motegi to tackle education, labor reforms](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: New political group 'Japan First' needs to know 'policies first'](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Suga's political clout ebbs](#) (Sentaku)
- [Abe's former secretary met with representatives from Kake Institution, Imabari city, Ehime Prefecture](#) (Asahi)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 9](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Japan's food self-sufficiency rate hits 23-year low as rice consumption decline continues](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Fisheries Agency holds informational meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna catch restrictions](#) (Mainichi)

- [Using AI to enhance tuna farming](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Shinshu University professor develops technology that turns almost 100% of timber into gas](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

EDUCATION

- [More Japanese may be studying abroad, but not for long](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

- [Record 12.1% of Japan's managerial posts held by women: survey](#) (Nikkei)
- [Philanthropist looks to groom more Japanese women leaders in quest for social change](#) (The Japan Times)
- ['Maternity harassment' still dogs female lawmakers despite government's empowerment goals](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Pressured by Tokyo 'JK' ordinance, Kanagawa mulls crackdown on firms that dispatch underage teens](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [66% oppose casinos being created near their homes, Jiji Press poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Parachute drop training conducted despite local protests

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged parachute drop training conducted by the U.S. military on Wednesday night in designated training waters in Uruma City, Okinawa, noting that the prefectural and municipal governments had strongly requested the cancellation of the practice, which was the fifth of its kind this year. Pointing out that this was the first time this year for the U.S. military to carry out this type of training in this location at night, the dailies said local residents are worried that parachute drop training will continue indefinitely. Okinawa's anger at the U.S. military reportedly has grown particularly intense following the drill because the military has also ignored local pleas to discontinue Osprey flights in the island prefecture in response to the fatal crash in waters off Australia.

