
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, August 23, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on the extremely hot weather in the Kanto region today.

INTERNATIONAL

Secretary of State Tillerson welcomes North Korea's restraint

NHK, TBS, and Fuji TV reported at noon that Secretary of State Tillerson held a press conference at the State Department on Tuesday, during which he welcomed the fact that North Korea has not been launching missiles or taking other provocative actions since the latest UNSC sanctions resolution was adopted on August 5. The Secretary reportedly said this is "worth noting." In addition, the Secretary reportedly expressed the view that North Korea has demonstrated a degree of restraint, stressing: "We hope that this is the beginning of this signal that we've been looking for that they are ready to restrain their level of tensions, they're ready to restrain their provocative acts, and that perhaps we are seeing our pathway to sometime in the near future having some dialogue. We need to see more on their part." NHK said while applying pressure on North Korea, the Secretary has been expressing the view that the U.S. is ready to hold talks with Pyongyang if it stops engaging in provocations, adding that the Secretary once again urged North Korea to exercise restraint.

- [Kono vows to prevent inflow of funds into N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Philippines set to begin \\$13 bil. worth of Japan-funded rail projects](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

U.S. Navy to relieve 7th Fleet commander

NHK reported this morning that several U.S. media outlets reported that the U.S. Navy is planning to relieve Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin (photo) of his command of the 7th Fleet following a string of accidents involving U.S. Navy ships in the Asia Pacific region, including the recent collision between the guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain and a merchant ship in the Malacca Strait that left 10 Navy sailors missing.

- [Yokosuka citizens' groups worried by collision involving John McCain](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Carrier-based aircraft to use Atsugi base even after relocation to Iwakuni](#) (Akahata)
- [Main items in FY2018 Defense Ministry budget requests for equipment procurement](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Experts say difficult for Japan to intercept missiles targeting Guam](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan unlikely to take up nuclear arms: expert](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. court revives environment lawsuit over Okinawa base relocation](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: Uncomfortable with "A-bomb Day" declarations](#) (Sankei)
- [Expert says military integration with U.S. in dealing with DPRK heightens risk of war](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan to impose tentative antidumping duty on China's chemical imports](#) (Kyodo News)
- ["Cool Japan" initiative struggling to carve out market for non-animation content](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 22, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kishida needs to tackle policy challenges to gain an edge in post-Abe race](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP lawmakers to launch group to listen to negative views on party](#) (Asahi)

- [LDP appoints Hosoda administrative reform promotion headquarters chairman](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Will DP election be chance to end crisis, put party back on track?](#) (The Japan News)

OPINION POLLS

- [SDF daily logs and North Korea key issues for Abe, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

- [Yahoo News replaces printed newspapers as dominant news source](#) (FACTA)
- [Hundreds of disabled workers laid off amid workshop closures](#) (Kyodo News)
- [100 officials set to be added to labor inspection offices](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japanese firms hiring more people with mental health issues](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

U.S high court orders lower court to reexamine case over FRF construction

Wednesday's Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times both gave prominent front- and inside-page coverage to a decision issued on Monday by a U.S. federal appeals court reviving a lawsuit that seeks to block the FRF construction off Camp Schwab over concerns about its impact on the dugong. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that a U.S. NGO, which is one of multiple parties to the plaintiff, has authority to challenge the adequacy of the USG's evaluation of the project's effect on the sea mammal. Also concluding that the environmental group's request for an injunction blocking the initiative did not raise "political questions" that are beyond a judicial review, the three-judge panel hence overturned a 2015 ruling issued by the U.S. District Court in San Francisco that dismissed the suit, and sent the case back to it for further proceedings. Opponents of the FRF program are jubilant about the latest U.S. ruling, hoping that the lower court issues an injunction prohibiting the DOD from moving forward with the construction so as to protect the dugong in the vicinity.

- [Investigative report on Osprey accident last December to be released shortly](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Okinawan delegation travels to U.S. to demand suspension of base construction](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

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