



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, October 12, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All commercial broadcasters gave top play to reports on the emergency landing of a CH-53 transport helicopter in Okinawa on Wednesday. NHK led with a report on the eruption of Mount Shinmoedake in Kyushu.

SECURITY

Okinawa files protests over CH-53 helicopter incident

All networks reported that following the incident in which a CH-53 helicopter made an emergency landing on privately owned grazing land near the Northern Training Area and burst into flames on Wednesday, Higashison Mayor Iju inspected the site and told reporters: "I was shocked to see the site. The U.S. military side has said they will retrieve the helicopter once they finish conducting the environmental assessment. I want the U.S. military to suspend flight training near the area until the cause of the incident has been identified." The networks said Okinawa Governor Onaga is also expected to inspect the site this afternoon and lodge a strong protest against the U.S. military and the Japanese government and call for the suspension of CH-53 helicopter flights.

NHK said Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa told reporters this morning that he received a briefing on the incident from the Okinawa Area Coordinator, Lt. Gen. Nicholson, over the phone on Wednesday. Tomikawa reportedly said no apology was given. He was also quoted as saying: "He said the CH-53 made an emergency landing. I asked him several times whether it was a crash.... Based on what I saw in the video, I feel it was the same as a crash."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Onodera told reporters this morning that Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Adm. Kawano made a direct request to PACOM Commander Harris for an investigation into the

cause of the incident and preventive measures. Onodera also said he will summon USFJ Deputy Commander Chiarotti to the Ministry of Defense to ask for detailed information about the incident. He was quoted as saying: "There have been many aircraft incidents involving the U.S. Marines in particular. I've heard that the aircraft involved in the incident this time is the same model as the one that crashed on Okinawa International University. It is only natural that the Okinawan people are concerned." According to NHK, the defense chief also said he will decide whether to call for flight suspension after he talks to Lt. Gen. Chiarotti.

H-53 helicopter incident classified as "Class A" mishap

NHK reported at 3 p.m. that the U.S. Naval Safety Center announced on Wednesday that the H-53 transport helicopter made an emergency landing in Okinawa because its engine caught fire during flight, saying that while there were no injuries, the incident was a "Class A" flight mishap. The network said incidents are classified as "Class A" mishaps when the damage exceeds \$2 million or they are fatal. The network added that the incident was probably classified as a "Class A" mishap because other than the tail section, most of the helicopter was severely damaged and burned.

- [Okinawa gov. visits U.S. military chopper accident site](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Okinawa base issues become campaign issue for upcoming election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Govt ordered to pay damages for Yokota base noise](#) (The Japan News)
- [Dark clouds loom over plan for domestic production of next-generation fighter](#) (Sentaku)

ECONOMY

- [Aso, Pence likely to be at odds over U.S. calls for Japan-U.S. FTA](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, U.S. to partner on carbon capture and storage](#) (Nikkei)
- [Toshiba off TSE's watch list, for now](#) (The Japan News)
- [Unfinished nuclear fuel reprocessing plant faked safety records: NRA](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan Tourism Agency to establish "minpaku" database](#) (Sankei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Comparison of major newspapers' projections for Oct. 22 general election](#) (Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Nikkei, Sankei, Tokyo Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 11, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe expresses hope that LDP Vice-President Komura will continue in post](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Will lower house election voters show confidence in Abe administration?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Voters need to pay close attention to candidates' campaign speeches](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Democratic Party continues to exist in Upper House](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe's close confidant Hagiuda said to be deeply jealous of Shinjiro Koizumi](#) (THEMIS)
- ["Moritomo bureaucrats" enjoying successful careers in MOF](#) (Sentaku)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Abe called snap election because no U.S. attack on North Korea is expected in two months](#) (Sankei)
- [China apparently sent no congratulatory cable on DPRK party anniversary](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan's draft U.N. motion makes no mention of nuke ban pact](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan ex-defense chief says Taiwan has what it takes to be independent](#) (Jiji)
- [FM Kono seeks Denmark's cooperation in applying pressure on North Korea](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Employment agency to hold job fairs for Japanese students overseas](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

Nobel Peace laureate ICAN works with hibakushas to achieve nuclear ban

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on "The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)," which received this year's Nobel Peace Prize for its contributions to the adoption of the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in July. The program said the members of this coalition of NGOs and peace organizations from more than 100 nations are mainly in their 20s and 30s,

adding that the presence of the hibakushas has been their driving force. The program said ICAN successfully increased the number of nations that supported the ban treaty by spreading the voices of hibakushas and highlighting the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons around the world. The program began interviewing some of the founding members of ICAN four years ago, and showed how ICAN members worked together with the hibakushas to realize the historic adoption of the treaty.

- [Election campaigns hire outside organizations to weed out fake news](#) (Yomiuri)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Young Japanese pro bilateral alliance, against constitutional amendment](#) (NHK)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa furious about latest accident involving U.S. military aircraft

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times gave extensive coverage to the emergency landing of a Futenma-based CH-53 helicopter that burst into flames on privately owned land adjacent to the Northern Training Area on Wednesday evening, expressing rage and deep concern about the latest mishap involving U.S. military aircraft based in the southernmost prefecture. Ryukyu Shimpo claimed that such an accident could occur anywhere in Okinawa, and dismissed the central government's policy of removing the danger at MCAS Futenma by building a new facility off Camp Schwab as futile. While quoting a senior Okinawa official as describing U.S. military aircraft as "flying lethal weapons," Okinawa Times said the Abe administration is worried about the accident potentially having a negative impact on local ruling candidates' performance in the upcoming general election.