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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, October 18, 2017

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

NHK led with a report on the opening of China's Communist Party Congress today. NTV and TBS gave top play to reports on the ongoing search for the four missing crewmembers of an ASDF UH-60 aircraft that is believed to have crashed in waters off Shizuoka Prefecture on Tuesday evening. Fuji TV and TV Asahi led with reports that a car plowed into a group of elementary school pupils on a street in Hirakata, Osaka, this morning, injuring several of them.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### China under President Xi

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Chinese President Xi, who has consolidated power under him in order to build a nation that is diplomatically, militarily and economically powerful. President Xi is reportedly trying to thoroughly eradicate corruption and has made huge investments in the development of rural areas. The program also reported on the dark side of Xi's leadership, saying that he is maintaining tight control over information on the Internet and imposing strict censorship as well as oppressing many lawyers in China.

- [Trade to remain a "thorn" during Trump's visit to Japan](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan, U.S. to focus on DPRK during Trump's visit to showcase strong alliance](#) (Yomiuri)

- [South Korea calls on Japan to work for 'future-oriented' partnership](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan remains on U.S. "monitoring list" for currency](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Third of non-nuke principles should be "not allowing Japan to receive a nuclear attack"](#) (Gaiko)

## ECONOMY

### **Senior DOE official hints at extension of U.S.-Japan nuclear energy pact**

Nikkei reported online on press remarks this morning by visiting Deputy Secretary of Energy Brouillette, who indicated that the existing U.S.-Japan nuclear energy pact will probably be extended by saying: "There is no reason for renegotiation.... The U.S. has forged a long-term relationship with Japan when it comes to the peaceful use of nuclear energy." The article added that the bilateral accord will be renewed automatically unless either side asks for renegotiation or abrogation within six months of its expiration in July 2018.

- [Editorial: Enforce TPP-11 before starting Japan-U.S. FTA talks](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of the second round of U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Japan looking to shrink TPP-related farm assistance](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan mulls ways to put \\$3.6tn corporate profits to work](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [WTO panel said to back Japan on Fukushima fish ban](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan still "quite some distance" from 2% inflation: BOJ policymaker](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

### **PM Abe's advisor visits Yasukuni Shrine**

NHK reported online this morning that Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Seiichi Eto visited Yasukuni Shrine this morning. Eto reportedly told reporters that he prayed for peace in Japan and for the resolution of the serious issues facing the nation. He reportedly wrote in the shrine's guestbook "Member of House of Councilors, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Seiichi Eto."

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 17, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan coalition partner calls for caution on changing charter](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Prospective successors to PM Abe campaign for Lower House election in different ways](#) (Nikkei)

- [Independents from DP eye realignment after election](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Abe, opposition parties sidestep debate on fiscal responsibility](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Yuriko Koike](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [LDP eyes firm victory, Koike party fights for 2nd place: Kyodo poll](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Rivalry among opposition parties divides anti-Abe administration votes](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Over 60% of Tokyo voters against governor's involvement in national politics: poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

#### SCIENCE

- [Japan's lunar orbiter finds cave potentially suitable for probe base](#) (Kyodo News)

#### SOCIETY

- [Kyodo News Pyongyang Bureau reporting very little despite enormous fees paid to DPRK](#) (Sentaku)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Security the most popular topic in Lower House election-related Facebook postings](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

#### SECURITY

### **U.S. military resumes operation of CH-53 helicopter**

All networks reported at noon that the U.S. military resumed flights of CH-53 helicopters at MCAS Futenma today, saying that one of them left the base at about 10:30 a.m. NHK said the helicopter was spotted flying above Takae District, where the incident occurred last week. According to the networks, Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson released a comment saying: "We are seriously thinking about the safety of the people in Okinawa. The CH-53 is a reliable aircraft." The networks said opposition is growing in Okinawa since the resumption came only a week after the incident and before the cause was made public. Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa was quoted as saying: "We are dissatisfied at this point. It is extremely regrettable."

Defense Minister Onodera told reporters this morning: "It is very regrettable that the flight operations have been resumed without providing a sufficient explanation of the grounds on which the U.S. side made the decision on safety....Our position that the operations should be suspended until safety is confirmed remains unchanged."

- [46 pct failed to evacuate despite missile warning in Sept.](#) (Jiji Press)

#### OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### **Okinawa, GOJ displeased by decision to resume helicopter flights**

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times gave prominent coverage to the U.S. military's announcement that the suspension of CH-53 operations would be lifted on Wednesday, noting that the U.S. military declared the safety of the aircraft unilaterally without providing any details on the recent incident. The decision defied the Defense Ministry's repeated request that CH-53 flights should only be resumed when it is satisfied with the U.S. military's findings on the aircraft's safety. Okinawa Times wrote that the U.S. military chose to dismiss the central government's request for the continuation of the suspension, which was intended to quell Okinawa's rage at least during the ongoing general election campaign, stressing that the U.S. military appears to be determined not to compromise its operations no matter what.

Ryukyu Shimpo pointed out that the U.S. military began dismantling the charred aircraft on Tuesday without allowing local officials and investigators sufficient access to the site, emphasizing that the episode is reminiscent of the U.S. military's disregard of Japan's sovereign right to conduct criminal investigations. The paper added that the Defense Ministry was just as displeased as Okinawa by the U.S. military's unilateral declaration that the helicopter is safe.

- [Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan says helicopter accident was "regrettable"](#) (Okinawa Times)