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Afternoon Alert - Monday, November 27, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report that PM Abe said at a Diet session this morning that following the Kake Gakuen scandal he will work on clarifying procedures for the sale of state-owned land. All commercial networks led with reports on sumo grand champion Harumafuji.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Abe sends condolences to victims of Navy aircraft mishap

Nikkei reported in its evening edition that Prime Minister Abe sent a message to President Trump on Monday regarding the recent crash of a U.S. Navy C-2 plane in the Pacific. In conveying his condolences over the perished sailors, the premier said: "Japan is committed to making the bonds of the alliance even stronger and cooperating for ensuring regional peace and stability."

### Opposition camp critical of Abe's language on DPRK

NHK's Sunday morning talk show "Nichiyo Toron" invited policy affairs chiefs of ruling and opposition parties to discuss major issues in the ongoing extraordinary Diet session. Opposition officials took issue with the harsh rhetoric used by Prime Minister Abe in denouncing North Korea. While noting that President Trump used equally strong language in referring to the DPRK, Nagashima of the Party of Hope stressed that other Trump administration officials, including Secretary of State Tillerson, have concurrently sent the Kim regime conciliatory messages seeking dialogue. Nagashima raised concern that the Abe administration does not have an "exit strategy" in the nuclear standoff, calling for Foreign Minister Kono and other GOJ officials to explain Japan's blueprint for the demilitarization of the Korean Peninsula. Democratic Party of Japan representative

Adachi concurred with Nagashima by saying that Abe's remarks, such as "Japan is with America one hundred percent," and "Dialogue with North Korea is a waste of time," are too provocative. He said he is afraid that such language may provoke a reckless reaction from the Kim regime.

LDP Deputy Policy Research Council Chairman Tamura rebuffed such criticism by arguing that the two governments' maximum pressure campaign is intended to induce North Korea to return to the negotiating table. He explained that by voicing Tokyo's full support for Washington's North Korea policy, the GOJ has been able to remind North Korea that it is open to dialogue if the Kim regime is willing to halt nuclear and missile development.

- [PM Abe eyes visiting UAE in January](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Lavrov raises concern over Japan's backing of U.S. stance on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Comfort women statute aimed at fanning anti-Japan campaigns](#) (Sankei)
- [Memorial hall dedicated to Japan war trials to be built in Shanghai](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Trump's sales pitch for defense equipment won't convince Japanese public](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Son of U.S. soldier looking for kin of 130 Japanese he saved in WWII](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

### **Fukui governor gives green light for resumption of Oi NPP**

NHK reported at noon that Fukui Governor Nishikawa announced at a press conference this morning that he will agree to the resumption of Reactors No. 3 and 4 at the prefecture's Oi nuclear power plant, saying that KEPCO is planning to resume the operation of Reactor No. 3 in mid-January and Reactor No. 4 in mid-March. According to the network, Governor Nishikawa explained that he made the decision after the prefecture's panel of experts confirmed the safety of the nuclear station from an engineering perspective and KEPCO disclosed a plan to find a candidate site for an intermediate storage facility for spent fuel by the end of next year. The network quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling reporters this morning: "It was extremely important for us to obtain the understanding of Governor Nishikawa...We continue to expect KEPCO to ensure safety as a top priority given that the legal procedures of the Nuclear Regulation Authority are still ongoing."

- [Japanese companies' capital spending plans jump 15.8%](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Atlantic tuna deal drawing mixed reactions in Japan](#) (The Japan News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 26, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 25, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 24, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [FM Kono suddenly emerges as "post-Abe" hopeful](#) (Sankei)
- [FM Kono speaks about DPRK, Korean peninsula crisis, Kono statement, Article 9 and more](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't mulls convening regular Diet session on Jan. 19](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Prospects for LDP, Ishin cooperation may turn murky over constitutional amendment](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Matsui reelected as Nippon Ishin leader unopposed](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ex-Abe Cabinet member makes discriminatory remark about Africans](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP heavyweight's comment roundly condemned as homophobic](#) (Kyodo News)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate steady at 52% while 57% say high-income earners should shoulder portion of preschool costs, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Half of Japanese see "no need to rush rapprochement with China," Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei, Online)
- [60% of Japanese worried about IT crimes, Cabinet Office survey](#) (Mainichi)

## SCIENCE

- [Govt eyes manned lunar surface mission](#) (The Japan News)

## SECURITY

**U.S. military to begin transfer of 30 attack aircraft to Iwakuni from Atsugi AB**

TV Asahi reported online that the U.S. military will begin today the transfer of a total of 30 carrier-borne airplanes from Atsugi AB to MCAS Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture. According to the network, the planes include the FA-18 Super Hornet and the EA-18G Growler. The network said the defense bureau in the Chugoku/Shikoku region informed Yamaguchi Prefecture and Iwakuni City on Sunday, saying that the transfer is part of the measures to reduce noise pollution near Atsugi. Iwakuni Mayor Fukuda was quoted as saying: "We will endeavor to assess the noise and operations more than ever."

### **Sexual misconduct involving Marines in Okinawa rampant**

TBS's "Hodo Tokushu" news program took up what it called "rampant" sex crimes perpetrated by Marines in Okinawa, highlighting two sets of U.S. military records on sexual offenses from 2015 to 2016 obtained by freelance journalist Jon Mitchell – one on courts-martial prepared by the USMC headquarters and the other by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. According to Mitchell, a total of 59 Okinawa-based Marines have been imprisoned for sexual misconduct since January 2015, with victims reportedly including not only women, but men, children, and even animals. Some of the perpetrators reportedly "escaped" from criminal penalties by choosing to leave the military voluntarily. A local anti-base activist expressed rage at the content of the records, arguing for the importance of making these sexual crimes public so as to deter further offenses by U.S. personnel.

In reply to the broadcaster's query about whether the two sets of records showed that the U.S. military is not a "good neighbor" to the Okinawa people, the USMC said that it is committed to holding all personnel to the "highest possible standards" and that it strongly encourages all Marines to report all instances of sexual misconduct in order to "hold offenders appropriately accountable." It also underscored that all Marines are "absolutely dedicated to being the best possible neighbor." A TBS reporter said in conclusion that the figures cited in the two sets of U.S. documents may be only the "tip of the iceberg," urging the U.S. military to disclose all records of sexual offenses committed by the members of the military community in the island prefecture. He also called for the U.S. military to conduct a review of court martial proceedings since its lengthy investigative process has discouraged the victims of sexual crimes from cooperating, which in some instances resulted in lenient punishment of the offenders.

### **New threat to the Internet**

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on cyber attacks via the Internet of Things (IoT), saying that unlike the conventional cyber attacks in which hackers use their own computers for cyber attacks, they mount attacks by hacking security cameras, TVs, and other household appliances around the world that are connected to the Internet. The program said the danger of Japan becoming the target of a major cyber attack is high ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, adding that Japan has just begun taking measures against cyber attacks using IoT appliances.

- [Gov't to request American schools in Okinawa accept Japanese pupils](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's missile defense unnecessary without North Korea's threat: Russian defense minister](#) (Mainichi)
- [Man 'sent' infrared camera to China firm](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't to craft plan to evacuate Japanese from S. Korea amid tensions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [All Okinawa Council receives international award for fight against U.S. bases](#) (Tokyo Shimbun, Evening edition)
- [Japan to enhance control over privately owned land on remote islands](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Relocation of 2nd batch of carrier-based aircraft from Atsugi to Iwakuni to start on Nov. 27](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Search for missing U.S. military plane ended](#) (Yomiuri)

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### **USMC to station F-35s at Kadena next year**

Sunday's Okinawa Times led with the disclosure by several USMC sources that as many as 26 F-35Bs may be deployed at Kadena AB, noting the plan, if implemented, is bound to increase the base burden on Okinawa on account of the stealth aircraft's large noise. In a Marine document "Integrated Natural Resources, Cultural Resources Management Plans" that was drafted in September 2014, there is a statement saying: "The Marine Corps would deploy up to 26 F-35B aircraft to Marine Wing Liaison Kadena (MWLK) at any one time." The same document went on to say: "These aircraft would fly in existing military airspace around Okinawa, train at the Ie Shima Training Facility, operate occasionally at MCAS Futenma, and use MCB Camp Butler facilities." The daily asserted that the USMC is set to operate the state-of-the-art fighters in Okinawa, including at such facilities as Kadena, Futenma, the Northern Training Area, and Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield, in accordance with a new unit deployment program, with the sources reportedly projecting that the F-35Bs will begin training in the island prefecture by March next year.

- [Garbage collection stalled on U.S. bases in Okinawa](#)
  - [Okinawa to seek SOFA revision](#)
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