
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, December 4, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports that the USAF and the ROK Air Force began aerial combat training in South Korean airspace today.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga expresses support for U.S.-ROK joint military drills

Concerning the joint exercise between the USAF and the ROK Air Force that began today, NHK quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling reporters this morning: "In order to defend our nation and ensure regional peace and safety, strong deterrence by the U.S.-Japan alliance and the U.S.-ROK alliance is necessary. From this viewpoint, we support U.S.-ROK cooperation as conducive to regional peace and stability." In addition, Suga reportedly said: "We are aware that North Korea is reacting sharply to the training by saying that it is a grave military provocation. Accordingly, the Japanese government is carrying out surveillance, collecting information, and making an all-out effort to ensure the safety and security of the Japanese people with a sense of urgency."

- [Documents prove Xi behind coercive tactics in E. China Sea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe conveys concern to Moon over N. Korea aid](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan's upper house adopts resolution slamming N. Korea ICBM test](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to host G20 summit outside Tokyo](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe to propose holding biennial developing world medical conference](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japan House promotion center to partially open in L.A. next month](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Stop DPRK's inexorable march toward self-destruction](#) (Sankei)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador meets with Fukuoka governor

FBS TV reported on Friday that Ambassador Hagerty visited Fukuoka and met with Governor Ogawa earlier in the day. The network said this year marks the 35th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Fukuoka Prefecture and Hawaii, adding that Governor Ogawa talked about his visit to Hawaii and also expressed his appreciation for the U.S. disaster assistance following torrential rains in the prefecture in July. According to the network, the Ambassador said the economic bond between the U.S. and Japan and people-to-people exchanges are a top priority and expressed hope to further strengthen bilateral ties.

Ambassador addresses Fukuoka business leaders

Nishinippon and the local editions of Asahi, Mainichi, and Yomiuri reported on Saturday that on Friday Ambassador Hagerty delivered in Fukuoka a speech to about 200 local business leaders on the topic of the U.S.-Japan economic relationship. Yomiuri wrote that the Ambassador stressed that "Fukuoka presents a tremendous opportunity for U.S. and Japanese companies to collaborate." The paper said this is the first time for the Ambassador to visit Fukuoka since he took office in August. The daily also quoted the Ambassador as saying: "Kyushu is in an extremely unique position to project the dynamism of the U.S. and Japanese economies to other regions in Asia." Asahi wrote that the Ambassador said he is "optimistic" about the bilateral economic relationship by saying that now is the time for both nations to achieve economic prosperity, adding that the Ambassador expressed his expectations for a U.S.-Japan FTA. The daily also said the Ambassador referred to the summit between President Trump and PM Abe in early November, saying: "Both leaders stressed that they will promote capital investment, trade volume, and market access."

NHK Fukuoka and RKB TV carried similar stories. RKB reported that the Ambassador also talked about North Korea's latest ICBM launch, saying that it drew people's attention to the need for further pressure on the North. The network also reported that the Ambassador said the UNSC held an emergency meeting immediately after the launch, adding that the close relationship between the U.S. and Japan is encouraging cooperation among the international community. The Ambassador was quoted as saying: "Our combined efforts are going to bring more pressure on the North Korean regime." NHK also reported that the Ambassador said during a Q&A session: "Economy and trade are important, but people-to-people cultural exchange is a top priority. I want to not only increase the number of Japanese students studying in the U.S., but also find and bring talented people in the

U.S. to Japan."

ECONOMY

- [Japan and EU to agree on EPA tariffs, put off investment deal](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan may cut corporate tax rate to 20% through incentives](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan to tax more foreign companies](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Extending a plant's life tied to Japanese nuclear policy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [JBIC, several firms to extend syndicated loan to Egypt for wind power project](#) (Nikkei)
- [Sumitomo Corp. to expand investment in U.S., European, Israeli startups](#) (Nikkei)
- [Nations agree in principle to ban fishing in central Arctic Ocean](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec 3, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec 2, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec 1, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't to formulate 2.7-2.8 trillion yen FY17 supplementary budget](#) (Sankei)
- [Policy spending for FY18 may reach record high](#) (Nikkei)
- [Komeito's presence ebbing in diplomacy](#) (Nikkei)
- [JCP chief vows full efforts to boost opposition coalition](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Dissenting views voiced at Party of Hope's first meeting on review of security laws](#) (Yomiuri)
- [CDPJ seeking cooperation from other opposition to scrap "anti-conspiracy" law](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Moritomo and Kake scandals](#) (Akahata)
- [Cartoon: Moritomo scandal](#) (Asahi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Over 60% support princesses keeping imperial status after marriage, Kyodo News poll](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [17% of Japanese believe freedom of expression covers hate speech, Cabinet Office survey](#) (The Japan Times)

SCIENCE

- [Japan's whaling draws fire for possible violation of int'l treaty](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

Imperial succession

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the Emperor, who is expected to abdicate on April 30, 2019. The program looked back at the footprints of the Emperor, who has been carrying out a wide variety of official duties in relation to his position as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people. The program also reported on the Empress and the Crown Prince, who is expected to accede to the throne on May 1, 2019. The program also looked back at his efforts to address issues concerning water, and efforts to seek new official duties that reflect the new era. The program also reported on Princess Masako, and what sorts of activities the Emperor may engage in after he retires.

- [FEATURE: Calls for same-sex marriage legalization growing](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

USS Ronald Reagan returns to Yokosuka

TBS reported at noon that the nuclear carrier USS Ronald Reagan returned to Yokosuka base at around 11:00 a.m. today after a cruise of about three months. The network said the U.S. carrier had been deployed to the Sea of Japan, where it conducted joint training last month with two other U.S. carriers and MSDF escort ships as a warning to North Korea.

- [Foreign minister urges U.S. commander to prevent incidents in Okinawa](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Up to 26 F-35Bs to be deployed to Kadena base](#) (Akahata)
- [Gov't to conduct evacuation drill in central Tokyo early in the new year](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan fishing boats to Be automatically informed of missile firing](#) (Jiji Press)

- [China targeting Shimoji Airport in Miyakojima, Okinawa](#) (WiLL)
- [Fukuoka conducts J-Alert drill to brace for North Korean missile launch](#) (The Japan Times)

**OKINAWA LOCAL
PRESS**

Kono proposes English education program to Okinawa

The Sunday editions of Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Foreign Minister Kono's meeting with Okinawa Governor Onaga and local business and municipality leaders in Naha on Saturday, during which Kono proposed his ministry's new idea of promoting English education for local students. The Think of Okinawa's Future in USA (TOFU) project, which includes a plan to send a total of 20 high school and college students to the United States annually, is intended to give local students the opportunity to see Okinawa from outside the prefecture and exchange views with the American people. The project also includes such ideas as supporting local students' enrollment at American colleges located at U.S. bases in Okinawa and establishing new bilingual elementary and middle schools that will invite students of families of U.S. service members. However, Onaga expressed a cautious view about the project to reporters after the meeting by saying that although the project may be useful in improving local students' English skills, the people of Okinawa will be hesitate if the presence of U.S. bases is a prerequisite for the proposal. Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the head of the Okinawa Association of Corporate Executives, who was present at the meeting with Kono, welcomed the idea of establishing a bilingual elementary school. However, Okinawa Times wrote that there is concern that the proposal, which would include the involvement of the U.S. military, could lead to the U.S. military bases' semi-permanent presence in Okinawa.

- [Henoko ammo depot's rebuilding not part of USFJ realignment plans to start in early 2018](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)