


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, January 23, 2018

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports that according to the Japan Meteorological Agency, Mount Kusatsu-Shirane in Gunma Prefecture apparently erupted at about 10 a.m. today. NHK reported at 3 p.m. that one person was killed and 11 others were injured due to an avalanche caused by the eruption.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 22, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of Prime Minister Abe's policy speech](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Excerpt from Abe's Diet policy speech on diplomacy, national security](#) (Asahi)
- [Main political schedules in 2018](#) (Mainichi)
- [New Vice FM Akiba to be tested on improving Japan-China relations](#) (Sankei)
- [Strength of in-house groups in House of Representatives and House of Councillors](#) (Mainichi)
- [List of top 20 opposition Lower House interpellators in past 5 years](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Japanese government submits fiscal 2018 budget for lawmakers' approval](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

GOJ to enhance defense capabilities in space and cyberspace

TBS reported at noon that it has obtained a draft of the updated National Defense Program Guidelines being prepared by the Defense Ministry, saying that the new guidelines are focused on significantly boosting Japan's defense capabilities in new sectors such as cyberspace and outer space. According to the network, the updated guidelines are based on the concept of "strengthening defense capabilities to deter or respond to opponents that are superior both in terms of quantity and quality." They also call for "obtaining and strengthening the capability to devastate opponents'

superiority" and introducing drones and AI technology to "significantly boost information-collecting and surveillance capabilities." In addition, the draft proposes setting up a new unit that serves as a command center for space and cyberspace activities separately from the functions currently performed by the JGSDF, JMSDF, and JASDF.

- [Japan, France poised to agree on signing ACSA at 2+2 meeting](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan to deploy its first F-35A stealth fighter Friday at Misawa base](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Tokyo's first ballistic missile drill gets mixed reaction](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

- [TPP members discuss signing pact by March amid Canadian reluctance](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Annual spring pay talks kick off](#) (The Japan News)
- [U.S. economy regaining shine](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese manufacturers to expand renewable energy use by 20% by FY20: Nikkei survey](#) (Nikkei)
- [U.S. tax cuts to affect Japanese companies' business results, strategies](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese firms to be affected by NAFTA renegotiations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kawasaki Heavy poised to win massive order for NYC subway cars](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

- [S. Korea to dissolve comfort women foundation: minister](#) (Jiji Press)
- [PM Abe: This year to be critical for Japan-Russia relations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, China lawmakers agree to promote ties, remain apart on islands](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP's Nikai meets with senior Chinese official, stresses need to improve ties](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan will not waver from pressure strategy on North Korea, Foreign Minister Taro Kono says](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan faces legal hurdles in anti-smuggling measures against North Korea](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Resolve issues for stable continuation of Japan-U.S. atomic energy cooperation pact](#) (Sankei)

EDUCATION

- [Surge in private junior highs that will add English to entrance tests](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

SOCIETY

#MeToo movement fails to take off in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the #MeToo movement that began in Hollywood and spread around the U.S., saying that women around the world are now beginning to speak up about their experiences of sexual harassment. The program said that although some Japanese women have also begun to speak up about their experiences, they often become isolated as a result. Women in

Japan who speak up about sexual harassment have reportedly been criticized by others who blame them for "destroying harmony" or say that "they asked for it." A lot of Japanese women are reportedly unable to talk about such experiences because they are afraid of "victim shaming." The program also reported on the #MeToo movement in France.

- [Infographic on trend in number of live births per year](#) (Sankei)

OPINION POLLS

- [41% approve, 42% disapprove of Abe's stance on constitutional amendment, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [31% say Abe is suitable to serve as next LDP president, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [More people get news from Internet than newspaper, Japan Press Research Institute poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

U.S. Marine officer tells local assembly members that helicopters did not fly over school

Okinawa Times led with a follow-up report on the Defense Ministry's announcement that three U.S. military helicopters apparently flew over Futenma Daiini Elementary School on Jan. 18. Col. Darin Clarke, who manages the Marines' government and external affairs in the Pacific, reportedly told a group of Okinawa prefectural assembly members at Camp Foster on Monday that the helicopters did not fly directly over the school by showing them a radar tracking chart from the day of the alleged flight. However, the paper wrote that Director General Nakajima of the Defense Ministry's Okinawa Defense Bureau reportedly dismissed the U.S. military's explanation when he met with the local legislators afterward. Ryukyu Shimpo gave top play to a similar report.