



US-Japan Alliance Digest

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Image Source: [Time](#)

Headlines:

- US-Japan alliance mourns the loss of Shinzo Abe
- Treasury-Finance leaders meet in Tokyo
- Maritime collaboration boosted by meeting and exchange
- Western Japanese city accepts US drone deployment
- Economic 2+2 agenda & preparations advance, new EV factory

Details:

- Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA [joins](#) with countless others in the United States and around the world in expressing our shock and sorrow upon hearing of **former Prime Minister Abe's assassination** on July 8. Abe was one of Japan's great leaders, and he leaves behind a significant foreign policy legacy expanding Japan's diplomatic influence around the world and strengthening the US-Japan alliance. Secretary of State Blinken [made](#) a special stop in Tokyo July 11 to pay respects and [meet](#) Prime Minister Kishida and other officials. In a statement, President Biden [mourned](#) the loss of his "friend," calling him "a champion of the Alliance between our nations and the friendship between our people."
- **Treasury Secretary Yellen arrived in Japan** on July 11 for a two-day trip to meet with Japanese government and industry leaders including Finance Minister Suzuki ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors [meeting](#) in Bali. According to a joint [statement](#), the two discussed deepening bilateral ties to tackle various global issues including Ukraine, inflation, and climate change. They [agreed](#) to cooperate to mitigate risks from potentially unstable exchange rates. [Meeting](#) with industry leaders, Yellen addressed supply chain resiliency and "friend-shoring."
- A medical team made of six members from various Japan **Self-Defense Force branches boarded the USNS MERCY hospital ship** to [participate](#) in [Pacific Partnership 2022 in July](#). The partnership is in its 17th year and is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission in the Indo-Pacific. Separately in Washington, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gilday [met](#) with Maritime SDF Admiral Sakai on June 28 to share strategic insights and discuss how the allies can increase readiness, deter and counter malign gray-zone activities in the Indo-Pacific, and focus on interoperability and interchangeability between the two forces.
- Reflecting perceptions of an "increasingly severe" regional security environment, the Mayor of Kanoya City in western **Japan agreed to host eight US Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drones** at a local Self-Defense Force base from September. Strictly serving in a surveillance [role](#), the drones received approval for one year to monitor Chinese maritime activity. Mayor Nakanishi [said](#) "it's inevitable to accept temporary deployment of US forces' unmanned aircraft [because] intelligence gathering is necessary for defense of our country under the Japan-US alliance" in the current environment.
- Amid continuing bilateral preparations for the first Economic 2+2 ministerial meeting in late July, Japan's **Digital Agency Minister Makishima visited** Washington from July 11. She discussed cybersecurity policy and emerging tech issues with Homeland Security Under Secretary for Policy Silvers and National Cyber Director Inglis, though a positive COVID test [cut](#) her schedule short and delayed her return to Japan. Meanwhile, Senators Young and Coons introduced new [legislation](#) aimed at **countering Chinese economic coercion** in coordination with allies, an agenda item for the Econ 2+2 and [part](#) of the NEXT Alliance bilateral dialogue series. Also, **Panasonic** announced July 14 that it [will](#) invest **\$4 billion in a second US electric vehicle battery factory** in Kansas to support Tesla, along with 4,000 jobs.