



US-Japan Alliance Digest

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Image Source: [USAF 15th Wing](#)

Headlines:

- US, Japan hold first-ever space engagements talks
- Allies deepen trilateral relations on multiple fronts in summit prelude
- Japanese firms boost green investments in US to pursue net-zero
- Japan's new semiconductor export controls take effect
- US, Japan agree to lower flight altitude minimum for US Ospreys

Details:

- US Space Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) [conducted](#) their first-ever Space Engagement Talks at Yokota Air Base on July 13. Commander of US Space Forces Indo-Pacific Brig Gen Mastalir [hosted](#) Maj Gen Sakanishi, Director General of Defense Planning and Policy (ASO) for the inaugural USSF-JASDF Engagement Talks, which covered space domain awareness, space intelligence, training and education, workforce buildout, capability development, and Indo-Pacific coordination. US Space Force Deputy Chief of Space Operations, Strategy, Plans, Programs and Requirements Lt. Gen. Garrant [led](#) the bilateral dialogue, emphasizing the need for [strengthening](#) security and alliance collaboration.
- US-Japan-South Korea trilateral activity is rising ahead of their planned (and first) stand-alone trilateral leaders [summit](#) (Biden-Kishida-Yoon) at Camp David on August 18. US Special Rep. Sung Kim, Japan's Director General Funakoshi, and South Korea's Special Rep. Kim [met](#) in Japan on July 20 to coordinate North Korea policy, condemning a recent North Korean missile [launch](#) and vowing to deepen ties. The navies of each country also held joint missile defense [exercises](#) in the Sea of Japan on July 16 to boost missile detection and response capabilities, occurring after a Tri-CHOD meeting (Chiefs/Heads of Defense) [convened](#) in Hawaii on July 11. Also, Dep. Sec. of State Sherman held a [call](#) with Vice FM Mori and First Vice FM Chang on July 24 to discuss expanding the trilateral partnership, along with deeper regional and global cooperation. In addition, allied officials held a second economic security [dialogue](#) on July 18 in Washington to discuss responding to economic coercion, cooperating on emerging technology, and securing supply chains.
- Itochu Corp. and partners announced plans to [invest](#) \$2 billion in US and Canadian renewables on July 24. They also announced a partnership with Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank to provide institutional investors opportunities to invest in similar green technology. Separately, Mitsubishi Fuso tested electric trucks that utilize a swappable battery by California-based company [Ample](#). The innovation would [boost](#) Japan's trucking industry's lagging shift to net-zero.
- Japan's new export controls on semiconductor technologies [took effect](#) July 23. The Japanese government [announced](#) the trade controls on 23 types of equipment on March 31. Although broader in nature and not country-specific, the restrictions [align](#) with US efforts to "de-risk" or [restrict](#) AI microchip manufacturing in China. The regulations have [drawn](#) criticism from Chinese officials, but Beijing has yet to explicitly threaten Japan with retaliatory measures.
- A July US-Japan bilateral agreement [lowered](#) the minimum safe altitude for US Ospreys' flight training in mountainous areas of Japan. Moving from 150 meters to 60 meters, the change took place after the US requested more practical training space. Specific flight routes have not been disclosed, despite [growing](#) public safety concerns from the National Governors' Association of Japan. The prefectural governments cite risks of high-speed Ospreys flying too close to disaster and medical relief helicopters. Separately, Japan's SDF [grounded](#) some V-22 Osprey aircraft pending part replacement after a July 21 US military report pointed to possible mechanical failures in a fatal June 2022 crash.

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