# U.S.-Japan Alliance Digest

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Image from Japan Ministry of Defense:

## Headlines:

- Defense ministerial meeting in Singapore aims to reassure allies
- Sec. Lutnick says Japan will invest in U.S. nuclear energy industry
- Extended Deterrence Dialogue encourages strategic stability talks
- Japan joins Genesis Mission to advance AI for scientific research
- Allies join Australia's flagship Southern Jackaroo military exercise

## Details:

- **Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Defense Minister Shinjiro Kiozumi held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue** in Singapore following President Donald Trump's state visit to China. While the meeting was relatively pro forma, it contained a number of updates on missile cooperation, including a new U.S. missile deployment in the Southwest Islands, missile defense data sharing with Australia, and missile co-production through Operation Supercharge. While in Singapore, Sec. Hegseth gave remarks recognizing Japan's accelerating defense transformation and Min. Koizumi spoke about the importance of the U.S. presence for maintaining security in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced in a media interview that the U.S. and Japan plan to use money from Japan's $550 billion investment pledge to construct new nuclear power plants** and renew the U.S. nuclear energy industry. At the beginning of June, Sec. Lutnick and METI Minister Ryosei Akazawa held talks which included the possibility of Japan investing $25 billion in U.S. nuclear startup NuScale, with an official announcement later in 2026. The discussion follows the March announcement that GE Vernova Hitachi would invest up to $40 billion in building Small Modular Reactor (SMR) plants in the U.S., bringing Japan's total nuclear power investment to $65 billion.
- **The U.S. and Japan held the June 2026 Extended Deterrence Dialogue in Tokyo focusing on maintaining strategic stability amid Chinese and North Korea nuclear buildups**. Notably, Japan for the first time strongly encouraged the U.S. to pursue multilateral strategic stability talks with other nuclear armed states, including arms control talks with China and Russia, in order to prevent a nuclear arms race. Other key issues discussed included updates on the U.S.'s nuclear forces modernization, the review of Japan's strategic documents, broadening bilateral defense cooperation to encompass the area denial strategy, and achieving the complete denuclearization of North Korea.
- **Officials from the U.S. and Japan agreed to create a $1 billion partnership for Japan to become the first foreign country to join the Genesis Mission**, a U.S.-led endeavor to use AI to enhance the productivity of scientific research and technological development. This follows the enactment of the 2025 U.S.-Japan Technology Prosperity Deal and will involve the creation of eleven binational teams working "to advance breakthroughs in quantum information science, fusion energy, biotechnology, advanced materials, particle physics, and autonomous laboratory systems."
- **Allied forces joined Australia's monthlong military exercise Southern Jackaroo 2026 to improve joint operations for future cooperation.** The exercise in northern Queensland mobilized 3,000 personnel and is led by the Australian Army and includes participants from the JGSDF as well as the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. One key feature of the exercise is to enhance combined arms integration between the partner nations, culminating in a multi-national combined arms live-fire exercise. The U.S., Japan, and Australia have been stepping up their work together in recent years.

*The U.S.-Japan Alliance Digest is a bi-weekly summary of bilateral and related developments compiled by Sasakawa USA.*
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