



July 12, 2023
Joint Staff

Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Gen. Yoshida Yoshihide, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, and Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Kim Seung Kyum had a trilateral meeting at Camp Smith, Hawaii, amid an increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, including DPRK's ICBM-class Ballistic Missile launch. The readout is as follows:

July 11, 2023 (Local time)

Japan Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Gen. Yoshida Yoshihide, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, and Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Kim Seung Kyum had a trilateral meeting at Camp Smith, Hawaii today.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Commander Adm. John C. Aquilino, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Paul J. LaCamera, and U.S. Forces Japan/Fifth Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Ricky N. Rupp also attended.

This session featured discussions on regional security challenges, to include the DPRK's destabilizing activities and opportunities for increased trilateral cooperation toward maintaining peace and stability in the region. Gen. Milley reaffirmed the ironclad commitment of the United States to defend Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The conclusion of the meeting coincided with another ICBM-class ballistic missile launch by the DPRK, in violation of unanimously approved UN Security Council resolutions. The three Chiefs of Defense, while monitoring the situation, coordinated in real-time to develop bilateral and trilateral response options to enhance the security of the Korean Peninsula and the region.

The three Chiefs of Defense condemned DPRK's provocative actions, which highlighted the importance of a trilateral commitment in the face of a blatant DPRK threat.

The U.S.-Japan and U.S.-ROK Alliances are essential to maintaining regional peace and stability and to ensure a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.