

U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Video Teleconference

The United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) held a trilateral video-teleconference on August 1, 2017 (EDT) to continue to share information and coordinate responses to the North Korean intercontinental range ballistic missile launch conducted on July 28, 2017 (EDT).

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Mr. David Helvey, Director General Defense Policy Bureau Satoshi Maeda, and Acting Deputy Minister of National Defense Major General Jang Kyung-soo, led their respective interagency delegations.

The three representatives strongly condemned the North Korean launch of an intercontinental range ballistic missile as a clear and flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. The officials emphasized that North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs pose a new level of threat, which is a grave and pressing danger to peace and stability in Northeast Asia as well as the United States. They also reiterated that the three countries will never accept a nuclear armed North Korea. The three representatives reaffirmed the importance of cooperating to counter the North Korean threat and to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The three officials committed to continue to cooperate on applying maximum pressure on North Korea so it changes its path, refrains from provocative and threatening actions, and takes steps necessary to return to serious denuclearization dialogue. The three representatives also resolved to increase their capabilities and to bolster trilateral defense cooperation, to include enhancing military-to-military coordination among the three countries, in order to effectively deter and respond to the threat posed by North Korea.

The United States reaffirmed its ironclad security commitments to the ROK and Japan, using the full range of conventional and nuclear capabilities.