



# Press Release

## United States Forces, Japan

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### **Investigation concludes Haneda Airport interference investigation**

YOKOTA, JAPAN - An investigation into the disruption of an air navigation facility at Haneda Airport concluded that a U.S. Navy ship mistakenly transmitting on an unauthorized frequency was the cause of radio interference on Oct 17. However, it was determined that U.S. Forces were not the source of the Oct 21 and 25 reported radio interferences.

A joint investigation team, consisting of representatives from both the U.S. and Japan, worked closely to find the source of the reported incidents of interference at Haneda Airport. This included painstakingly replicating the exact set of circumstances and procedures surrounding the events of Oct 17, incorporating the ship's location and radio frequency. These careful measures were taken to ensure that civilian radio systems are not impacted by radio interference in the future.

Regarding the Oct 17 incident, after a thorough investigation, it was determined that the unauthorized U.S. Navy radio transmission was in support of unplanned helicopter operations. . Flight maintenance requirements necessitated delaying the launch of the aircraft until the ship had pulled into its port of Yokosuka, approximately 20 miles south of Haneda Airport.

Following a comprehensive examination of U.S. Forces flight activities for Oct 21, it was determined there were no U.S. aircraft or instruments capable of transmitting and possibly interfering with civil air navigation facilities in the area south of Haneda Airport and therefore unable to emit any signals to disrupt air navigation facilities. It was also determined that the Oct 25 incident was caused by a radio frequency not used by U.S. Forces.

To prevent future incidents the U.S. Navy has issued instructions to U.S. Navy ships world-wide, emphasizing the adherence to proper procedures and restating procedures for the use of radio equipment that may cause interference to Japanese radio facilities. The U.S. Navy also conducted a thorough review of its procedures and training to look for improvements. However, USFJ is working in cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication to develop clear communication channels and procedures between the Government of Japan and U.S. Forces to identify, quickly respond and mitigate future occurrences.

“For many years, USFJ has coordinated these issues very closely with our counterparts in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and we are as determined as ever to ensure that we learn from these incidents,” said Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright, commander of U.S. Forces, Japan. “The U.S. Navy and U.S Forces Japan have implemented new measures to do everything possible to avoid future inconveniences and improve coordination with the Japanese Government.”