

## **Press Release: U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Video Teleconference on North Korea's 6<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Test**

The United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) held a trilateral video-teleconference on September 5, 2017 (EDT) to continue to share information and coordinate responses to the North Korean nuclear test conducted on September 2, 2017.

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 sides strongly condemn this destabilizing provocation, which seriously threatens international peace and security, and call on North Korea to abide by its international obligations and commitments. This latest nuclear test follows an unprecedented campaign of ballistic missile launches and is yet another flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

All three countries emphasized that these provocations only serve to increase the international community's resolve to counter North Korea's prohibited activities. 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 makes a strategic decision to abandon its nuclear and missile programs.

The three sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to enhance trilateral interoperability, emphasizing that close cooperation among the three defense authorities is crucial to strengthening deterrence vis-à-vis North Korea.

The United States reaffirms its unwavering and ironclad security commitments to the Republic of Korea and Japan, and emphasizes that U.S. extended deterrence commitments are guaranteed by the full spectrum of U.S. military capabilities, both conventional and nuclear.