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US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Japanese Defence Minister Satoshi Morimoto agreed on 17 September the deployment of a second AN/TPY-2 X-band long-range theatre ballistic missile defence (BMD) radar to Japan.



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Japan will host a second AN/TPY-2 early warning radar provided by the United States.(US Missile Defense Agency)

"The United States and Japan have begun co-ordination on the future deployment of additional 'Tippy-Two' surveillance radars to Japan," Panetta said at a press conference in Tokyo. "The purpose of this is to enhance our ability to defend Japan. It's also designed to help forward-deployed US forces. It also will be effective in protecting the US homeland from the North Korean ballistic missile threat."

North Korea launched the Unha-3 three-stage satellite launch vehicle on 13 April 2012. While the launch ended in failure, it refocused US and Japanese efforts to counter the country's long-range ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programme.

Morimoto said the exact location for the radar installation had yet to be decided. The United States deployed the first AN/TPY-2 radar at the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) Shariki Sub Base in Aomori Prefecture in 2006. A Pentagon official told reporters that a team from the United States had arrived in the country and was working with Japanese officials in determining a suitable site.

Asked about China's opposition to the US-led missile defence in the Asia-Pacific region, Panetta emphasised that the AN/TPY-2's deployment was designed to counter North Korea.

"We have made these concerns very clear to the Chinese, that North Korea and the use of these ballistic missiles is a threat to our security ... and we've also made clear that we will take steps to protect the United States and ... our allies from that threat," said Panetta, who is also scheduled to visit China and New Zealand on this trip. "And I will continue to make that point with the Chinese when I have the opportunity to meet with them."

The AN-TPY-2 is a X-band, high-resolution, phased-array radar designed by Raytheon for BMD. With a range of 1,000 km, it provides early warning of theatre ballistic missile launches by detecting and acquiring targets at very long ranges using autonomous search fences and volume search strategies.

In the future the radar could work with the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force's Aegis-equipped Kongo-class BMD destroyers. In April 2011, the US Navy AN/TPY-2 radar successfully detected and tracked an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) target before handing it off to a guided missile destroyer equipped with a Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) Block 1A missile. The USS O'Kane

(DDG 77) intercepted the target in space above the Pacific Ocean 11 minutes after its launch, according to the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

Panetta also expressed concern over anti-Japan demonstrations across China following Japan's acquisition of three of the disputed



Senkaku/Diaoyutai Islands in the East China Sea, saying that the United States wanted a peaceful resolution, but reiterating that it does not take sides in territorial disputes.

"It is in everybody's interests for Japan and China to maintain good relations and to find a way to avoid further escalation," said Panetta, adding that the United States would stand by its treaty obligations to Japan.

Panetta and Morimoto also confirmed that 12 Bell-Boeing MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft would be cleared for operations at Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture only after the type's flight safety was ensured. About 100,000 Okinawans protested against the proposed deployment on 9 September: the largest anti-US military rally in the prefecture in years.

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