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US AND JAPAN DEFENSE CHIEFS CALL OSPREY SAFETY TOP PRIORITY

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Jesse Johnson

The Japanese and U.S. defense chiefs have said that ensuring the safety of the Osprey V-22 military aircraft is a top priority" for the allies, following the first fatal crash of the aircraft in Japan late last month in waters off Kagoshima Prefecture.

Defense Minister Minoru Kihara said late Tuesday that he had asked U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during talks over the telephone □ their first since the crash □ that the U.S. military not resume Osprey flights until the aircraft's safety could be ensured.

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