

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
RESUMPTION OF OSPREY FLIGHT OPERATIONS
AND RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
THE WITHDRAWAL OF OSPREY DEPLOYMENT**

Recently, the US Forces announced its plans to resume the operations of its Osprey aircraft after a worldwide flight suspension following the crash of the CV-22 Osprey that killed eight (8) people off the coast of Yakushima, Kagoshima last November.

The Japanese Ministry of Defense received an unprecedented level of detailed information from the US side, approved the information as being reasonable, and in the morning of March 14, flight operations of the Osprey aircraft deployed at USMC Air Station Futenma were resumed.

By contrast, explanations from the Ministry of Defense to Okinawa Prefecture, Ginowan City, and Kadena Town on the details into the cause of the accident and definition of flight resumptions are entirely inadequate, and do not dispel the anxieties of the Okinawan people. Strong indignation is felt by the local government bodies and many Okinawan residents towards the actions of the Government of Japan and the US Forces which are prioritizing the military operations of the bases, failing to fulfill accountability, and disregarding the lives and safety of the citizens of the prefecture.

The US has explained that the aircraft crash was caused due to failure of specific parts, but has not disclosed the name of the mechanical parts or the details of the malfunction. Despite this, the stance in which the Government of Japan approved the flight operations to resume compels the opinion that Japan significantly lacks independence as a sovereign state.

From the development stage and even after embarking in military operations, the Osprey has experienced a series of crashes and other incidents resulting in casualties. With this, all 41 municipal assemblies in Okinawa have passed protest resolutions against the deployment of the Osprey and public opposition has continued to be demonstrated.

Despite this, in Okinawa Prefecture, there are 24 MV-22 Osprey aircraft stationed at USMC Air Station Futenma, and in addition, there are visiting CMV-22s of the Navy that continue to remain at Kadena Air Base.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa Prefecture, strongly call for the prompt execution of the following three items.

1. Oppose the resumption of flight operations and withdraw the deployment of the Osprey aircraft that continue to be involved in accidents.
2. Achieve the earliest possible return of Air Station Futenma.
3. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, and make it possible for the Government of Japan to exercise authority to investigate incidents and accidents involving US military aircraft.

The above is resolved as stated on this 28th day of March 2024.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly