

US Military Base Issues in Okinawa

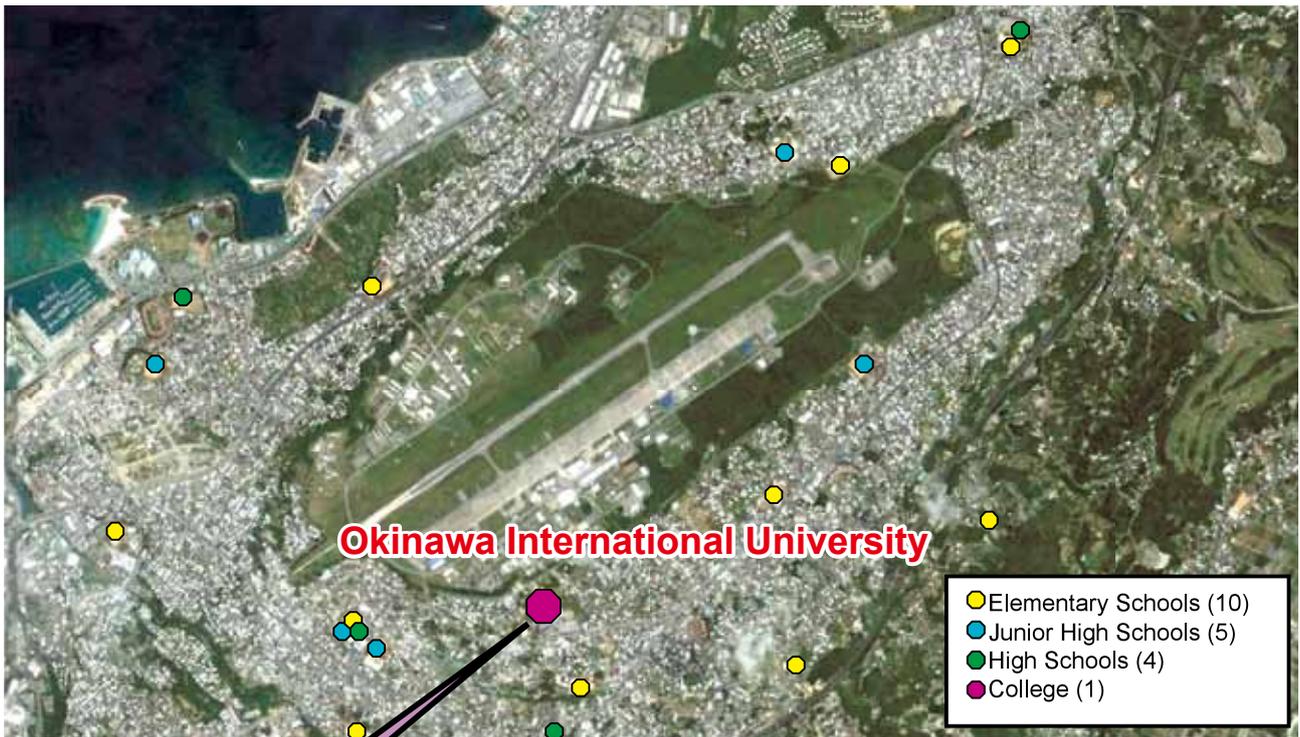


MCAS Futenma, Centrally Located in Ginowan City (Photo Provided by Ginowan City)



Okinawa Prefectural Government
September 2011

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma



Why is MCAS Futenma so dangerous?

- It is located in the midst of a densely populated area and does not have established clear zones, which are necessary for safety in the areas near the runway.
- Schools, hospitals and other public facilities surround the Air Station, together with a great number of private homes.



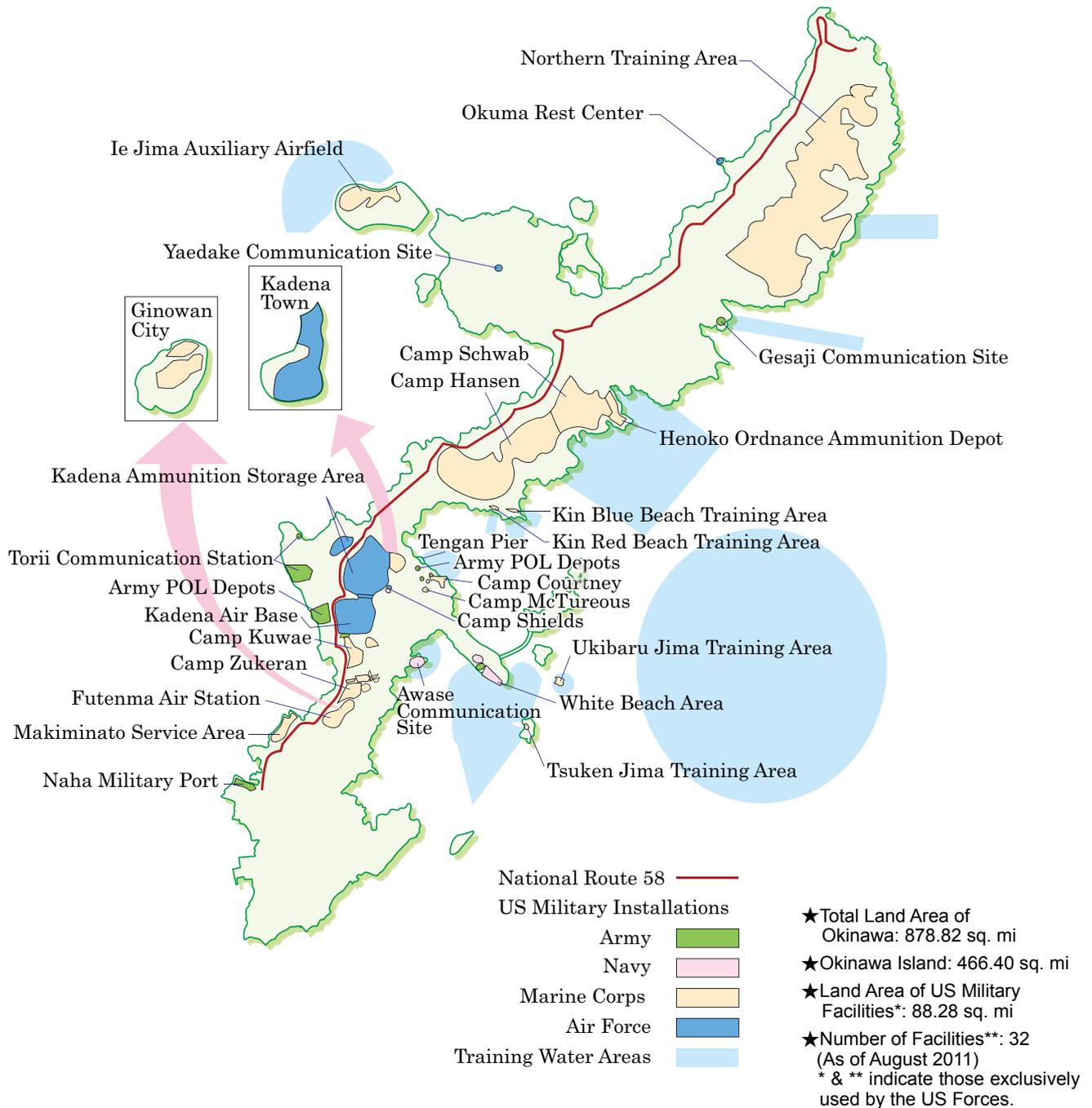
On August 13, 2004, a US Marine Corps CH-53D helicopter crashed into the Okinawa International University.

Although there were no injuries involving the students and local residents in this particular incident, the communities surrounding the Air Station live with the constant anxiety of another aircraft incident.



(Photos Provided by Ginowan City)

US Military Bases and Facilities on Okinawa Island & Its Vicinity



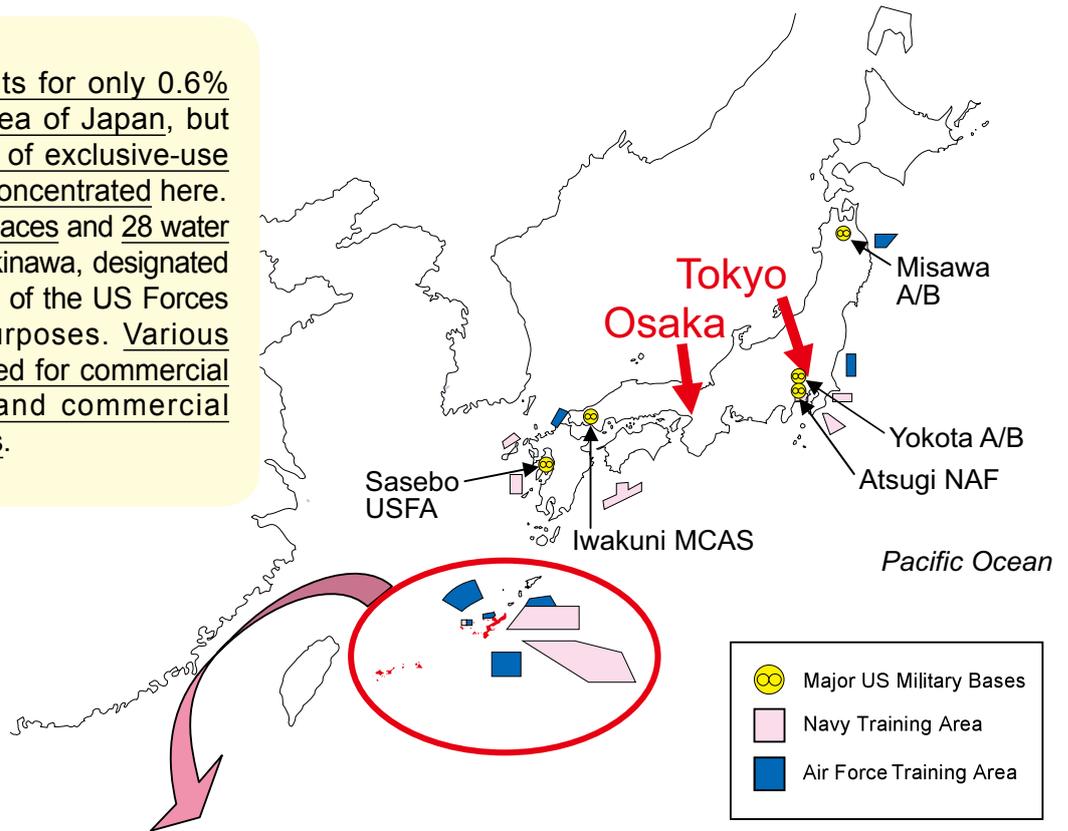
The existing circumstances of the vast US Forces bases present major obstacles in the economic growth of Okinawa.

- Okinawa Island bears the majority of US bases in Okinawa, taking up 18.4% of its total land area.
- It is home to about 91% of the prefecture's population, and approximately 80% of the Island's population is concentrated in the southern half, where various industries are also located.
- The US military bases located in densely populated and commercialized areas greatly restrict urban functions, traffic system and land usage.

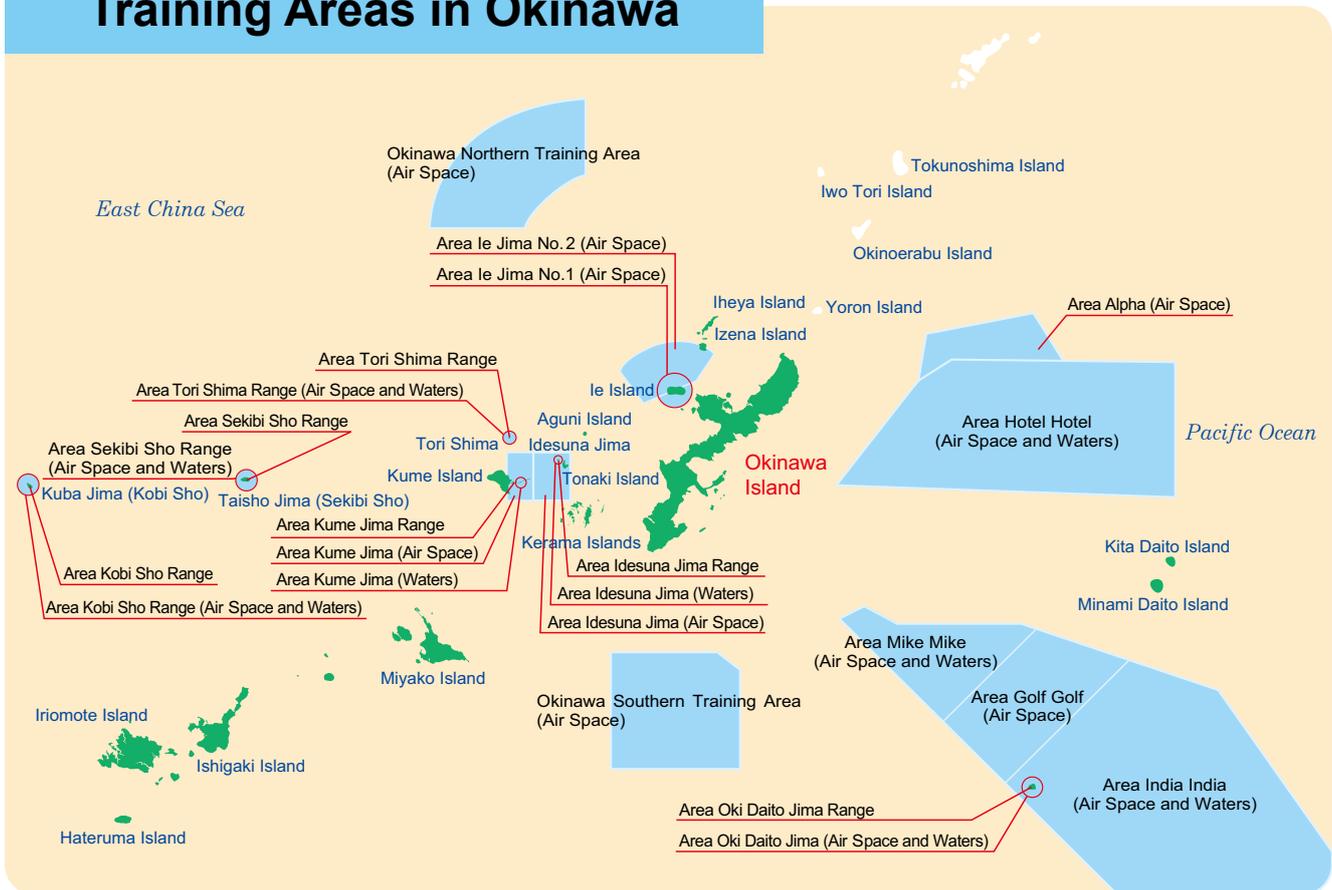
Air Spaces / Water Areas Used for US Forces Training in Japan

Okinawa accounts for only 0.6% of the total land area of Japan, but approximately 74% of exclusive-use USFJ facilities are concentrated here.

There are 20 air spaces and 28 water areas surrounding Okinawa, designated for the exclusive use of the US Forces for their training purposes. Various restrictions are placed for commercial fishing activities and commercial flights in these areas.



Training Areas in Okinawa



Incidents, Accidents & Other Issues Related to the US Forces (Overview)

	Number of Cases	Annual Average	Monthly Average
① Incidents & Accidents [Total Btw. 1972-2010]	1,545	41	3
② Criminal Cases [Total Btw. 1972-2010]	5,705	150	13
③ Traffic Accidents [Total Btw. 1981-2010]	2,588	89	7
Total	9,838	280	23

Source: ① Military Base Affairs Division, OPG
② & ③ Okinawa Prefectural Police

Recent Major Crimes

★ In Sept. 1995, three US service members abducted and raped an elementary school girl.

★ Another incident involving a minor occurred in Feb. 2008.

A Marine Corps Staff Sergeant was court-martialed and convicted for sexual abuse.



US Marine Corps UH-1N helicopter crash in Camp Hansen in July 1998

Field Fire at Camp Hansen in April 2005

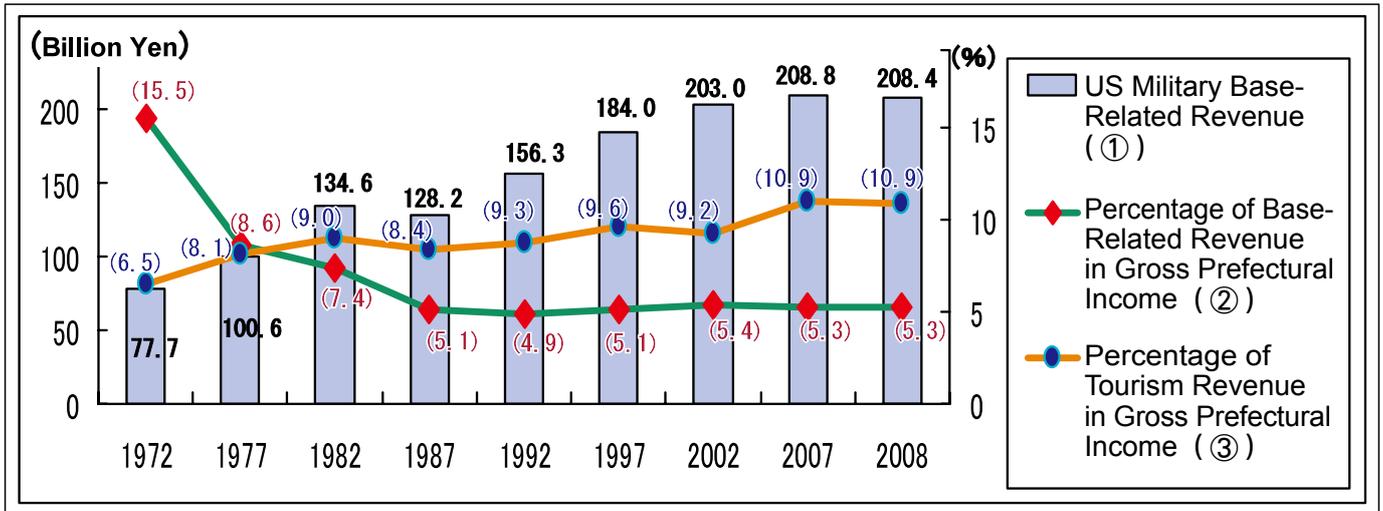


(Photos Provided by Ryukyu Shimpo)

- Average of **23** incidents or accidents per month, including traffic-related.
- In addition, there are daily aircraft noise emissions (at times exceeding 100db!) and other adverse environmental impacts associated with US Forces training.
- For 66 years since the end of WWII, the excessive weight of the vast US military bases on Okinawa, and the numerous issues associated with them, continue to weigh down heavily on the shoulders of the citizens.
- These issues are challenges faced by the local population every single day, in various aspects of their daily lives.

US Bases and Okinawa's Economy

Level of Revenue Related to the US Forces



Source: ① & ② Statistics Division, OPG
③ Tourism Policy Division, OPG

At the time of Okinawa's Reversion to Japan in 1972, US Forces-related revenue was **15.5%** of the gross prefectural income. In 2008, this ratio decreased to **5.3%**.

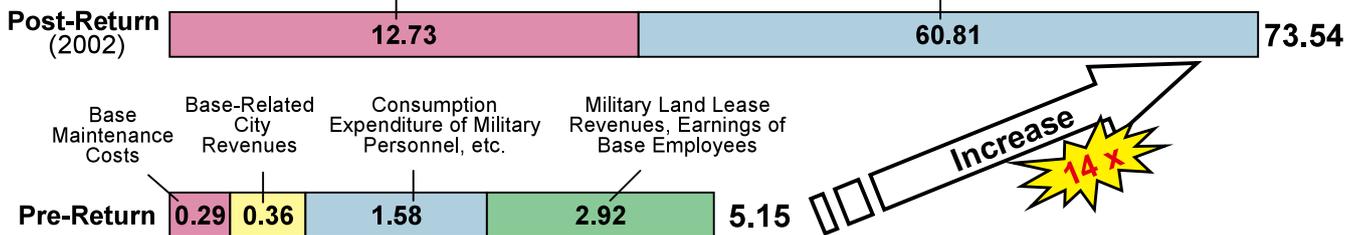
In contrast, the tourism revenue increased from 6.5% in 1972 to 10.9% in 2008, which is more than twice the US Forces-related revenue.

Okinawa's present economy is not as dependent on base-related revenue as before.

The return of bases located in the central and southern regions of Okinawa Island has resulted in positive economic effects of approximately **10 - 200 times** in comparison to pre-return, and has had great impacts on the prefecture's economy and employment.

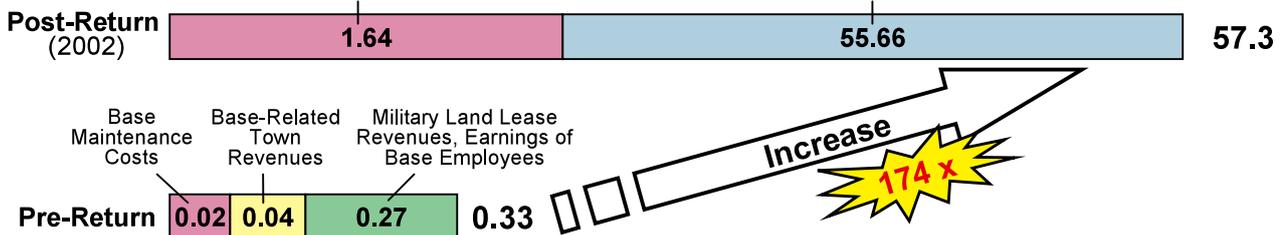
Direct Economic Effects/Year (Naha Shintoshin Area)

Effects from Developments (Cost of Rezoning & Development, Construction of Public/Private Facilities, etc.) Effects of Economic Activities (Sales Volume of Wholesales, Retailers, Restaurants & Other Service Industries)



Direct Economic Effects/Year (Mihama & Hamby Area in Chatan)

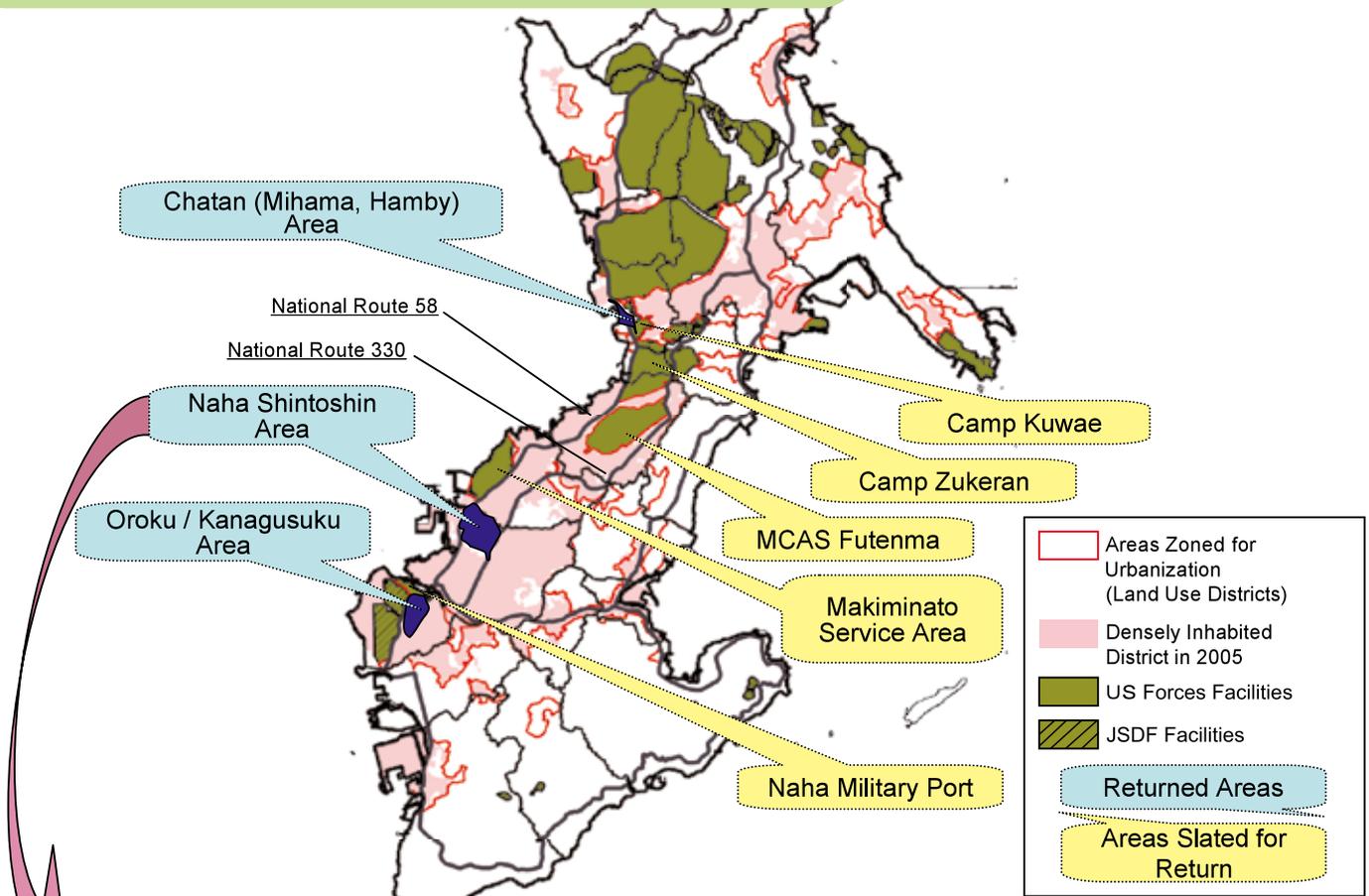
Effects from Developments (Cost of Rezoning & Development, Construction of Public/Private Facilities, etc.) Effects of Economic Activities (Sales Volume of Wholesales, Retailers, Restaurants & Other Service Industries)



(Unit: Billion Yen)

Okinawa's Potential for Further Development

Returned Areas and Areas Slated for Return in Central/Southern Regions of Okinawa Island



Development in Naha Shintoshin Area



Pre-Return
(Former Makiminato Housing Area; Fully Returned in 1987)



Post-Return
(Remarkable Transformation Into a New Commercial District)

Our Vision

- It is necessary to reduce and consolidate US military bases in Okinawa as we continue to shoulder the excessive weight of military bases.
- With the realization of land returns of US military bases south of Kadena Air Base, we can anticipate positive economic and employment impacts through effective land use.
- Establish the prefecture as a hub of exchange by taking advantage of our geographical location, to bridge people, goods, and information between mainland Japan and other Asian nations. It is our desire to actively promote international contributions and do our part for peace and advancement of the Asia-Pacific region.



(Photos Provided by Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Reversion Affairs Division

Executive Office of the Governor

Okinawa Prefectural Government

1-2-2 Izumizaki, Naha, Okinawa, Japan 900-8570
Phone: +81-98-866-2565 / Fax: +81-98-866-2564
E-mail: aa001205@pref.okinawa.lg.jp
<http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/english/index.html>
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