

**Resolution of Protest  
Over the  
US Forces AV-8 Harrier Attack Aircraft Crash Incident**

At approximately 1:55 PM on September 22, 2016, an AV-8 Harrier attack aircraft of the 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit that took off from Kadena Air Base was training in Area Hotel Hotel when it crashed into the ocean approximately 150 kilometers east of Hedo Cape in Kunigami Village.

Aircraft crashes can lead to disastrous incidents where human lives are threatened, and such aircraft incidents in Okinawa Prefecture present great concern to not only those in the fishing industry but to the citizens who are forced to live side by side to the US military bases, and this should not happen.

Incidents involving the Harrier aircraft have happened on numerous occasions starting with the incident in June of 1999, when a Harrier failed to take off, crashed and went up in flames within Kadena Air Base. Each time these and other incidents involving other aircraft occur, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has mounted strong protest and placed requests to relevant sources of the US Forces for the prevention of incidents and thorough aircraft safety measures.

It is truly regrettable that despite our calls, another such incident has taken place, and we are left to question the preventive efforts of the US Forces and the maintenance and safety measures of aircraft.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, safety and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the recent aircraft accident and call for the prompt execution of the five following items.

- I. Conduct thorough investigation of the cause of the accident and promptly release the findings to the citizens of the prefecture.
- II. Until the investigation into the cause of the incident is complete, and safety and preventive measures are put into effect, suspend all flights of the same model.
- III. Limit the number of aircraft flying to Okinawa, including the Harrier, that are not already stationed here.
- IV. As part of the consolidation and reduction efforts of the US Forces facilities, review the vast water and air space for training, and promote their return.
- V. Conduct a thorough review of aircraft maintenance and inspection frameworks and work for the safety management and preventive measures against aircraft incidents during training and exercises

The above is resolved as stated on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**