

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
INCIDENT OF A US FORCES AIRCRAFT PART FALLING
FROM AN MC-130J SPECIAL OPERATIONS PLANE
AND THE
SERIES OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING US SERVICEMEMBERS
AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL**

At approximately 5:40AM on October 18th, 2019, an incident occurred in which a torque tube measuring 134 centimeters in length, 3 centimeters in diameter, and weighing approximately 0.5 kilograms, fell from a US Forces MC-130J special operations plane belonging to the 353rd Special Operations Group based at Kadena Air Base.

Fortunately, there were no injuries sustained in this incident, however, it could have potentially led to a serious incident where lives and properties were affected, and incidents such as this should never have happened.

Moreover, the US Forces revealed on the 25th of the same month, exactly seven (7) days after the incident, that the fallen part was discovered on the day of the incident within the US Forces Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield. We cannot help but to point out that such notification procedures are also highly inadequate.

With the frequent recurrence of similar incidents, such as when a window fell onto the grounds of the Futenma Daini Elementary School in December of 2017; aircraft part that fell onto the grounds of Uranishi Junior High School in June of this year; and another aircraft window falling into the seas off the eastern coast of Okinawa Island this past August, feelings of concern and distrust among the people of the Prefecture towards the careless management by the US Forces are mounting.

Furthermore, there has been a string of alcohol-related incidents involving US Forces personnel and relevant persons. In October alone, there were impaired driving incidents in Naha City, Kadena Town, and Chatan Town, as well as arrests on suspicion of assault on the 23rd in Naha City, and on suspicion of obstruction of duties and trespassing on the 27th in Onna Village.

With each occurrence of accidents where aircraft parts were dropped from US Forces aircraft and incidents involving US military and/or civilian personnel, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has strongly called for investigations into the cause of the incidents, preventive measures, and thorough education and training of relevant personnel. Despite our calls, it is truly regrettable that such incidents and accidents have taken place one after another, and this situation is absolutely unacceptable.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest this recent accident and incidents, and call for the prompt execution of the following four (4) items.

1. Thoroughly inspect the cause and circumstances of the accident and the system of notification and reporting, and disclose the findings to the people of the Prefecture and implement specific preventive measures promptly.
2. Cease flights and drills of US Forces aircraft above civilian areas with nurseries, schools, hospitals, residences and others.
3. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement and apply Japanese laws regarding aviation, environmental, and others.
4. Enforce discipline among US military and civilian personnel and implement effective measures to prevent recurrences of incidents.

The above is resolved as stated on this 27th day of November, 2019.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly