

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST  
OVER THE  
PARACHUTE TRAINING AT  
KADENA AIR BASE AND OTHER LOCATIONS**

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the US Air Force on Okinawa conducted its parachute training at Kadena Air Base. The training took place as if to ignore the repeated calls and criticism from the Okinawa Prefectural Government, local municipal governments and others, as well as the request by the Government of Japan to suspend the drill.

The surrounding areas of Kadena Air Base are densely concentrated with residences, schools and others, and this makes parachute training at the Base extremely dangerous as it can potentially lead to serious accidents involving lives and properties. It has caused great concern and fear among the residents in the vicinity of the military base as well as for the rest of the citizens of Okinawa Prefecture.

Regarding parachute drop training, it was agreed in the 1996 Japan-US Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) Final Report to be relocated to Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield. Yet, the US Forces has repeatedly conducted the training at Kadena Air Base despite the agreement that Kadena Air Base could be used only in exceptional cases. This was the fourth parachute training at Kadena Air Base this year, making it the highest annual number since the SACO Agreement and such training seems to be becoming the norm. Parachute drop training at Kadena Air Base goes against the alleviation of burden shouldered by Okinawa and is absolutely unacceptable.

While at the same time, during parachute training at the relocation site of Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield, there has been a string of accidents where Marine Corps personnel are parachuting down on to farmland outside of the designated landing area and also on to the airfield owned by the Prefecture.

The Government of Japan must take a firm approach in how the US is operating arbitrarily in regard to parachute training in the SACO Agreement, and must engage in further efforts to mitigate the excessive burden on the citizens of the Prefecture in hosting military bases.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, properties, and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the execution of the parachute drill at Kadena Air Base. At the same time, we call for the said drill to be prohibited from being held at Kadena Air Base in the future, and for the investigation into the cause of the parachute descent accident at Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield and to implement measures to prevent such recurrences.

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

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**