

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
INCIDENT OF MORTAR FLARES DROPPING IN KIN TOWN**

On December 5, 2019, an incident occurred in which three (3) 60mm mortar flares used on Camp Hansen during US Marine Corps training, were dropped on private land in Igei, Kin Town.

The flares were 9 centimeters in length, 5.5 centimeters in diameter, 250 grams in weight and cylindrical in shape, and they were connected to wires and parachutes. The incident alone is shocking, but having three (3) flares dropped in civilian areas has come as a great shock for the residents of the Prefecture.

One (1) of the flares was discovered in a rice field adjacent to a residence in Igei Ward, and had this incident occurred before the rice crop was harvested, it could have potentially led to a fire. Other flares were recovered on a tree branch near the Okinawa Expressway, and on a road along the river in the area. Local residents work on their farm fields in this vicinity, and this could have been a serious accident where human lives may have been affected. This incident has impacted the local residents as well as the rest of the citizens of the Prefecture, who are forced to live side-by-side to such dangers, with great fear and concern.

In the surrounding areas of Camp Hansen, there have been incidents in the past of stray bullets from live-fire drills, and forest fires and other such incidents from dropping of illumination flares by the US Forces. The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has repeatedly protested over these incidents and strongly called for investigations into the accidents and for preventive measures among other demands. Yet, another similar accident has occurred, and this is absolutely unacceptable.

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

1. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident and implement effective measures to prevent recurrences, and disclose the findings and measures to the people of Okinawa Prefecture.
2. Permanently cease drills, training, and exercises near residential areas.

The above is resolved as stated on this 20th day of December, 2019.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly