

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
INCIDENT OF A US FORCES CH-53E LARGE TRANSPORT HELICOPTER
PART FALLING ONTO THE URANISHI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS**

At approximately 3:30 PM on June 4, 2019, an incident occurred in which a rubber part weighing about 20 grams fell from a US Forces CH-53E large transport helicopter onto a tennis court within the school grounds of Uranishi Junior High School in Urasoe City. At the time of this incident, there were about 20 students at the tennis courts practicing for their school's tennis club, and the rubber part fell approximately 30 centimeters from a student's foot. This incident has impacted the students, their guardians, and persons related to the school with great shock and fear.

It is the stance of the US Forces that since the fallen object was a rubber blade tape, it posed no threat to people or property, but it was by chance that there were no injuries in this incident. Objects falling from aircraft can potentially lead to serious incidents that threaten the lives of people, and this incident was a reconfirmation of the dangers posed by MCAS Futenma.

With the occurrence of every such incident, including the incident where an aircraft part fell onto the grounds of Futenma Daini Elementary School, we have called for preventive measures and investigations into the causes. However, the US Forces has repeatedly resumed flights without offering any explanation of the causes, and incidents continue to recur. Such a stance by the US Forces is absolutely unacceptable. Furthermore, US military aircraft are not supposed to fly over schools, but this recent incident showed that US Forces aircraft are regularly flying above schools on a daily basis.

Moreover, for MCAS Futenma to continue its operations past the deadline of the end of February in 2019, as promised by the Japanese government, is a problem in itself.

The US Forces and both governments of Japan and the United States must face the abnormal circumstances with a sense of danger where people in our Prefecture live their lives not knowing when or what will fall from the skies. Utmost efforts must be made to address these concerns.

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 incident in which a part from a US Forces CH-53E large transport helicopter was dropped, and call for the prompt execution of the following four items.

1. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause of the incident, and promptly disclose the findings to the people of the Prefecture, and at the same time, take specific steps to prevent recurrences.
2. Suspend flights and flight exercises of US military aircraft above nurseries, schools, hospitals, and residences.
3. Immediately halt operations at MCAS Futenma, and proceed with its closure and removal.
4. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement. In particular, eliminate the "Act on Special Provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act upon the enforcement of the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement", and comply with the aviation laws of Japan.

The above is resolved as stated on this 18th day of June, 2019.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly