

## **Resolution of Protest Over the Series of Accidents and Incidents of US Forces Aircraft**

At approximately 4:00 PM on January 6, 2018, a UH-1Y helicopter based at US Forces MCAS Futenma made an emergency landing on the beach at Ikei, Yonashiro in Uruma City. The site of the incident is regularly used by the local residents and fishermen, located close to private homes, and there is also an oil storage facility nearby. Furthermore, in January of last year, an AH-1Z attack helicopter also made an emergency landing on a farm road in the same area, and these repeated accidents have heightened the indignation and anxiety of the local residents.

Moreover, two days after this incident, at approximately 4:45 PM on January 8, an AH-1Z attack helicopter, also of MCAS Futenma, made an emergency landing within the grounds of a final disposal site for general waste in Gima, Yomitan Village. As this site neighbors private home and large-scale resort hotels, this accident has caused anxiety and fear to the local residents as well as to many tourists, and has further heightened the distrust felt by the residents of Okinawa Prefecture toward the US Forces.

Including the recent accident, in approximately the last year, there have been crash-and/or emergency-landings involving the MV-22 Osprey and CH-53E large transport helicopter and other aircraft, emergency landing of US Forces aircraft at a civilian airport, dropping of aircraft parts, and other incidents. We have seen an abnormal string of incidents and accidents within a short period of time in the Prefecture, which is absolutely abnormal.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has made numerous calls regarding accidents and incidents of US Forces aircraft, strongly demanding preventive measures. In regard to the accident on December 13 of last year, when a window fell off from a large CH-53E transport helicopter, we had strictly pointed out the safety management systems of the US Forces and just so recently made strong demands to cease flights of US Forces aircraft from MCAS Futenma above civilian areas with nurseries, schools, hospitals and residences. Despite our calls, yet another incident such as this recent one, has recurred. This incident could have led to a serious accident, threatening the lives of people, and we cannot suppress the strong indignation, and there are also calls for the US Marine Corps on Okinawa to withdraw from the Prefecture.

The people of Okinawa Prefecture cannot be further exposed to fear brought by the presence of the US Forces bases. The US Forces and both governments of Japan and the United States of America must look at this unchanging situation with a great sense of urgency, and do their utmost toward improving the current conditions and promptly dispelling the concerns of the people of the Prefecture.

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 series of accidents and incidents of US Forces aircraft, and call for the prompt execution of the six following items:

1. Conduct thorough investigation of the cause of the accident and release the findings to the citizens of the Prefecture, and at the same time, conduct a complete inspection of all US Forces aircraft in Okinawa.

2. Halt all flights and drills of US Forces aircraft stationed at MCAS Futenma above nurseries, schools, hospitals, residences and other civilian areas.
3. Cease operations at MCAS Futenma within five (5) years (by the end of February, 2019).
4. Relocate the US Marine Corps on Okinawa to outside of Japan/Okinawa Prefecture at the earliest stage possible.
5. Establish a tripartite special measures council with Okinawa Prefecture, the Government of Japan, and the Government of the United States of America to address prevention of incidents and accidents.
6. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement.

The above is resolved as stated on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly