

## **Resolution of Protest Over the Crash Incident of US Military MV-22 Osprey Offshore Australia**

On August 5, 2017, an MV-22 Osprey based at US Marine Air Station (MCAS) Futenma crashed in the waters off eastern Australia while attempting to land on a US vessel, killing three crewmen. This accident came as a strong shock not only to the residents in the immediate vicinity of MCAS Futenma, but also to those who live near Takae Helicopter Landing Pad in US Northern Training Area and Landing Zone Falcon in Camp Hansen, where Ospreys regularly conduct low-altitude flights over civilian areas and repeat training with cargo hanging from aircrafts. Anxiety over aircraft crashes has intensified among the people of Okinawa at large.

The Osprey has a track record of repeated crashes and numerous casualties, both during test flights in the developmental stages and after deployment to real combat situations. Given this background, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly and all 41 municipalities of Okinawa passed resolutions opposing Osprey deployment to Okinawa. The Osprey was deployed to Okinawa without regard for such opposition.

Last December, before the fear towards the Osprey could be dispelled from the minds of the people of Okinawa, the Osprey crashed on the coast of Abu, Nago City during training. On the same day, another aircraft made a belly-landing at MCAS Futenma. This year, US aircraft made emergency landings in rapid succession at Ie Auxiliary Airfield and Amami Airport. These incidents and accidents have heightened the distrust among the people of Okinawa towards the US Forces, US Government, and the Government of Japan.

On August 6, after the recent crash incident, Government of Japan requested US Government to refrain from flying the Osprey; however, the US Forces resumed flight the next day, practically ignoring the Government of Japan request. We find it unacceptable that the crash occurred before US Government provided any information on the investigation results from the last year's crash on the coast of Abu, Nago City, and that training is continued despite the repeated protests from the local communities and their requests to cease training.

We are outraged by how the US Forces use operational requirements as an excuse to disregard Government of Japan requests and ignore the voices of the people of Okinawa.

Government of Japan must take a stronger stand against the US Government to reduce the burden of military base presence suffered by the people of Okinawa. US Government and Government of Japan should make an all-out effort to reduce the impact of military bases in forms that are visible to the people of Okinawa.

Therefore, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest against the crash incident and call for the prompt execution of the following items:

1. Withdraw Ospreys from Okinawa.
2. Work towards ceasing operation of MCAS Futenma within five years.
3. Work towards withdrawal of the US Marine Corps from Okinawa.

The above is resolved as stated on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly