

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
US FORCES HELICOPTER EMERGENCY LANDING AND FIRE
INCIDENT IN A PRIVATE AREA IN TAKAE, HIGASHI VILLAGE**

At approximately 5:20 PM on October 11, a CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter based at US Forces Marine Corps Air Station Futenma made an emergency landing and burst in flames at a private area in Takae, Higashi Village.

In the surrounding areas of this incident, there are six helipads of which their construction were forced through, and as a result, aerial drills above civilian areas have intensified. This recent incident occurred amidst continuous calls of concern, fearing incidents and accidents.

The site of this incident is a private pasture and is only a few hundred meters from residential houses. The Prefectural Route 70 is also in close proximity, and beyond a doubt, this incident was very close to a serious tragedy involving the citizens of the Prefecture. It has greatly impacted the Okinawans who are forced to live their lives in close proximity of military bases, and the concerns and fear felt by the local residents are immeasurable.

The number of incidents and accidents involving US Forces aircraft up to the present is too many to enumerate, but to mention those that happened recently, on December 13 of last year, two MV-22 Ospreys were in accidents, with one on the coast of Nago City, and another at MCAS Futenma. Further, on August 3 this year, an MV-22 Osprey based at MCAS Futenma crashed into the waters east of Australia, killing three crew members. Also in this abnormal spate of incidents and accidents in a short period, we have seen problems occurring with aircraft other than the MV-22 Osprey, both in US military bases and off the bases, such as the emergency landings at civilian airports, like Amami, Oita, and Ishigaki Airports.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, local municipalities, and other related bodies have made strong, repeated protests and demands in regard to incidents and accidents of US Forces aircraft every time it happens, and despite this, we are left with great indignation in this present situation where we are not seeing an end to these occurrences. These circumstances are such where we cannot help but to point out inadequacies of the US Forces safety measures.

Both governments of Japan and the US must take a serious look at the present and actual situation in which incidents and accidents involving the US Forces aircraft are happening in succession, and further put forth efforts to do the utmost to ensure that the excessive base burden on the people of Okinawa are alleviated.

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 recent accident and call for the prompt execution of the following two items.

1. Cease flight exercises of US Forces aircraft above civilian areas and water sources.
2. Prohibit the use of the six helipads surrounding Takae, Higashi Village.

The above is resolved as stated on this 16th day of October, 2017.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly