

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
US FORCES PARACHUTE DROP EXERCISES AT KADENA AIR BASE**

This September 21, despite the repeated requests and protests by the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the municipal governments to suspend the parachute drop exercises at Kadena Air Base, the US Forces in Okinawa went ahead with the third such exercise of the year, following those conducted in April and May.

The area surrounding the Kadena Air Base is densely populated, with numerous residences, schools and other such facilities. Parachute drop exercises are extremely dangerous and can potentially lead to serious incidents involving the lives and properties of our citizens. Such exercises inflict anxiety and fear to the residents who live in the vicinity of the bases as well as to the other citizens of our Prefecture.

Parachute drop exercises were agreed to be relocated to Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield in the 1996 Japan-US Special Action Committee (SACO) Final Report. Since then, however, based on the reasons that they are necessary in the US Forces operations, these exercises have taken place repeatedly at Kadena Air Base. To have these exercises become normal and regular occurrences make the SACO Agreement null and at the same time, these actions only reinforce the military base functions, and this is absolutely unacceptable.

Moreover, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly unanimously approved a protest resolution on May 2 of this year, strongly calling for the suspension of these exercises to the US Forces and other relevant agencies. Later, in August of this year, at the Japan-US Security Consultative Committee (Two-Plus-Two) in America, the Government of Japan conveyed the local concerns to the US Government. Despite this, the present situation in which the US Forces' military operations are given priority and increasing the base burdens enforced on Okinawa and its people, is too much to be tolerated and is inexcusable.

It is necessary that the Government of Japan take a firm stance for the US to abide by the terms of the SACO agreement regarding parachute drop exercises, and further work toward definite results in each of the measures to reduce the base burden.

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 against the parachute drop exercises at Kadena Air Base, and call for a complete ban on these exercises at the said military base.

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

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly