

**Resolution of Protest
Over the
U.S. Forces' Parachute Drop Training at Kadena Air Base and
Other Incidents**

On April 24, the US Air Force and the US Army conducted parachute drop training at Kadena Air Base based on reasons of poor weather conditions and other reasons at Ie Island, which was a cause of great concern and fear for the residents in the area and for the rest of the residents in the Prefecture.

Under the Japan-US Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) of 1996, it was agreed in the Final Report that the parachute drop training was to be moved to the Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield. However, it is truly regrettable that even after the agreement, parachute training has repeatedly taken place, ignoring the voices of the people of the Prefecture and going against the agreement.

Parachute drop training is an extremely dangerous exercise that can easily lead to a grave incident involving residents in the vicinity, and is absolutely unacceptable to have the training become a norm with repeated exercises becoming accomplished facts based on reasons such as poor weather conditions elsewhere.

Furthermore, in March and April of this year, cargo lift training involving vehicles and others have taken place in the United States Army Garrison Torii Communication Station ignoring the repeated protests of the local people. These and other cargo lifting flight exercises and low-altitude flying have been confirmed a number of times above residential areas, and a string of incidents have occurred including cases where tires were dropped during a cargo lift training, emergency landing in residential areas, as well as noise pollution and other damages. These incidents show the US Forces' priorities of placing their operations first and foremost, and display complete disregard for the residents of the Prefecture, which leaves the people with strong indignation.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, properties and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the parachute drop training at Kadena Air Base, and demand that drop exercises will not be conducted in the future at Kadena Air Base.

The above is resolved as stated on this 2nd day of May, 2017.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly