

**Resolution of Protest  
Over the  
Stray Bullets Incident at the Afuso Dam Construction Site  
in Onna Village**

On April 6 and April 13, there were reports of damage to a water tank and vehicle belonging to construction workers, and objects believed to be bullets were discovered within the tank and by the vehicle at the Afuso Dam construction site within the grounds of the US Forces Marine Corps Base, Camp Hansen.

The location of the incident is adjacent to the residential area of Afuso, Onna Village, and in the proximity are agricultural fields where the locals work, and this recent incident could have led to a very grave outcome. With great concern and fear, this incident has impacted the construction site workers, the local residents, and all of the people of the Prefecture who are made to live alongside danger.

The US Forces collected the objects believed to be bullets, and have temporarily halted the use of a shooting range that is likely connected to this incident, but have not made definite comments on whether the bullets were stray bullets from live ammunition training. However, in the surrounding areas of this base, there have been stray bullet incidents from live ammunition training of the US Forces, forest fires, and other incidents, and the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has repeatedly lodged protests and has strongly asked for investigation into the causes, preventive measures, and other actions from the US Forces.

Furthermore, in stray bullet incidents in the past, satisfactory explanations were not given to the people of the Prefecture, and the involvement of the US Forces training were one-sidedly denied, and training resumed without any revelations of facts. This attitude has resulted in the mounting fear among the people in their daily lives, and distrust toward the US Forces.

After the incident, the Afuso Dam construction was temporarily put on hold, but it was resumed on April 28 since it is necessary to complete the work promptly as the construction aims to prevent floods that occur within the residential areas. Nevertheless, the top priority is the security and safety of the workers and people involved.

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 call for the prompt execution of the five following items.

- I. For both Governments of Japan and the US to conduct a thorough investigation

of the relationship between training and the incident, and promptly release the findings to the citizens of the Prefecture.

- II. Cease live ammunition training at Camp Hansen until the causes are determined, and the respective preventive measures are taken.
- III. Revise the Status of Forces Agreement so that in cases of incidents and accidents, the local governing body and the Prefectural Police shall be able to enter the base facilities to conduct investigations.
- IV. Take certain measures to ensure the safety of local, private workers working in construction and other works.
- V. Be thorough in notifying in advance of information regarding drills, training and other such activities.

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

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**