

OKINAWA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

1-2-3 Izumizaki, Naha City, Okinawa JAPAN 900-8501

TEL: (098) 866-2574 FAX: (098) 866-2350

OPA Secretariat Ref. No. 855

December 22, 2016

The Honorable Caroline B. Kennedy
U.S. Ambassador to Japan
Embassy of the United States of America

SUBJECT:

Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Madam Ambassador,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the US Forces' Defective MV-22 Osprey Crash Incident. The Resolution was adopted on December 22, in the Sixth (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2016.

Sincerely,

Yonekichi Shinzato
Speaker
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly



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December 22, 2016

Lieutenant General Jerry P. Martinez
Commander
US Forces Japan

SUBJECT:

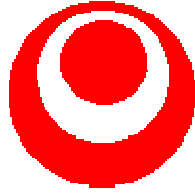
Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Sir,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the US Forces' Defective MV-22 Osprey Crash Incident. The Resolution was adopted on December 22, in the Sixth (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2016.

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December 22, 2016

Lieutenant General Lawrence D. Nicholson
Okinawa Area Coordinator
US Forces Japan

SUBJECT:

Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Sir,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the US Forces' Defective MV-22 Osprey Crash Incident. The Resolution was adopted on December 22, in the Sixth (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2016.

Sincerely,

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OPA Secretariat Ref. No. 855

December 22, 2016

The Honorable Joel Ehrendreich
U.S. Consul General
Consulate General of the United States of America, Naha

SUBJECT:

Presentation of the Resolution of Protest

Dear Sir,

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly hereby presents the appended Resolution of Protest over the US Forces' Defective MV-22 Osprey Crash Incident. The Resolution was adopted on December 22, in the Sixth (Regular) Session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly for the year 2016.

Sincerely,

Yonekichi Shinzato
Speaker
Okinawa Prefectural Assembly

Resolution of Protest Over the US Forces' Defective MV-22 Osprey Crash Incident

At approximately 9:30 PM on December 13, 2016, a US Forces MV-22 Osprey crashed on the coast of Abu, Nago City during training and was severely damaged. The crash site is immediately next to a settlement and this could have been a serious incident involving the lives of the local residents.

Furthermore, it has come to light that on the same day at around 11:45 PM, a different aircraft of the same model made a belly landing at MCAS Futenma. The fear felt by the local residents there is immeasurable and these incidents have greatly shocked the people of Okinawa and have caused great anxiety.

Moreover, taking the US Forces AV-8 Harrier Attack Aircraft crash on September 22, and the supply transportation drills above residential areas, this recent serious incident has increased the indignation of the Okinawan people toward the US Forces and heightened the sense of distrust toward both governments of Japan and the United States of America.

We have repeatedly asked both governments of Japan and the US for the Osprey to be withdrawn from deployment in Okinawa out of fear and concern for noise and other environmental issues, and crashes. It is regrettable that such concerns have become reality.

The Prefecture and local municipal authorities called on relevant bodies to halt the flight of this model of aircraft while preventive measures and the cause of the crash were reviewed, and despite this request, the US Forces unilaterally decided to resume training with this aircraft on December 19. This attitude simply cannot be tolerated. Further, the top commander of the US Forces has said, "we should be appreciated for not causing damage or harm to the people and homes of the local residents," making disrespectful comments that appear to take the lives of the Okinawan people lightly. Such comments have raised criticism among the residents of the prefecture.

The governments of Japan and the United States should sincerely examine and discuss effective measures for the alleviation of the burden that is too heavy on the people of Okinawa from hosting the bases.

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 aircraft accident and call for the prompt execution of the five items stated below.

- I. Conduct a thorough investigation of the cause of the accident and promptly

release the findings to the citizens of the prefecture.

- II. Immediately cease all flights of the Osprey, a defective model of aircraft, and withdraw their deployment in Okinawa.
- III. Close and withdraw MCAS Futenma and abandon the idea of relocating within Okinawa Prefecture.
- IV. Withdraw the Marine Corps from Okinawa.
- V. Seek to replace Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, the Okinawa Area Coordinator.

The above is resolved as stated on this 22nd day of December, 2016.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly