

GIKISHO NO.39  
October 4, 2017

Lt. General Lawrence D. Nicholson  
Commander, Marine Forces Japan  
III Marine Expeditionary Force

Atsushi Sakima  
Mayor  
Ginowan City

#### Protest and Request: MV-22 Osprey preventive landing on the Ishigaki Airport

On 29 September 2017, the city has received notice from the Okinawa Defense Bureau that in regards to an MV-22 Osprey operated out of MCAS Futenma making a preventive landing at Ishigaki Airport.

The aircraft that belong to MCAS Futenma, was involved in the fifth preventive landing in a short period time, proceed by the preventive landings on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June and 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The residents of Ginowan, who host MCAS Futenma in their city, are constantly exposed to the risk of accidents as the base is located in the very center of the city. These residents live in constant fear and anxiety.

We have taken the opportunity to demand improvements, but similar incidents continue to occur. This unfortunate situation inevitably leads us to question the U.S. Military's efforts towards safety as well as the reliability of its aircraft and maintenance procedures. We are extremely disappointed.

I, Ginowan City Mayor whose duty is to protect the lives and assets of over 98,000 citizens, can not condone the current conditions associated with this aircraft. Thus, the city strongly protests and demands the following terms be met:

- Thorough investigation of the cause of the recurrence of all preventive landings, including this recent event.
- Immediate halt of all Ospreys flight activity until safety has been verified, as well as publication of specific measures taken to prevent recurrence for the disclosure of information to ease the anxiety of residents.
- Agenda at the MCAS Futenma burden reduction promotion meeting for the 12 Ospreys dispositions to be replaced from Okinawa at the earliest possible date, as well as the accompanying related risks and burdens for all citizens.
- The closure of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date and return of land to solve the root cause of these arising issues, as well as realization of the agreement to cease all operation on MCAS Futenma in the next 5 years and the alleviation of these risks and burdens.