

GIKISHO NO. 23
December 24, 2015

Lieutenant General John Wissler
Okinawa Area Coordinator

Atsushi Sakima
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest and Request: Refrainment of night-time flying and training near MCAS Futenma during the end and beginning of the New Year.

18 years since the SACO Agreement, and 10 years since the helicopter crash at Okinawa International College, MCAS Futenma continues to exist in the middle of our densely populated city of Ginowan. The residents continue to carry the burden which comes with hosting a military base such as the noise pollution and the constant risk of aircraft related accidents.

The noise levels produced by the military's night-time flight activities have affected the lives of the Ginowan City residents greatly- a noise level of 94.9dB was recorded in the Ue-Ojana district at 22:50 on December 17 and the city has received 14 noise complaints in just one week.

Furthermore, under the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Futenma Air Station, it has been agreed upon that "consideration should be given to minimize training flights on days of special significance to surrounding communities." We ask that MCAS Futenma abide by these words for the New Year's holiday, which is a time to spend in peace and serenity- aircraft noises would be a major interference in the celebration.

We strongly request that the following provisions be followed.

Note

- The acceptance of our protest against the critical effects that the noise pollution caused by military aircrafts has caused for the nearby residents and the halt of all night-time flight activities.
- Refrain from flight activities and engine tuning at MCAS Futenma during the New Year's holiday.