

GIKISHO NO. 30

March 18, 2015

Lieutenant General John Wissler
Okinawa Area Coordinator

Atsushi Sakima
Mayor, Ginowan City

Protest: Falling objects from MV-22 Osprey

69 years since the end of the war, Marine Corp Air Station 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 such as the Okinawa International University helicopter crash which occurred in August of 2004.

Yet again, the city has received notice from the Okinawa Defense Bureau of aluminum parts (approx. 20.3cm x 7.6cm, 164.4kg) falling from an MV-22 Osprey. This is the fourth fallen object incident this fiscal year. The city has requested time and time again for investigation of causes and countermeasures to prevent these incidents from reoccurring. Though we have received response from the U.S. military promising to reinforce proper procedures for aircraft inspections and to reeducate the marines to prevent further incidents, we are very disappointed to hear that such an accident has occurred again and cannot help but question the military's safety management and accident prevention abilities.

As MCAS Futenma is located in the center of a densely populated city, aircraft related accidents are bound to cause immense disaster, injury, or death. We demand a thorough investigation of the cause, a reliable prevention plan, and for the military to publicize its findings.