

GIKISHO NO.18

July 15, 2015

Attn: Ambassador Caroline B. Kennedy

U.S. Ambassador to Japan

Atsushi Sakima

Mayor, Ginowan City

Okinawa, Japan

Request for Expedient Closure of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Land Return and the
Abatement of Base-Related Burdens in the Meantime

First and foremost, thank you for your continued cooperation in Okinawa's efforts towards abatement of base-related burdens.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, still now located in the center of the city 70 years since the end of World War II and consuming 25% of the total city surface area, continues to pose daily life impairments such as risk of aircraft accidents and noise pollution. The location of the air station is a hindrance for the city's urban function, traffic system, and overall development disturbing the city's financial growth.

Although it has been 19 years since the SACO Agreement was made between the United States and Japanese governments in 1996 to return the land which the air station is currently located on "in the next 5 to 7 years," the agenda has not yet been achieved.

The Ginowan city residents once celebrated this milestone, but unfortunately, have become more and more concerned and skeptical.

In the past 19 years, the city's population has grown to 96,000, and the population density, excluding the area of the air station, to over 7,000 per km². The risks and dangers of MCAS Futenma have consequently grown and residents' threshold of patience have come to their limits.

The City of Ginowan asks for your assistance in preventing the air station from permanently establishing itself in its current location and refocus on the original agenda of the Land Return Agreement- "Alleviating danger and base-related burden." We humbly ask for your cooperation in our efforts to reclaim the land as soon as possible.

Our aim is to resolve this issue so that our next generation may find hope and aspiration in the redevelopment of the MCAS Futenma site.