

GIKISHO NO.24
September 7, 2015

Lieutenant General John E. Wissler
Okinawa Area Coordinator
III MEF

Atsushi Sakima
Mayor
Ginowan City

Letter of Protest: Noise Pollution by Air Crafts at MCAS Futenma

The city has taken every opportunity to petition any noise pollution deemed loud enough to directly affect the residents' daily lives. Our most recent protest was on August 14, 2015 when the city received 24 noise complaints from nearby residents in 3 days, regarding night time flight activities as well as flight activities over residential areas.

Despite those efforts, a noise level of 103.7dB was recorded in the Ue-Ojana District at 06:37 on August 27, during the island's Obon Festivals. Noise levels of over 90dB were also recorded several times in the early morning hours resulting in the city receiving 6 complaint calls.

Additionally, on September 3, 16 phone calls were made to the city office regarding flight activities after 22:00. Many of these calls were desperate cries for remediation.

Noise pollution caused by the U.S. Military air crafts continue to cause problems even after our last protest. The city has received a total of 60 complaints from residents including the 24 received before our previous written protest sent to your office. It is clear that the noise levels are directly affecting the daily lives of the city's residents- the city is extremely disappointed and cannot condone this current situation.

It was recently reported that a CH-53E helicopter, the same model aircraft as the ones stationed on MCAS Futenma, crashed in North Carolina on September 3, killing one marine. The CH-53E is also the replacement model of the aircrafts which crashed into Okinawa International University 11 years ago. The recurring accidents including the one reported on August 12 sends feelings of concern and fear across the city.

Thus, the city strongly protests the night time flight activity as well as flight activity over residential areas. We also demand that the United States military take the residents' concerns into consideration and take every step possible in mitigating the burden imposed on them by the military installations and operations.