

GIKISHO NO.28

November 2, 2015

Lieutenant General Lawrence D. Nicholson
Okinawa Area Coordinator
III MEF

Atsushi Sakima
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Missing Parts from CH-53E Helicopter

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma continues to burden the local residents of Ginowan City with its noise pollution and risks of aircraft related accidents even now, 70 years after the end of World War II.

The aircrafts operated out of MCAS Futenma have caused various crises including the crash at Okinawa International University in August 2004 and several falling object incidents throughout the years after. Local residents' threshold of patience has come to its limits and the city is determined to alleviate the current risks imposed on the residents by the military.

Amidst our efforts, we have again received notice from the Okinawa Defense Bureau on October 30 of a CH-53E helicopter operated out of MCAS Futenma losing a part off of the aircraft during its flight.

The recurrence of similar incidents has led us to question the United States military's sincerity in their efforts to prevent further mishaps. This situation cannot be condoned considering that the air station's location makes it highly possible for any issues involving an aircraft to directly affect the safety of the residents living below.

Thus, the City of Ginowan strongly protests the missing part incident, and demands that the U.S. military investigates the cause as well as create a plan to prevent such incidents from reoccurring.