

GIKISHO NO.64
February 14, 2018

Lt. General Lawrence D. Nicholson
Commander, Marine Forces Japan
III Marine Expeditionary Force

Atsushi Sakima
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Falling objects from MV-22 Osprey

On 9 February 2018, the city received notice from Okinawa Defense Bureau in regards to part of an air intake, which came from right engine of an MV-22 Osprey which operated out of MCAS Futenma, washed ashore on the Ikei Island beach in Uruma city, as well as the part had fallen from an Osprey which during a flight on 8 February.

This is the fourth incident in just this year, which regards to aircrafts operating out of MCAS Futenma. At each opportunity, the City of Ginowan has to protest and strongly requested a thorough prevention plan for recurrence.

Moreover, it is extremely regrettable that a similar incident of part falling occurred within two months from the serious incident that U.S. Military helicopter window fell onto the Futenma Dai-ni elementary school occurred in December 2017. In addition, it can not be overlooked that the osprey in which the parts were defective flew over the residential area including Ginowan City.

Additionally, in the event of an accident, despite the fact that the US side should promptly report to the Japanese side, but this time it was not noticed from the U.S. side, the fact that civilian discovered the falling part found out the fact. We have strong doubts about crisis management regime including US military information disclosure attitude.

The MCAS Futenma base located in the center of the city which given it is location can lead to catastrophes involving citizens. More effective efforts than ever are necessary.

Thus, the city strongly protests and request for thorough investigation of the cause and prevention plan of recurrence, as well as to publish this plan, as well as thorough provision of information promptly and halt of all Ospreys activity until these measures are taken.

Moreover, we strongly insist on the closure of base at the earliest possible date to resolve the ongoing issues from its core, as well as termination of all activity on MCAS Futenma within the next 5 years and mitigation of base related risks and burdens.