

GIKISHO NO. 24
April 14, 2020

Mr. Robert T. Koepcke
Consul General
American Consulate

Masanori Matsugawa
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Firefighting Foam leakage at MCAS Futenma

On April 10, a little past 17:00, the city received notice from a person related to a day-care center in the city in regards to firefighting foam leaking from MCAS Futenma. After a while the city received notice from Okinawa Defense Bureau in regards to firefighting foam containing PFOS leakage at MCAS Futenma.

The incident of firefighting foam leakage at MCAS Futenma also occurred last December. It is extremely regrettable that this incident occurred while the residents' concern about the organic fluorine compounds have not been dispelled even though the city has just requested and protested to Okinawa Defense Bureau and U.S. military to demand effective measures to prevent recurrences.

Although the city made a request to U.S. military through Okinawa Defense Bureau to have the firefighting foam to be collected on the day we received the report of the leakage incident. We cannot help but feel angry over the U.S. military not responding effectively to the firefighting foam found in the Uchidomari creek on April 11, as well as having to have many Ginowan City office workers preoccupied with responding to it.

I, Ginowan City Mayor, is responsible for the lives and assets of citizens, as well as preserving the city environment, the city strongly protests the incident of leaked firefighting foam and demands the following terms be met:

- Thorough investigation of the cause including prevention plan of recurrence, as well as explain the contents as soon as possible.
- Replace the firefighting foam containing PFOS remaining at MCAS Futenma as soon as possible.
- The leaked firefighting foam was confirmed to be scattered and run-off into creek, take necessary measures to ensure the safety of residents and preserve the surrounding environment immediately.
- To confirm effect on soil, creek, etc., conduct an environmental survey of the firefighting foam leakage site and the surrounding area where the firefighting foam leaked or scattered, and report the results of the survey.
- Give permission to access onto MCAS Futenma to confirm the site, and the U.S. military be present when access.