

GIKISHO NO. 64
October 2, 2020

Mr. Robert T. Koepcke
Consul General
American Consulate

Masanori Matsugawa
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Firefighting Foam leakage at MCAS Futenma

On September 10, the city received the executive summary of the investigation results from the U.S. marines in regards to the incident in which firefighting foam was released from MCAS Futenma on 10 April 2020.

Over the course of the last 70 years after the end of WWII, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma has been present in its current location, the center of Ginowan City. The air station has greatly impacted the living environment of our citizens by subjecting them to the dangers of aircraft accidents and aircraft noise. Furthermore, we have strong doubts of the U.S. military's efforts toward safety and reliability of its maintenance procedures. Regarding the cause of this incident, it was triggered by an outdoor barbecue and no one knew how to stop the fire suppression system as well as the hangar door not closing due to maintenance problems. The citizens of Ginowan City are exposed to the risk of accidents daily and are constantly anxious.

I, Ginowan City Mayor, am responsible for the lives and assets of our citizens, as well as preserving the city environment. The city strongly protests and demands the following terms be met:

- Thorough measures must be taken in the prevention plan of recurrence to make sure this kind of incident does not happen again.
- Set a deadline for replacing the firefighting foam containing PFOS remaining at MCAS Futenma as soon as possible.
- Ease the anxiety of resident about PFOS as well as take necessary measures to ensure the safety of residents and preserve the surrounding environment immediately.
- Work in a visible way as most important issue which the closure of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date and return of land to solve the roots of these arising issues, realization of the agreement to cease all operations on MCAS Futenma as well as the alleviation of risks and burden until the return.