

GIKISHO NO.55
July 26, 2018

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

Atsushi Sakima
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Noise Pollution Caused by Night Time Flights by the U.S. Military

The city has taken every opportunity to protest the adverse effect that the noise pollution has on the resident's lives but with no signs of improvement. The burden placed on the residents by the base has exceeded the limit.

Since July of this year, the noise pollution after 22:00 has been occurring frequently every day. The night time flight until 24:00 has been reported a lot recently. An aircraft noise level of 97.1dB was recorded in the Ue-Ojana District at 23:23 on July 12th, and 93.6dB was also recorded at 23:42 in the same district on the same night. The night time damage of noise pollution has become an everyday matter, throughout the city.

This situation has caused resentment and frustration for many residents whom are disturbed by the noise and have been stripped of their rights to enjoy a peaceful night of sleep at home. The U.S. military should consider the lives of the residents to prevent the occurrence of noise. But the real situation is considerably lacking of consideration. The city is extremely disappointed and cannot condone this current situation.

This fiscal year, as many as 202 complaints have been received include numerous complaints in which exemplify the severity of the impacts on the citizens lives such as; "The helicopters are flying over my house and I can not sleep. Please do something", and "It is almost 24:00 but my children can not sleep because of the noise". Many of these calls were desperate cries for remediation. It is clear that the noise levels are directly affecting the daily lives of the city's residents.

As Ginowan City Mayor whose duty is to protect the lives and assets of over 98,000 citizens, current conditions can not be condoned. Thus, the city strongly protests and demands the following terms be met:

- Cease all flight activity after 22:00 to abide by the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Futenma Air Station and to show thorough consideration towards the residents at all other hours of the day.
- The closure of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date and return of land to solve the root of these arising issues, as well as realization of the agreement to cease all operations on MCAS Futenma in the next 5 years and the alleviation of risks and burdens.