

Mr. Robert T. Koepcke
Consul General
American Consulate

MATSUGAWA Masanori
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 caused by the U.S. military aircraft has on the resident's lives and requested for noise mitigation. However since January 5 of this year, the noise pollution after 22:00 has been occurring frequently every day and on January 12, the night time flight past 24:00 has been reported.

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 544 complaints have been received include numerous complaints in which exemplify the severity of the impacts on the citizens lives such as; "It is so loud I can not sleep. Please do something", and "The noise I hear everyday is terrible". 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.

I, Ginowan City Mayor, am responsible for the lives and assets of over 100,000 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 agreed between Japanese and the U.S. governments 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, realization of the agreement to cease all operations on MCAS Futenma as well as the alleviation of risks and burden until the return.