

August 17, 2021

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Protest and Request: Concerning the Incident of MV-22 Osprey Dropping Its Parts

There occurred an incident of which an MV-22 Osprey stationed at U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma dropped two of its parts on August 12th.

Though we have requested for effective actions to prevent recurrence each time when an incident of aircraft based at Futenma Base occurs, I cannot help but be indignant against another incident occurred.

Besides, I have to have grave doubts on the recognition of the U.S. military about the incidents and their crisis management system, because of the fact that it took time for them to provide information as we, Ginowan City, were informed of what happened on the next day of the incident, August 13th.

Any accidents which occur around the Futenma Air Station, said to be “the most dangerous” surrounded by an urban city, can involve the residents and be disastrous. As the City of Ginowan has continued to appeal for the earliest closure and return of Futenma Air Station, the return has not been realized today, 25 years after the land return agreement, but the accident occurred highlighting the current situation in which the safety of lives of people of both the city and the prefecture are still threatened.

In addition, the problem of nighttime noise pollution is serious, not only the noise of aircraft being detected regardless of midnight or early morning this month, but also outside fixed-wing aircraft, P-8 and C-130 fly in almost every week. We have received many compelling messages from the residents.

As the City has strongly requested for the removal of the dangers and the reduction of the burdens of the base in a way people can see and feel for the burdens on the residents is already over the limit, it is extremely regrettable that the current situation clearly shows lack of consideration.

I strongly protest against the accident and strongly request as below for the lives and safety of over a hundred thousand residents.

Note

- Conduct a thorough investigation of the cause and plan prevention of recurrence regarding this accident, and make them public immediately.
- Review all safety management systems including a maintenance organization structure for not only MV-22 Osprey but also all the aircraft stationed at MCAS Futenma. Conduct a safety check strictly, stop the flight activities until the safety is confirmed.
- Build a reporting organization structure and provide information promptly and appropriately when incidents occur.
- Take all measures to realize the complete return of Futenma Air Station as soon as possible, which the residents longed for.
- Work on the elimination of the dangers and alleviation of the burdens of the base, including the immediate suspension of its operation with a sense of danger and realize them steadily.