

Lieutenant General James Bierman
Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force;
and Commander, Marine Forces Japan

29 November 2021

Subject: Protest and Request Regarding the Water Bottle Dropped from an MV-22 Osprey

Dear Lt. General Bierman,

A water bottle fell from a flying MV-22 Osprey which belongs to the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Tuesday, twenty-third of November.

I feel strong resentment about the fact that another incident has occurred regardless of our requests for effective preventative measures each time a Futenma-based aircraft causes an accident.

Although there have been no report of any injuries or property damages caused by the incident, any accident stemming from the operation of the Futenma Air Station, which is surrounded by an urban city and named 'the most dangerous base in the world,' could be disastrous and cost lives.

Despite Ginowan City's continued call for the earliest possible closure and return of the Futenma Air Station, not only has the return been left unrealized for 25 years after the land return agreement, but now, another accident has occurred. This reinforces the fact that the lives of the people of Okinawa and, more specifically, the lives of Ginowan residents, continue to be threatened by the operation of the Futenma Air Station.

I strongly protest against the incident and request you that you identify the cause and implement necessary and effective measures to prevent more accidents from happening again in the future.

In addition, I hereby request for the earliest closure and return of Futenma Air Station, the prompt suspension of its operation, the removal of all hazards, and the mitigation of our burden of hosting military bases.

Yours sincerely,

Masanori Matsugawa
Mayor of Ginowan City