

GIKISHO NO.26

June 29, 2017

Brigadier General Paul J. Rock, Jr.  
Commander,  
Marine Corps Installations Pacific

Atsushi Sakima  
Mayor,  
Ginowan City

#### Protest and Request: Sirens heard from MCAS Futenma

In the early morning hours of June 26, the city received multiple calls from city residents complaining about a sound of a siren which was believed to be coming from a U.S. military installation.

Upon confirmation with the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the city was informed that the Mass Notification System installed on the east side of MCAS Futenma had experienced malfunctions at 03:00, 03:30, 04:00 and 05:45.

With the base located in the center of the city, residents of Ginowan are constantly exposed to military base related risks and burdens such as night time noise pollution even now, 21 years since the agreement to return the land in its entirety. The city is extremely disappointed to see that such an incident has caused further unnecessary inconvenience to the residents. We have received numerous calls from the city residents who were complaining of the blaring sirens disrupting their sleep and wanting to know what was happening during these early hours when peace and quiet should be expected.

Similar incidents have occurred in September 2011 and May 2012 which cause us to question whether necessary steps have been taken to prevent recurrence. Thus, Ginowan City protests this recent incident and demands the following:

#### Note

- Investigation of cause and preventative measures to be implemented to reassure the prevention recurrence.
- Implementation of a communication system which allows the U.S. and Japanese governments to communicate and share information at any hour of the day when such situations arise, as well as an extensive explanation addressed to the residents in case of future mishaps or issues.
- The closure of base and return of land at the earliest possible date to resolve these issues from its root.