GIKISHO NO.34
May 23, 2019

Lt. General Eric M. Smith
Commander, Marine Forces Japan
III Marine Expeditionary Force

Masanori Matsugawa
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Fighter Jet Traffic and Activity on MCAS Futenma and Noise Pollution Caused by Night Time Flights by the U.S. Military.

MCAS Futenma is located in the center of the city and is consequently bordered by an urban district where many residents live and work. The risks of aircraft crashes, effects of noise pollution, and other base related impairments are tremendous.

At each opportunity, the City of Ginowan has requested prohibition of traffic and activity of aircrafts which are not based on MCAS Futenma such as the fighter jets. These fighter jets have a tremendous influence on the daily lives of citizens.

However, on the 16th of May the F-35B fighter jets activities on MCAS Futenma in quick succession made very loud noises throughout the city. In particular, it was highest noise levels of 124.5dB were recorded ever in the Ue-Ojana district. Further, on the 21st of May, the F/A-18C conducted flight activity at MCAS Futenma, and noise levels of over 100dB were recorded at each noise level meters in the city.

Additionally, the night time damage of noises pollution after 22:00 is serious issue, the complaints of the noise pollution caused by the night time flights continued to increase every summer. Night time flights as late as 24:00 have been reported on the 7th, 8th and 16th of May.

The jets' activities on MCAS Futenma, despite the city's requests and protests to mitigate base related burdens in other aspects such as the city being coerced into noise pollution, cannot be condoned and we must express our deepest disappointment.

Thus, the city strongly protests the fighter jets' traffic and activities as well as noise pollution and demands more consideration towards the residents' daily lives.

We strongly insist on the closure of base at the earliest possible date and return of land to solve the root cause of these arising issues, as well as mitigation of base related risks and burdens.