

Protest and Request

December, 2017

Ginowan City

Ginowan City Council

Ginowan City Board of Education

Ginowan City Head of Districts

Ginowan City Elder's Association

Ginowan City Women's Association

Ginowan City Youth Association

Ginowan City Commerce and Industry

Ginowan City P.T.A. Association

December 28, 2017

Consul General Joel Ehrendreich
U.S. Consulate General Naha

Protest and Request: Details of the Accident in which a Window from a CH-53 Helicopter fell into the Futenma Dai-ni Elementary School yard.

A straight assessment on the current situation and feelings of the Ginowan citizens, we strongly request for you to work on the attached requirements as a top priority and address promptly and appropriately.

On December 13th, a serious accident occurred in which a window belonging to a CH-53 Helicopter which belongs to MCAS Futenma, fell onto the grounds of the Futenma Dai-ni Elementary school.

This accident which occurred on December 13th is a very serious accident in the elementary school area that should be a safe and secure area, when that accident happened, physical education classes were being held in the sports field that is only a distance of 10 meters away from the point where a window of 7.7 Kilograms fell onto the grounds. This absolutely must never occur, and the impact upon the children, the teachers, and their family were immeasurable, causing the entire community great anxiety. I feel a strong indignation in response to this incident.

Furthermore, it is extremely regretful that the flights of the CH-53 Helicopters were restarted just six days after the accident, while the continued anxiety had not been dispelled, and strong protests against the resumption of flights with the occurrence of the accident.

The accident at this time made us realize again the weight of the responsibility of establishing a safe school environment as an adult, and a society as a whole. Effective and urgent measures are needed for the development of a safe environment for the children and the community.

The MCAS Futenma base located in the center of the city is said to be the "world's most dangerous base" which given its location can lead to catastrophes involving citizens. It is the communities strong desire which has been requested that the base to be returned to the people as soon as possible.

But with 21 years since the return agreement between the government of Japan and U.S. but the return has not proceeded at all, and there is no reduction of excessive base burden that the citizens have in relation to the noise pollution caused by the night time flights. All such persons involved in the MCAS Futenma base must take this situation seriously.

The wishes of the Ginowan citizens, who is the primary party, is nothing other than to "Prevent MCAS Futenma from permanently establishing itself in its current location and expedite the closure and return of the land as soon as possible" and the parties should address that realization as its top priority.

Thus, we demands the following terms be met:

Note

- Based on the fact that the accidents and troubles by U.S. Military aircraft, including accidents at the Futenma Dai-ni Elementary School, are occurring one after another, stop flying above the all school facilities in the city area, and a thorough investigation of the cause and prevention plan of recurrence.
- Visible measure for the alleviation of danger and burdens deriving from the base.
- The closure of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date and return of the land to solve the root cause of these arising issues, as well as to prevent immobilization as the most important task, to realize these point as soon as possible.

Ginowan City
Mayor, Atsushi Sakima

Ginowan City Council
Chairman, Masatoshi Oshiro

Ginowan City Board of Education
Superintendent, Harumi Chinen

Ginowan City Head of Districts
President, Masaaki Nagamine

Ginowan City Elder's Association
President, Shinryu Tawata

Ginowan City Women's Association
President, Michiko Namihira

Ginowan City Youth Association
President, Ryoma Nishizato

Ginowan City Commerce and Industry
President, Kiyotaka Fukuzato

Ginowan City P.T.A. Association
President, Kiyoshi Fujinami