

May 14, 2024

Lieutenant General Roger B. Turner
Commanding General,
III Marine Expeditionary Force; and commander,
Marine Forces Japan

Protest and Petition: Enforcement of Discipline on Military Servicemembers

Ginowan City has received a report from the Okinawa Defense Bureau on May 8 that the Lance Cpl. of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, who was arrested on April 18 for attempted trespassing and robbery of a convenience store in Nodake district, Ginowan City, has been rearrested on suspicion of trespassing and robbing a convenience store in Aragusuku district of the city, on April 3.

This incident is heinous in that the robber went behind the cash register counter and threatened the store clerk with a knife, then wrenched money from the store.

Citizens are forced to live under the burden of hosing the military bases, such as being exposed to noise pollution from U.S. military aircraft on a daily basis. I must say that this kind of incident will add to their burden and fear, which should never be allowed.

As the mayor of Ginowan City who is responsible for protecting lives and property of the citizens, I strongly protest and request the following.

1. Strongly protest the frequent incidents and accidents of U.S. servicemembers, and demand the thorough enforcement of the official discipline and education.
2. Take every measure to prevent the recurrence of the incidents and accidents.

Masanori Matsugawa
Mayor of Ginowan City