

GIKISHO NO.71
November 22, 2018

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

Masanori Matsugawa
Mayor
Ginowan City

Protest: Noise Pollution Caused by Activity of Aircraft which are not based on MCAS Futenma
such as the Fighter Jets

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 and 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 that tremendously influences daily lives of citizens.

However, on the 7th, 8th, 15th, and 19th of November, numerous aircrafts which are not based on MCAS Futenma conducted flight activity at MCAS Futenma nearly every week. On the 20th and 21st of November, the fighter jet activities on MCAS Futenma in quick succession made a very loud noise throughout the city.

In particular, noise levels of 117.4dB were recorded in the Ue-Ojana district. The city received heartrending voice from the citizens such as; “The fighter jet flew overhead again with loud noise. They are also flying at low altitudes.”

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.