

MCAS Futenma: Located in the **Center** of the City

~ Refocusing on the Main Agenda of the Land Return Agreement: Alleviating Danger and Burden ~



Atsushi Sakima
Mayor

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma has been present in its current location, the center of Ginowan City, since the end of the war 70 years ago. The air station, which consumes 25% of the total city surface area, poses a danger and daily life impairments such as noise pollution. The location of the air station is a crucial hindrance for the city's urban functions, traffic system, and overall development, disturbing the city's financial growth.

Although the land return has been agreed upon in the SACO Agreement, it has yet to be implemented and the Ginowan City residents are compelled to take on many base-specific burdens. The expeditious elimination of the dangers and burdens deriving from this air station, widely known as "the most dangerous air station in the world," has been a pressing issue for the city.

As our newest approach to the issue, 9 organizations within the city united this past fiscal year to hold a public meeting regarding the many issues and burdens deriving from MCAS Futenma. A joint statement was also submitted to the entities concerned demanding "early closure and return of MCAS Futenma," "alleviation of dangers and burdens," "relocation of MV-22 Ospreys," and "noise abatement and putting a ban on night time flight activity."

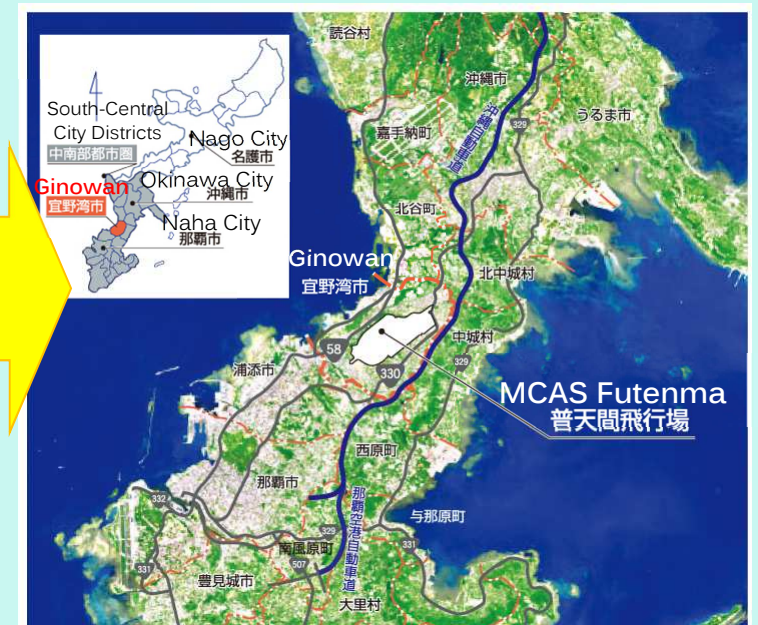
We must prevent the air station from permanently establishing itself in its current location and must refocus on the original agenda of the Land Return Agreement- "Alleviating Danger and Burden." Ginowan City intends to continue working to achieve our goals to permanently close the air station by February 2019 and to mitigate afflictions in the meantime.

Ginowan City Military Base Affairs and Policy Dept.
March 2016

MCAS Futenma: Located in the Center of the City Greatly Affecting Daily Lives and Economy



➤ Location of Ginowan City



Ginowan city from above



MCAS Futenma Surface Area

(as of March 2014)

480.6ha

MCAS Futenma is located in the center of Ginowan City and consumes 1/4 of the city's total surface area (approx. 19.8km²). Additionally, with Camp Foster taking up another 1,059km² in the northern part of the city, approximately 30% of the total city's surface area is occupied by U.S. military installations.



City's Population Density

(as of Jan. 2016)

Approx. 4,928/km²

Excluding Base Surface Area...

Approx. 7,002/km²

The population density of the city excluding the land occupied by MCAS Futenma exceeds that of Tokyo (6168/km²) and Osaka (4639/km²). The population density is higher than that of major capital as Washington D.C. and London.

(Ginowan City Population: 97568 surveyed Jan. 2016)

(Tokyo and Osaka population density taken from 2015 national census)



Total Days the Environmental Standard Levels were Exceeded

168 Days

 (Fiscal year 2014 Ue-Ojana District)

The Ministry of Environment establishes environmental standards on ideal living environments with the concept of maintaining the standardized levels in various environmental aspects. In, fiscal year 2014, there was a total of 168 days when the noise level exceeded that of the established standard in the Ue-Ojana Area. The noise pollution greatly affects these residents' daily lives night and day.



Number of Times Noise Was Detected

12,487 (Fiscal Year 2014 Ue-Ojana Dist.)

In fiscal year 2014, aircraft noise was detected 34 times in a single day by the noise-level meter located in the Ue-Ojana Area, where it is known to be one of the noisiest areas in Ginowan City. Citizens around the base are left with no option but to live under these burdensome living conditions.



Highest Recorded Noise-Level

120.5dB (Jun. 6, 2014 Ue-Ojana Dist.)

Night time Noise-Level

97.1dB (22:50 11/9/2015 Ue-Ojana Dist.)

The highest recorded noise-level in fiscal year 2014 was 120.5dB- a noise-level said to be the same level that one would experience standing right next to an active aircraft engine. Moreover, although limited by U.S.-Japan agreement, night time flight activity is still vigorous.



Noise-Level	Noise-Level is equal to...
120dB	Next to an active aircraft engine
110dB	2 meters away from a automobile horn
100dB	Under a passing train
90dB	Inside an active factory

Accidents Involving MCAS Futenma Aircrafts

107 Total includes accident reports from the time of Okinawa's return to the Mainland in 1972 until January 2016.

There is an annual average of 2.4 aircraft mishaps involving aircrafts stationed at MCAS Futenma. Considering the location of the air station- in the center of a densely populated city, one accident can be catastrophic.



Description of MCAS Futenma

Surface Area: 4.806km² (480.6ha)

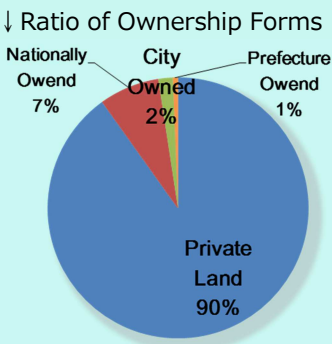
Units: Marine Corps Air Station Futenma、MACG-18、
MAG-36、MWSG-17

Number of Landowners 3,874 (surveyed March, 2014)

Annual Rent Paid by the Government of Japan ¥7,176 million (Fiscal Year 2012)

Number of Active Duty & Civilian Employees Approx. 3,200

Number of Japanese Base Employees 204 (surveyed March, 2014)



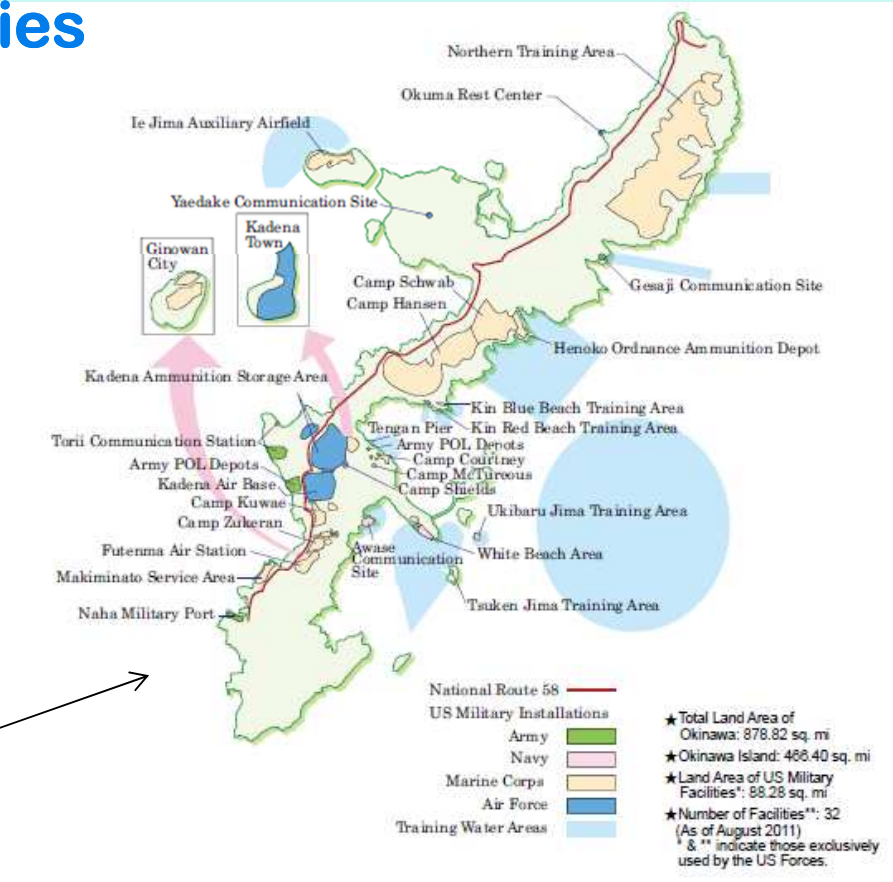
Aircrafts Stationed on MCAS Futenma **Total: 48 (October, 2014)**

MV-22B	Osprey	24
CH-53E	Super Stallion	8
UH-1Y	Venom	3
AH-1W	Super Cobra	9
UC-12W		1
UC-35D		3



U.S. Military Facilities on Okinawa

Okinawa makes up a mere 0.6% of Japan, but 74% of the total surface area in use by the U.S. military in Japan is located in Okinawa.



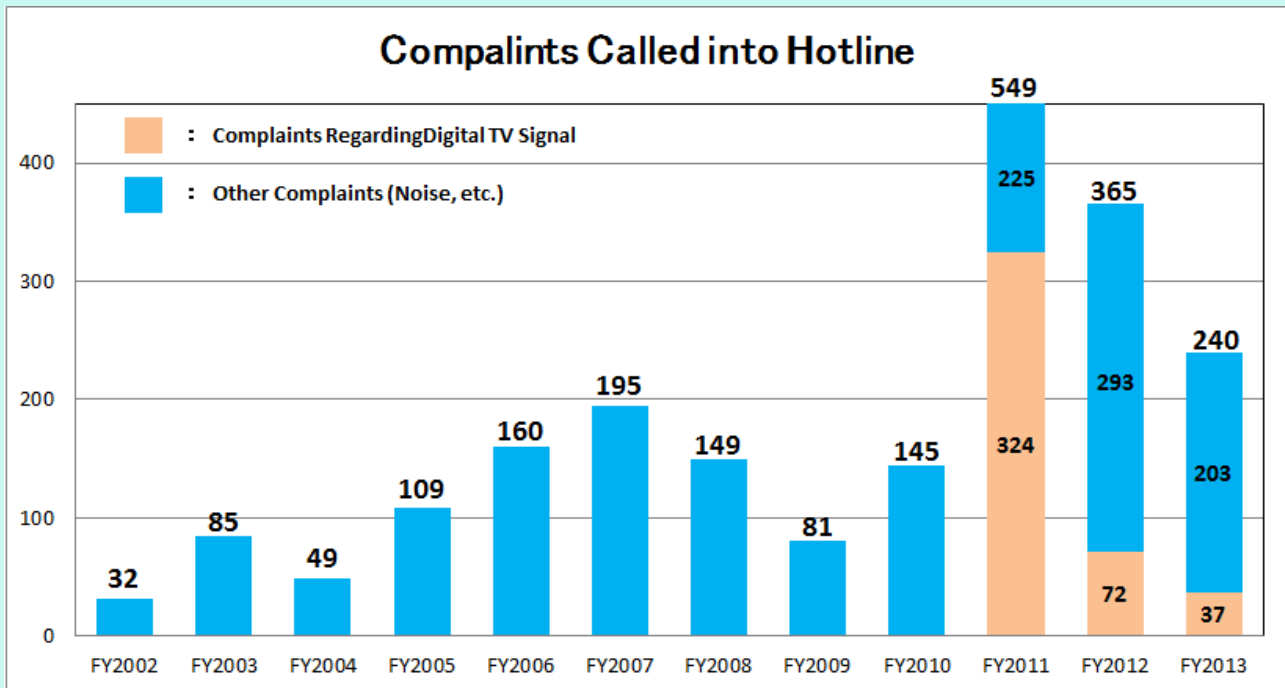
From "Map of U.S. Military bases in Okinawa"
<http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/chijiko/kichitai/2518>

20 years since the SACO Agreement...

MCAS Futenma Land Return Stands at a Halt

Jun 1945	U.S. Forces seize land and begin construction of MCAS Futenma in preparation for the Mainland battle	
Dec 1996	Agreement to “return Futenma Air Station within the next five to seven years, after adequate replacement facilities are completed and operational” based upon SACO Final Report.	
Aug 2004	U.S. military helicopter crash at Okinawa International University	
May 2006	Agreed to make 2014 the completion goal for the MCAS Futenma relocation site under U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment final report.	
Jun 2011	Revised the 2014 relocation goal and re-pledged to complete the relocation as soon as possible. (“2+2”)	
Oct 2012	Deployment of MV-22 Ospreys begins (completed Sept. 2013)	
Apr 2013	Japanese and U.S. governments agree to a new relocation goal of “2022 or later”	
Feb 2014	Okinawa governor and Ginowan City mayor petition to the Government of Japan to have the base closed and relocated within the next 5 years	
Aug 2014	15 KC-130's, aerial-refueling aircrafts stationed at MCAS Futenma, are relocated to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni	
Dec 2015	Simultaneous press release of Japanese and American media report pledge to expedite work to return approximately 4ha of the eastern part of MCAS Futenma.	

Complaints to Hotline Regarding Base



Ginowan City has established a hotline to accommodate complaints made outside of our office hours. The Hotline is an automated messaging system which staff will review the following morning and relay any messages to the mayor, U.S. military and Okinawa Defense Bureau. In the case that numerous complaints are made about the same topic, the city directly petitions to the appropriate entities.

Actual Calls (translated) Made to the Hotline

Jan.21, 2015 21:49 (Female)

It is currently very noisy above and around my house. I feel like I am going crazy. I feel like I am living in the middle of a war zone.

Aug. 12, 2015 14:45 (Isa Resident- Female)

There are helicopters flying at low altitudes and it is very loud! They were flying around past 22:00 last night as well. Are they doing it on purpose to annoy people? They do not consider us humans trying to live. This is unacceptable.

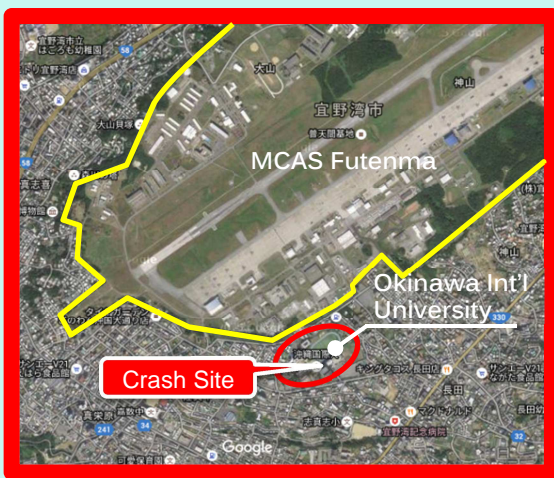
Sept. 24, 2015 22:37 (Male)

It is currently 22:30. I am hearing continuous helicopter noises. Please do something about this noise. They are not abiding by the agreement.

Nov. 24, 2015 21:51 (Mashiki Resident- Male)

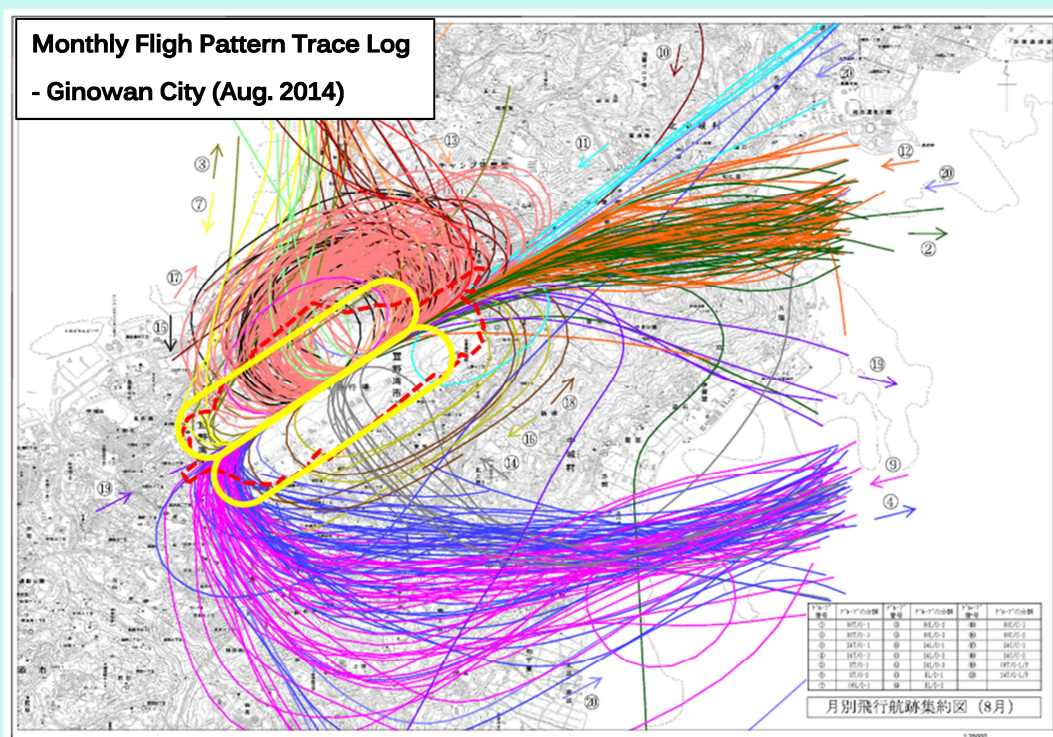
The helicopters are particularly loud today and my children will not go to bed because they are frightened. Can't they stop doing this at night? Please do something.

U.S. Military Helicopter Crash at Okinawa International University



On Friday, August 13, 2004, at around 2:15PM, a CH-53D Helicopter operated out of MCAS Futenma crash landed into the main building of Okinawa International University. The helicopter went up into flames causing a major incident. The cause of the accident was the tail-rotor falling of the aircraft itself, causing the helicopter to become inoperable. Although there were no reported injuries to local civilians, 3 military personnel onboard the helicopter were injured as well as causing damages to 29 homes and 33 vehicles.

Flight Pattern Log for Rotorwing Aircrafts on MCAS Futenma



The map excerpt released by the Okinawa Defense Bureau, on the left, exhibits the monthly flight routes. Upon examining the investigation results, it is apparent that most of the flight activity is outside of the actual path of the flightline.

The 9 Organization Joint Statement

Upon receiving over 100 noise complaint calls in October 2015, 9 organizations within the city assembled to voice the opinions of local residents. A joint statement and petition was submitted to Japanese government and other related political parties.

Participating Organizations:

- Ginowan City
- Ginowan City Council
- Board of Education
- Head of Districts
- Commerce and Industry
- Women's Assn.
- Youth Assn.
- PTA Assn.
- Elder's Assn.



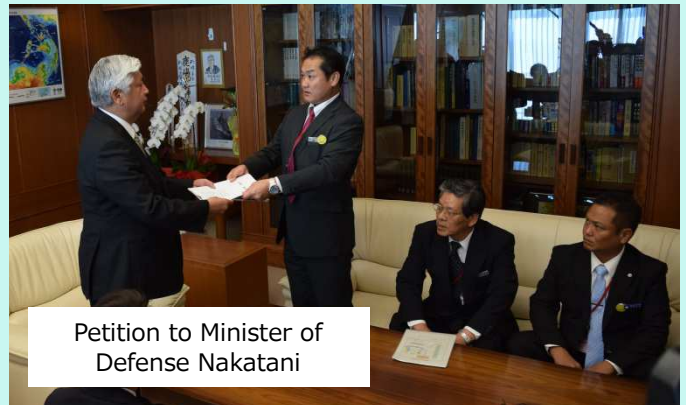
Press Conference with 9 Orgs



Petition to Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga



Petition to Cabinet Office
Extraordinary Minister Shimajiri



Petition to Minister of
Defense Nakatani

4 Main Points of the Joint Statement:

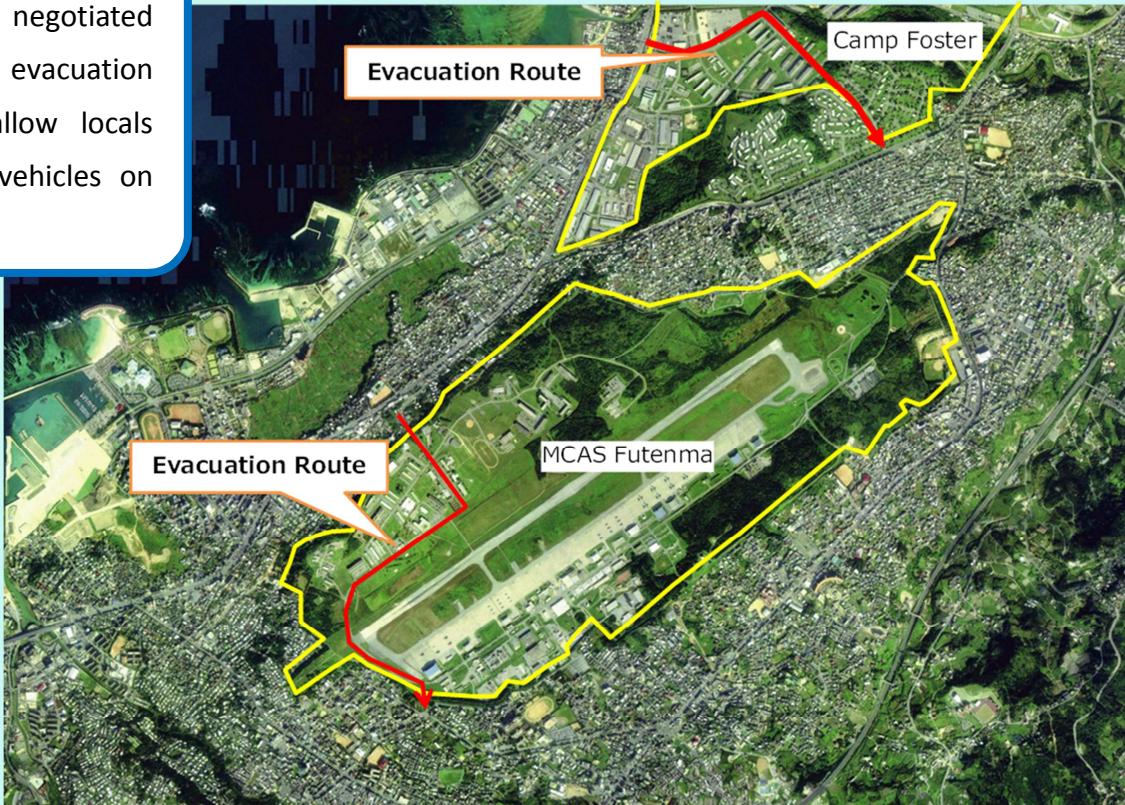
1. Prevent the air station from permanently establishing itself in its current location and expedite the closure and return of base.
2. Visible measure for alleviation of danger and burdens deriving from the base
3. Relocation of MV-22 Ospreys
4. Abiding by the "Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasure at Futenma Air Station" agreement and discontinuation of night time flying and flight above residential areas.

Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly meetings are held throughout the year with the Commanding Officers of MCAS Futenma, Camp Foster, and the U.S. Naval Hospital, which are all located within Ginowan City, to create an opportunity for each party to address concerns, find feasible solutions, and share ideas on a local level.



We have negotiated natural disaster evacuation procedures to allow locals and emergency vehicles on base.



November 5th, 2012,
Disaster Response • Evac Agreement between the Pacific
Commander, Chatan-town, and Ginowan City



Camp Foster Evacuation Drill



December 22nd, 2015
Emergency Vehicle Access Agreement
With MCAS Futenma

Preparing for the land return of MCAS Futenma...



A row of Pine Trees to replicate the historical "Nan-machi"



Okinawa Promotion center incorporating the rich greenery and ocean-view



A new social hub for local residents

