

U.S./Japan Agreements Pertaining to MCAS Futenma

March 1996 ◆ Agreement Regarding Aircraft Noise Control

Excerpts from “Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Futenma Air Station”

3.a “Airfield traffic pattern configuration, including entry and exit routes, should be designed to avoid over flight of densely populated areas, including schools and hospitals, as much as possible.”

3.g “Both flight and ground operations between the hours of 2200 and 0600 are limited to those considered necessary for US operational requirements. Night training flights are limited to the minimum required to fulfill assigned US Forces Japan missions and maintain air crew proficiency. Unit Commanders will exert every effort to complete night flying operations as early as practical.”

August 2004 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.

August 2007 ◆ Reanalyzed Flight Patterns and Safety Measures ◆ Efforts towards the Permanent Closure of the Air Station

