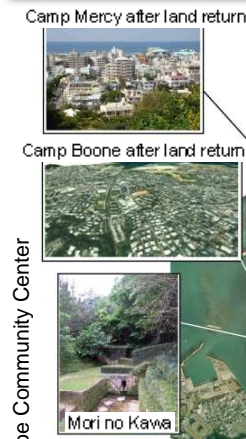


Current Image Of MCAS Futenma



日本軍の陣地壕

Remnants of daily life in Camp Zukeran



野島通信隊 (戦後初期)



Nodake Communication Unit (immediately after war)



Map Code
 - Ginowan city limits & former ('95-) province limits
 - Route 56 (Nat. Hwy)
 - Route 330 (Nat. Hwy)
 - Route 34 (Pref. Hwy)
 - Route 81 (Pref. Hwy)
 - MCAS Futenma fence line
 - Returned land
 - Light Railway
 - Ginowan Ave. of Pine trees
 - Housing in the late 40's

Before the Battle of Okinawa, the center of the town was called Ginowan Village. Ginowan Village was positioned in the current location of MCAS Futenma. In that vicinity were the village office, National School, post office, hospital, "Ryokan" (Japanese style hotel), shops, various living communities and a vast area of farmland.

Both sides of the road connecting the Futenma and Maehara Districts were lined with Pine Trees; the people referred to this road as "Nan-machi." Additionally, the Central Area Branch of the Okinawa Prefectural Office and other public agencies including the Prefectural Agricultural Experiment Station was located in the Futenma District. It acted as the heart of Central Okinawa. Before the war, Ginowan held stores on the road connecting Shuri and Goeku Town (present-day Koza), but the majority of the town's income came from sugarcane cultivation.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma was originally established in 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa. The U.S. troops seized land and build the facility to prepare for their attack on Mainland Japan. When Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972, the Government of Japan provided the installation to the United States Government. Until 1972, the air station was merely a substation used as a landing location during parachute training.

Later, as the P3C's were stationed at Kadena Air Base in 1974, the runways on MCAS Futenma were refurbished to accommodate these aircrafts and approximately 1000 troops from the 1st Marine Air Wing (1st MAW) were relocated from Iwakuni Air Station in 1976. This was the start of the reinforcement of military functions on the island. In 1978, Hamby Air Station, then located in Chatan Town, was permanently closed. All military facilities and functions were relocated to MCAS Futenma, which lead to the present state.

On the other hand, municipal administration was enforced in 1962, turning Ginowan into a city. By 1975, the city's population had grown to over 50,000 people. Residents had already started establishing their lives near the air station before the current operational state had taken place.