

**Ginowan City Joint Statement: Protest Against Additional Deployment of Ospreys to MCAS Futenma
Request for Prompt Closure of the Air Station and Return of Land**

It has been 17 years since the Japanese and American Government established the SACO agreement, 8 years since the helicopter crash at Okinawa International College, and 7 years since the Military Realignment Implementation. However, nearby residents still live amidst the coming and going of loud fighter jets and feel constant fear of military aircraft related accidents. We are afraid these residents cannot endure the stress any longer.

Despite our safety concerns, the United States Department of Defense announced in June 2011 that the CH-46 helicopters being used on MCAS Futenma will be replaced by 24 MV-22 Ospreys starting late 2012. The Ospreys are known for being involved in various crashes since the first stages of production and have been involved in 2 additional incidents in April and June of 2012 which lead us to conclude that the safety of these aircrafts are far less than satisfactory.

Ginowan City has collaborated with the Okinawa Prefectural Government to request permanent suspension of the Ospreys time and time again. Moreover, the city and prefecture have organized countless citizens' rallies including the Ginowan Resident's Rally in June and the Okinawa Prefecture Citizen's Rally in September to express the citizens' opposition against the additional deployment of these aircrafts. However, both the Japanese and American governments have disregarded the outcries of these people and have forced the burden of being the host city to the Ospreys upon the people of Ginowan emphasizing the so-called safety of these aircrafts.

This past January, the leaders of all 41 cities, towns and villages within Okinawa and their council members made a direct appeal to Prime Minister Abe to repeal his decision to allow the Ospreys at MCAS Futenma.

Also, after investigating the operation of the Ospreys within the island, it has become clear that many of the agreements implemented in the Memorandum for the Joint Committee are not being followed. Last December, the Prefecture of Okinawa requested for the government of Japan to further investigate the operational procedures, but have not received a response yet.

It was announced the other day that the remaining 12 Ospreys have arrived at Air Station Iwakuni and are scheduled to arrive at MCAS Futenma in early August. However, we cannot condone this especially considering the concerns of the citizens of Okinawa have not yet been appropriately addressed.

The additional deployment of the MV-22 Ospreys is retrogression in the efforts to lighten the burden imposed on the City of Ginowan, which is one of the original objectives in relocating the air station.

Thus, we the residents of Ginowan City strongly emphasize the fact that we cannot condone the

immobilization of the air station and insist that the following demands be met in a timely manner:

- The withdrawal of all MV-22's from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, and permanent suspension of any additional deployment to the air station.
- Prompt closure of the air station and return of land to avoid immobilization of MCAS Futenma
- Take measures to lessen the risk and burden onto the city until the land is returned to the Government of Japan,

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