

GIKISHO NO.  
June 12, 2017

Lieutenant General Lawrence D. Nicholson  
Okinawa Area Coordinator,  
III MEF

Atsushi Sakima  
Mayor,  
Ginowan City

Protest: Precautionary landing and night-time flying of U.S. military aircrafts

Ginowan City received notice from the Okinawa Defense Bureau on June 10<sup>th</sup> in regards to a MV-22 Osprey operated out of MCAS Futenma making a precautionary landing at Amami Airport.

This incident is the third of its kind this month, following the precautionary landings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of June. Moreover, this is the second incident involving an MV-22 Osprey within just 5 days.

The residents of Ginowan, who host MCAS Futenma in their city, are constantly exposed to the risk of accidents as the base is located in the very center of the city. These residents live in constant fear and anxiety.

Each time an incident arises, we have taken the opportunity to demand improvements, but similar incidents continue to occur. This unfortunate situation inevitably leads us to question the U.S. military's efforts towards safety as well as the reliability of its aircraft maintenance procedures. We are extremely disappointed.

Additionally, night time flying of the military aircrafts continues to affect the residents. The frequency of night time flying as well as the number of complaints received by the city has increased in comparison to last fiscal year. Consequently, the load and burden on the residents have increased as well.

I, the Ginowan City Mayor, responsible for the lives and property of over 98,000 Ginowan City residents, protest this recent incident involving the MV-22 Osprey and demand the following:

Note

- Thorough investigation of causes of all precautionary landings, including this recent event, and the disclosure of information to ease the anxiety of residents. Additionally, the establishment of a time-efficient system to relay details of any incidents.
- Cease all flight activity after 22:00 to abide by the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Futenma Air Station and to show thorough consideration towards the residents at all other hours of the day.
- The closure of MCAS Futenma at the earliest possible date and return of land to solve the root of these arising issues, as well as realization of the agreement to cease all operations on MCAS Futenma in the next 5 years and the alleviation of risks and burdens.