

**Promoting Effective Measures  
on  
Various Issues  
Deriving from Military Installations**

**November 2020**

**The Okinawa Municipal Council  
for  
Military Land Conversion and Base Problems  
(Guntenkyo Council)**



## **Requests on Promoting Resolutions of Various Issues Deriving from Military Installations**

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the exceptional understanding and consideration you have shown towards the resolution of U.S. military base issues in Okinawa Prefecture.

Although Okinawa accounts for only 0.6 percent of the total land area of Japan, a vast area of approximately 70.3 percent of the facilities exclusively used by the U.S. Forces in Japan are located on and around our islands. The activities of the U.S Forces have had various impacts on the residents living around the bases and on the local population of the entire prefecture as well, such as aircraft accidents, daily aircraft noise, harms on the natural environment, and so forth.

Especially, MCAS Futenma is located in the center of the city and has tremendously affected the life of local residents. It is a strong will of the residents to remove the dangers posed by MCAS Futenma by relocating the facility to outside of the prefecture and/or the country, early return of the facility, or immediately suspending the operation.

Furthermore, infections of the novel coronavirus exploded aboard the U.S. Military installations such as MCAS Futenma and Camp Hansen since July. Local residents were shocked and concerned by the outbreaks and spread of infections on the bases.

Because the current situation of Okinawa, where issues stemming from military bases have spread into various fields and become more serious over the years, the Guntenkyo Council has been petitioning to promote resolutions for these issues.

If Japan regards the U.S-Japan Security Arrangements important, the burden should be equally borne with all Japanese citizens.

The residents of Okinawa have been forced to shoulder the excessive burden of military bases for a long period of time. It is the sincerest wish of the local residents of Okinawa to see the resolution of base issues in our island prefecture. We would like the Government of Japan to make steady progress towards alleviation of the burden related to the military bases with tangible results.

To that end, we respectfully ask for your further efforts towards the resolution of various issues deriving from the U.S. military bases.

Sincerely,

Denny Tamaki  
The President of Okinawa Municipal Council  
for Military Land Conversion and Base  
Problems  
(Governor of Okinawa Prefecture)

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I Reducing the Impact of U.S. Military Bases on Okinawa

1 Relocation of Marine Corps Personnel on Okinawa to Overseas Countries,  
Return of Installations & Areas South of Kadena Air Base

Requests:

- A. Positively execute the relocation of Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to overseas facilities, and returns of installations and areas south of Kadena Air Base.
- B. Provide a sufficient explanation and updates regarding the consolidation plan for facilities and areas on Okinawa including information on relocation sites, facilities to be relocated, specific return process, etc.
- C. When implementing the consolidation plan, set up a meeting where opinions of OPG and municipalities' concern will be reflected in the process of formulating the master plan.
- D. Follow due arrangement for relocation sites, resolve issues associated with relocation, and provide support to reduce the base-hosting burden at relocation sites under the responsibility of GOJ,
- E. To facilitate effective and smooth transition, provide necessary information and take local communities' opinions into consideration when deciding the usage of government owned lands and the return date.
- F. Provide necessary assistance including securing cultural property research specialists
- G. Provide detailed information associated with the implementation of the consolidation plan and pay thoroughgoing attention to ensure the job security of on-base employees,

Reasons:

The concentration of U.S. Forces Japan on Okinawa Prefecture is clearly disproportionate, and the burden we bear far exceeds our fair share.

The governments of Japan and the U.S. need to enforce the relocation of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to overseas countries along with the associated return of installations and areas south of Kadena Air Base based on the Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas on Okinawa. This will undoubtedly shape the nature of U.S. bases on Okinawa for the future and serve as a major turning point for Okinawa's future growth and development.

We also believe that the transfer of the U.S. Marines on Okinawa to overseas needs to start promptly so that it will not affect the progress of the implementation of the consolidation plan.

The consolidation plan stipulates areas, return dates, process and more regarding the return of six installations and land areas south of Kadena Air Base, but Guntenkyo Council feels that not all details about the plan are disclosed and the government should provide sufficient explanation.

Furthermore, an expected return date of installations and areas should have been updated every three years and made public. However, it has not been updated even after seven years from the announcement.

Since locations, size, and functions of the facilities will be determined in the

master plan the U.S. makes, a meeting needs to be held where opinions of OPG and local municipalities regarding the master plan are obtained.

It is also necessary that GOJ resolve issues associated with the relocation under its responsibility, continue taking measures to reduce the burden on areas that are going to take on new burdens, reflect the local voices on to the plan and implement in a structured manner, and provide concrete support to the requests of local residents living in the vicinity of the relocation site.

As the land used by the U.S. Forces is scheduled to be returned on a large scale under this consolidation plan, necessary information such as the history of use of the installations and areas to be returned, results of soil tests, infrastructure status, land owners etc., should be provided to facilitate effective and smooth utilization of the land. GOJ should also consider the opinions of local municipalities regarding the utilization of government-owned land and the planned date of return, and provide support in securing cultural property research specialists.

As for issues related to ensuring job security of on-base employees, we feel it is necessary for GOJ to provide detailed information on how on-base employees will be affected by the consolidation plan and extend swift and thoroughgoing attention to this matter.



## 2 The Prevention of the Indefinite Use of MCAS Futenma; Implementation of the Relocation Outside of the Prefecture or Japan, Prompt Return, and Elimination of Dangerous Factors

### Requests:

- A. Return to the core issues of MCAS Futenma and absolutely avoid the indefinite use of MCAS Futenma, as well as take steps toward both its relocation outside of Okinawa Prefecture or Japan and the prompt return of the land, and
- B. Set a deadline for prompt suspension of operation, work positively to realize the suspension, and urgently work for the immediate elimination of the danger posed by the air station until return of the base, and reduce the burden brought on by the U.S. military bases.

### Reasons:

As MCAS Futenma is located in the heart of an urban area and its impact is significant on the local population, it is a pressing issue to alleviate anxieties over aircraft accidents among the residents in the surrounding communities as well as to resolve the impact of noise.

Notably, a serious accident occurred in August 2004, when an MCAS Futenma-based heavy-lift helicopter crashed into the grounds of Okinawa International University and burst into flames. Furthermore, aircraft belonging to MCAS Futenma have repeatedly caused crash accidents, emergency landings and other accidents such as the case where a window fell from U.S. military heavy lift helicopter onto the playground of Futenma Daini elementary school in December 2017, the case where a heavy lift helicopter dropped a helicopter part onto the tennis court of Urasoe Nishi junior high school in Urasoe City in June 2019, as well as the case where a heavy lift helicopter dropped a window off the east coast of Okinawa Island in August. These accidents intensified the wish of not only the residents of Ginowan City but also the Okinawan people for the prompt return and the eradication of dangerous factors of the air station.

However, 24 years have passed since the governments of Japan and the U.S. agreed to return the whole area of MCAS Futenma, but the return is yet to be carried out. The burden placed on the surrounding residents has exceeded the limits of their patience.

The core issues of MCAS Futenma is to alleviate the burden from hosting the base, and to eliminate the danger of MCAS Futenma as soon as possible, as it is located in the heart of the city and concern over the danger to people's lives is serious.

In order to execute the prompt return of MCAS Futenma, it is necessary to once again strive for the relocation of this air station outside of Okinawa Prefecture, or Japan. We must also examine and put options in place to avoid indefinite use of the facility.

Furthermore, as we cannot leave the current danger unresolved, it is necessary to look at the situation by firmly accepting the sincere wish of the local residents and recognizing the burden reduction as a critical challenge. We also need to address the needs of eliminating the risks and reducing the burden of the U.S. military bases including the urgently required noise abatement measures at the earliest possible time, even if it was for only until its return.

In August 2007, GOJ announced various measures as part of the efforts to

remove risks at Futenma Air Station, and also that by May 2009, these efforts were to be completed. In addition, the completion of the relocation of 15 KC-130 aircraft from MCAS Futenma to MCAS Iwakuni was announced in August 2014. However, from the standpoint of protecting the lives, property, and safety of the local residents, additional thorough and remedial actions, a new deadline for the return as well as a tremendous effort towards prompt suspension of operation of MCAS Futenma are necessary as the five year mark of the previous deadline of suspension has passed.

### 3 Deployment of the Ospreys

#### Requests:

- A. Re-evaluate the plan to deploy MV-22 Ospreys to Okinawa.
- B. Steadily promote relocation of aviation training for MV-22 Ospreys outside of Okinawa.
- C. Thoroughly comply with the safety measures agreed upon at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee.
- D. Suspend the use of the landing areas adjacent to residential areas.
- E. Investigate the effects of the low frequency noise from the Ospreys on people and the environment, and take appropriate measures such as setting environmental standards.
- F. Avoid further increased burden of U.S. military bases derived from the training of Ospreys, etc.
- G. Conduct an environmental review, fully disclose the findings and implement environmental conservation measures based on the findings.

#### Reasons:

The Governments of Japan and the U.S. insist that they agreed in September 2012 that utmost safety measures are to be taken regarding the flight operation of MV-22 Ospreys. Furthermore, in its reply to OPG's request made in December 2012 to examine the flight operation involving the aircraft, GOJ said on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 that it believed the Ospreys were operated in line with this agreement.

However, the Guntenkyo Council believes the air operation of Ospreys based on said agreement does not allay the anxiety of residents of Okinawa given that the discretion regarding the implementation of the safety measures is left to the U.S. military. Therefore, it is necessary for GOJ to urge the U.S. Forces to ensure the effectiveness of these safety measures.

Since the anxiety of the people of Okinawa over the safety of MV-22 Ospreys has not been dispelled, the Guntenkyo Council has repeatedly expressed that we oppose the deployment of the aircraft to Okinawa. Despite our plea, the basing of two MV-22 squadrons (24 aircraft) at MCAS Futenma was completed in August 2013.

As MCAS Futenma is located in the heart of an urban area, it is obvious that deployment the Ospreys will increase the danger posed by the installation.

Ospreys have crashed off the coast of Nago City and off the east coast of Australia in December 2016 and August 2017, respectively.

Furthermore, a part which fell from an Osprey washed ashore on the western beach of Ikei Island in February 2018 and an Osprey made an emergency landing at Amami Airport in April, August and October of the same year.

Every time such accidents/incidence occurred, the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) and local municipalities requested thorough investigation and disclosure of the causes of such events. However, since the U.S. forces have repeatedly caused similar accidents/incidence and the Government of Japan (GOJ) continues to tolerate them, we cannot contain our indignation.

The OPG survey conducted in November 2012 found that the level of low frequency noise emitted from the Ospreys is greater than those of other U.S. military aircraft's. Thus, concern over the impact on daily lives is greater than before.

Low-altitude flight operation, external-lift training, and other exercises

involving the aircraft conducted at landing areas adjacent to residential areas, such as Camp Hansen and the Northern Training Area, have brought about negative effects such as anxiety and noise pollution to nearby residents.

The people of Okinawa have contributed to the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements for a long period of time by being forced to bear the excessive burden of hosting the U.S. Forces bases. However, the additional Osprey deployment on top of the stalled consolidation and reduction of U.S. Forces bases on Okinawa, as well as the frequent U.S. military-related incidence, accidents, and criminal offenses, have drained Okinawan residents' patience to the limit. We believe that the alleviation of the base burden has yet to be achieved.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, it is necessary to promptly carry out effective measures for moving the MV-22s outside of Okinawa and the relocation of training involving the aircraft.

In addition, specific measures including thorough compliance with the safety measures agreed upon at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, assessment of flight operation of the Ospreys, and suspension of the use of the landing areas adjacent to residential areas are necessary.

Moreover, GOJ should examine Osprey's operation-related impact on humans and the environment by conducting low frequency noise measurement surveys and proactive information gathering. It is necessary to take appropriate actions such as setting environmental standards.

The "Environmental Review for the CV-22 Beddown at Yokota Air Base" released on October 14, 2015 showed that ranges on Okinawa would be used for training.

Although GOJ states that half of all Osprey training among others would be conducted outside of Okinawa, the planned training of CV-22 on Okinawa as mentioned above only runs counter to reducing the burden on Okinawa.

It is necessary to make efforts to avoid the increased burden of U.S. military bases such as the training of Ospreys.

Concerning the deployment of Ospreys, although an environmental review was conducted in accordance with Executive Order 12114, "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions", verification of the review has not officially been disclosed after operation of the Ospreys started. Area N4 and Areas N1/G/H in the Northern Training Area have been provided to the U.S. forces since February 2015 and December 2016, respectively. Although the number of operation was set at 420 times per landing zone in the review, noise occurrences have been sharply increasing in adjacent areas.

Therefore, it is necessary to verify the environmental review, disclose the findings and take environmental conservation measures based on the findings.

#### 4 Fundamental Preventive Measures Regarding Incidence Involving U.S. Military Personnel & SOFA status personnel

##### Requests:

- A. Take every possible measures to prevent a recurrence of incidence including further disciplinary actions and strengthen human rights education.
- B. Take effective measures to prevent drunk-driving.
- C. Improve education programs for U.S. military personnel and SOFA status personnel upon continued sufficient consultation with OPG and other related authorities, and
- D. Verify effectiveness concerning preventative measures relating to incidence, etc., and implement fundamental countermeasures based on the findings.

##### Reasons:

The Council has repeatedly called for the strengthening of discipline and preventive measures as well as thorough education programs to the relevant authorities in order to work towards the eradication of incidence involving U.S. military personnel. However, these incidence among others continue to occur.

As of the end of June 2020, there have been a total of 6,048 criminal cases involving those who are subject to SOFA since Okinawa's reversion to Japan in 1972. The figure includes 582 cases of heinous offenses such as murder, robbery, and rape.

Last year, there were 32 criminal cases such as battery, aggravated assault, and trespassing, including the heartbreaking incident where a U.S. Navy serviceman who belonged to the U.S. Marine Corps Okinawa murdered a woman.

Furthermore, in May of this year, an Army service member and civilian employee of the U.S. Air Force broke into a currency exchange shop in Chatan Town, and committed robbery. This has caused a huge concern to the population of Okinawa who do not have other choice but to live side by side with the U.S. bases.

Moreover, there were 38 violations of Road Traffic Law by U.S. Military personnel in 2019, headed by drunk-driving.

In order to make sure that such incidence will never happen again, it is necessary to make the utmost effort to take preventive measures including further disciplinary actions and strengthening human rights education. Furthermore, it is also necessary to ensure transparency by disclosing information such as disciplinary actions and punishment against the SOFA status personnel that caused incidence or accidents. It is also crucial to improve training and education programs for U.S. military personnel and SOFA status personnel after thoroughly and continuously consulting with OPG and other relevant authorities. In addition, it is imperative to verify how the gate checking is conducted and the operation of liberty policy as well as to implement fundamental preventative measures based on the findings and take specific actions such as to set up a security camera.

## 5 Thorough Preventive & Safety Management Measures Regarding Accidents in U.S. Military Training & Exercises

### Requests:

- A. Disclose the details about the scheduled training and exercises of the U.S. military in advance, and re-evaluate the exercises from the perspective of securing the safety of the people of Okinawa Prefecture, such as refraining from conducting exercises outside of the provided facilities and training areas, and even within provided facilities if it could cause harm to the safety of residents such near residential areas or waters where liners and fishing boats operate.
- B. Refrain from flying over residential areas that include a school or hospital.
- C. Suspend parachute drop training at Kadena Air Base.
- D. Promptly disclose the investigation reports, if/when accidents caused by training and exercises occur, and implement fundamental and effective measures for safety management including thorough examination of the cause of accident, suspension of training and exercises if/when an incident that is suspected to be relevant to such training and exercises occurs, and provide cooperation for the investigation into the cause.
- E. Establish a new council consisting of GOJ, the U.S. Forces Japan, and OPG in response to accidents/incidence.
- F. Provide adequate assistance to the local governing bodies under the responsibility of GOJ including financial measures for the development of safety arrangements and equipment which will be used in case of nuclear accidents caused by U.S. nuclear-powered ships.

### Reasons:

The Council has repeatedly urged the relevant authorities to strengthen the preventive measures and safety management of incidence and accidents associated with the U.S. military training and exercises. However, training-related accidents continue to recur.

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, there have been a total of 820 aircraft accidents (49 of which were aircraft crashes) since Okinawa's reversion to Japan. These aircraft-related accidents include the crash of a U.S. military helicopter on the grounds of Okinawa International University in 2004, crash of an MV-22 Osprey off the coast of Abu, Nago City in December 2016, an accident where a CH-53 burst into flames when making an emergency landing in the Takae District of Higashi Village in October 2017, crash of a F-15 fighter jet in the ocean south of Okinawa in June 2018, and crash of a F/A-18 fighter attack jet in the ocean east-southeast of Okinawa in November of the same year, and the crash of an MH-60 in the ocean east of the Okinawa main island in February this year.

Various incidence have occurred in the recent years. Since Okinawa's reversion to Japan, there have been a total of 642 forest/field fires (as of the end of June 2020), as well as incidence caused by stray bullets in Onna Village in April 2017 and in Nago City in June 2018 due to live-ammunition firing and bombing exercises.

Regarding other training and exercises related accidents, service members

parachuted down to a site outside of the provided facilities and areas during parachute training (Ie Island, December 2017, April 2018 and April 2019), supplies weighing about 800 kg were dropped outside of the provided facilities and areas during another parachuting drill (Ie Island, April 2014), a tire was dropped during external-lift training (Kin Town, March 2017), flare bullets were dropped outside of the provided facility (Kin Town, December 2019), and an object was dropped about 1,300 meters off the west coast of Torii Station (February 2020).

Although information regarding the conducting of training and exercises are provided through the Okinawa Defense Bureau in advance and in writing, the provided information does not include the details of the training and exercises such as specific schedule. In addition, if/when accidents occur, the disclosure of accident investigation reports takes a considerable amount of time and sufficient details are not provided. These factors contribute to the heightened concern among the residents of the prefecture.

Dangerous training, such as those conducted at helipads near residential areas as well as external-lift training around and above civilian areas, not only puts neighboring residents in danger, but causes a great impact on the living environment of local communities. In addition, regarding training over dams which provide water to the people of Okinawa, it could cause contamination of water sources if an incident or accident happens.

Furthermore, the parachute drop training in Tshuken Jima Training Area is causing concern to the fisheries personnel and people of Okinawa, as it is conducted in the waters where fishing boats and liners operate and could lead to serious accidents.

In addition, a series of crash accidents of F-15 fighter jet and F/A-18 fighter attack jet occurred in 2018. However, operation of the same type of aircraft was resumed without sufficient explanations. A feeling of distrust towards the responses to accidents and incidence by the central government and the U.S. forces has been growing among the local residents.

In order to alleviate the anxiety of the residents, it is necessary to have the detailed information disclosed in advance, regarding the military training and exercises. Also, from the perspective of securing the safety and sound living environment of the people of Okinawa Prefecture, it is necessary to re-evaluate how U.S. military training is conducted and halt the training until an explanation on the cause of the accident is provided, effective measures are taken, and disclosure of those measures are done. The measures should include suspension of use of landing zones adjacent to civilian areas, and flight training over residential areas, dams, and waters where liners and fishing boats operate.

In June 2020, two incidence occurred this year where a part of CH-53E helicopter fell onto the tennis court of Urasoe Nishi Junior High School in June, and the case where a heavy lift helicopter dropped a window off the east coast of Okinawa Island in August. Since there was also the Midorigaoka Nursery School incident, and the case where a window frame fell onto Futenma Daini Elementary School in 2017, these incidence bring huge concern to prefectural residents and is truly regrettable. The safety of children must never be threatened at school. In order to secure the safety and provide comfort for children and ultimately for prefectural residents, the U.S. military forces should avoid flying over residential areas, schools, hospitals, etc.

Parachute drop training is repeatedly conducted at Kadena Air Base, which goes against the intent of SACO final report, and local communities have developed

a strong sense of crisis since their requests and protests are ignored and the training is pushed through.

Discussions need to be held at the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee or such to avoid conducting parachute training at Kadena Air Base.

We request swift disclosure of investigation results if/when accidents caused by training, etc. occur, and thorough examination to uncover the cause of accidents, and the implementation of fundamental and effective measures regarding safety management.

In order to secure the safety and security of the people of Okinawa Prefecture as well as to dispel concerns and anxieties over accidents, it is necessary to establish a new council both at the central and local levels, consisting of GOJ, the U.S. Forces Japan, and OPG in response to accidents/incidence.

Furthermore, it is a pressing issue of our prefecture to create adequate preventive/emergency measures in case of nuclear accidents as we get frequent port calls of nuclear-powered American vessels. Therefore, it is necessary to have GOJ take the responsibility in providing sufficient support, which includes financial measures for the local governing bodies toward building safety frameworks and maintaining equipment in preparation for possible nuclear accidents involving nuclear-powered U.S. vessels.



## 6 Aircraft Noise Mitigation at Kadena Air Base and MCAS Futenma

### Requests:

- A. Examine the effectiveness of the partial relocation of exercises presently conducted at Kadena Air Base and Futenma Air Station, implement specific and effective measures based on its results. Also, restrict visiting aircraft to these bases and long-term rotation assignment of aircraft to outside of Okinawa.
- B. Prohibit the use of aircraft at the former Navy Ramp at Kadena Air Base and Papa Loop.
- C. Strictly comply with the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Kadena Air Base and Futenma Air Station to keep the noise level within the environmental standards, and verify and disclose the effects of countermeasures at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee.
- D. Conduct a research on the health impact caused by the disruptive noise, and take appropriate measures such as setting environmental standards regarding sounds in the nighttime.
- E. Install systems to clearly capture the flight altitudes, courses, etc., of aircraft at both facilities, and disclose the data.
- F. Conduct assessment on low-frequency noise associated with operation of the U.S. military aircraft and its health impacts, disclose the findings, and take appropriate measures such as setting environmental standards.
- G. Conduct necessary investigations into the odor caused by aircraft emissions, disclose of the result of investigation, and take effective measures to prevent the odor of aircraft emissions.
- H. Strengthen and upgrade noise countermeasures such as expansion of areas eligible for home sound-insulation work, including those residences built after the notification of areas subject to soundproofing work, expansion of these measures to offices and stores, and securing a sufficient budget for soundproofing work.
- I. Designate all nurseries as eligible for soundproofing work.
- J. Cover the maintenance costs for newly installed air conditioners for noise grade 3 and 4 facilities that have become ineligible due to the policy changes regarding subsidies for soundproofing projects surrounding defense facilities.
- K. Promptly institutionalize subsidies for solar energy system installations.

### Reasons:

The U.S. military operation affects the surrounding communities in various ways, but the most notable impact is the aircraft noise associated with Kadena Air Base and MCAS Futenma, both of which are located in close proximity to residential areas. Noise emitted by landings and take-offs of aircraft continue to gravely impact the lives of the residents in these areas.

The Council has repeatedly called for the alleviation of aircraft noise and its adverse impacts, yet there have been no tangible improvements.

At Kadena Air Base, aircraft such as F-15 fighters stationed at the installation, as well as other U.S. military aircraft based elsewhere in Japan and

abroad, frequently conduct touch-and-go exercises, low-altitude flight training, and engine-testing at aprons located near residential areas, hence creating a situation where the surrounding communities are impacted by intense noise on a daily basis. The residents of the surrounding areas are constantly exposed to great adverse effects to their health and lives by the intense noise such as abnormalities in hearing and disruptions in the classrooms, among other issues.

Although Kadena Air Base and MCAS Futenma have partially relocated their training and exercises as part of the U.S. Forces realignment, there hasn't been a visible result and the burden is yet to be alleviated. For this reason, it is necessary to continue examining and determine the effectiveness of the training relocation, and reflect the findings for the expeditious implementation of specific and substantial measures. Furthermore, measures that local residents can actually see the results of need to be taken, such as restriction of visiting aircraft and long-term rotation assignment outside of Okinawa and Japan.

Papa loop of Kadena Air Base is being used as temporary parking space for MC-130 special mission aircraft due to a development plan of the area for the 353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Group. Visiting aircraft have been spotted at the loop as well. The area is adjacent to a residential area, and the use of the loop has led to an increase of aircraft noise and odor. Preventive measures need to be taken so that the loop will not be used on a regular basis.

Furthermore, regarding the former naval aircraft parking apron that was returned in 2017, visiting aircraft have been using the parking apron after the return. The SACO agreement must be followed, therefore, preventive measures need to be taken .

At MCAS Futenma, the constant occurrence of noise pollution and low-frequency noise caused by the low-altitude flights of helicopters that circle above the surrounding residential areas have become a problem. In particular, nighttime aircraft noise places a significant burden on the residents of the surrounding communities.

Even after the agreement of the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Kadena Air Base and Futenma Air Station was made in March 1996, the aircraft noise monitoring conducted at various monitoring stations continued to show results which exceed the environmental standards every year. We request strict compliance to the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures in order to meet these environmental standards, as well as verification and full disclosure of the effects of such countermeasures at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee.

It is concerning that aircraft noise associated with early-morning and nighttime flights can cause disturbances in sleep and damage the health of residents, therefore, the impacts on health by nighttime noise need to be examined scientifically. Also, it is necessary to take proper measures, such as establishment of parameters for nighttime noise and include them into current environmental standards.

Furthermore, in order to effectively handle the matters concerning the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures and the issues of aircraft flying above residential and other areas, we must first understand what the actual situation is. To that end, it is necessary for GOJ to establish a system which will continuously examine the current operation of flights, such as their altitudes, courses, and other relevant details, and provide this data to the residents of Okinawa.

There has been concern over effects of low-frequency noise caused by flights of MV-22 Ospreys around Futenma Air Station. It is necessary to conduct

assessment on the noise and its health impacts, disclose the results, and implement appropriate measures such as setting environmental standards.

The residents living nearby the air base complain that they feel sick and suffer from headaches, etc., which are thought to be caused by odors of gas emissions from U.S. military aircraft. There is concern about the effects on the health and daily lives of local residents.

As a preventive measure against the aircraft emissions, effective measures need to be taken. For example, the parking area of E-3 Sentry, which its emissions are the major cause of odor, could be relocated to keep distance from the residential area. Also, in order to understand the scope of air pollutions, a surveillance system needs to be put in place and its health impact and damages need to be examined.

Based on the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Law), residences in the surrounding areas of Kadena Air Base and MCAS Futenma have undergone soundproofing work. However, the number of homes constructed after the designation of areas, and therefore not eligible for this work, has increased. Moreover, despite the real impact of noise, there are many homes located outside of the designated soundproofing areas. There are many offices and other businesses which are not subject to sound-insulation work as well.

For these reasons, it is necessary to expand the designated soundproofing areas, which currently are limited to those areas with a noise level of up to Lden 62 dB or 75 WECPNL, to areas with noise levels of up to Lden 57 dB or 70 WECPNL, which are the environmental standard. Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen and expand the current measures to include homes constructed after the designation of soundproofing areas, as well as offices and businesses. Moreover, it is necessary to prevent a reduction in size of designated subsidized soundproofing areas (Grade 1 areas) as a result of the ongoing review.

Also, it is necessary to secure a sufficient budget to promptly complete the works for those who request the home sound insulation work.

There are concerns over adverse effects the aircraft noise has on children mentally and physically. Under the Law Concerning Adjustment, etc. of the Living Environment in the Environs of Defense Facilities (Living Environment Improvement Law), however, the current soundproofing scheme does not subsidize unauthorized child care facilities which do not comply with “the Regulatory and Supervisory Standards for Unauthorized Nurseries.”

To secure sound growth of infants at unauthorized nurseries, all unauthorized nurseries need to be designated as facilities eligible for subsidies at the same level as authorized nurseries. In addition, costs to be covered by the subsidies need to include soundproofing equipment, air-conditioning related works as well as maintenance fees of air conditioners.

Due to policy changes, planning and installation of air-conditioners for Grade 3 and 4 facilities at schools and nurseries conducted after JFY2016 will not be the subject of grant funding. In order to alleviate aircraft noise and guarantee high quality educational and nursery environments, it is necessary to cover the maintaining costs for these air conditioners.

Those homes where soundproofing work have been conducted are installed with air-conditioning equipment, but the cost of electricity for the operation of the equipment is mostly borne by the residents.

We urge all relevant authorities to consider institutionalization of subsidies

for the installation of solar power systems as a way to mitigate the electrical costs.

## 7 Mitigation of Aircraft Noise and Other Factors at Training Facilities

### Requests:

- A. Strengthen noise mitigation measures at Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield.
- B. Suspend the use of helicopter landing zones at Northern Training Area, Camp Schwab, and Camp Hansen that are near residential areas, and strengthen safety measures and noise mitigation measures for live ammunition training.
- C. Conduct assessment on low-frequency noise associated with operation of the U.S. military aircraft and its health impacts, disclose the findings, and take appropriate measures such as setting environmental standards.

### Reasons:

The U.S. military operation affects the surrounding communities in various ways, but the most notable impact is the aircraft noise associated with the noise emitted during flight training and live ammunition training. These noises gravely impact the lives of the residents.

Appropriate noise mitigation measures need to be taken at Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield, since according to aircraft noise meter in Nishizaki District of Ie Village the noise was detected 5,707 times in 2018 whereas the number increased to 7,518 times in 2019, and F-35B fighter aircraft have been flying to the airfield for training after maintenance of LHD deck was completed, and the number of noise complaints has increased.

Appropriate noise mitigation measures need to be taken at Northern Training Area, since the aircraft noise meter at Ushimichi Area of Takae District in Higashi Village detected noise 6,914 times in 2019. This was an increase from 2014 where the number was 1,474. The number of detection increased after early provision of the N-4 district in February 2015. Training conducted at helicopter landing zones near residential areas has had tremendous impact on the living environment of the residents as well.

According to the aircraft noise meter in Henoko District of Nago City near Camp Schwab, aircraft noises were detected 1,931 times in a year from January 2019. The meter also detected noises from live ammunition training and ordnance disposal 546 times. These have caused an increase in complaints and concerns from the residents. In addition, there was an incident caused by stray bullets in Sukuta, Nago in 2018. Damages have been caused by live ammunition training, and they are causing huge concerns to the residents.

According to the aircraft noise meter in Jobaru District of Ginoza village near Camp Hansen, although the number of noise detection decrease to 4,231 in 2019 from 5,224 in 2018, the noise maximum at 99 decibel was detected in 2020. In addition, a tire that was being externally lifted by a helicopter dropped onto the training area around LZ Falcon which is near a residential area, and it has caused concerns to the residents.

Therefore, measures need to be taken to avoid flying over residential areas, such as suspending the use of helicopter landing zones Falcon at Camp Hansen, Gunder and Phenix at Camp Schwab, and the N-4 district of Northern Training

Area which are all close to residential areas.

Also, safety measures and noise countermeasures need to be strengthened to mitigate explosion noises and vibration caused by live ammunition training, explosion training, and ordnance disposal.

There has been concerns over effects of low-frequency noise caused by MV-22 Ospreys flights around training areas. Since number of noise complaints and concerns have increased at various areas in Okinawa in recent years, it is necessary to conduct assessment on the noises and their health impacts, disclose the results, and implement appropriate measures such as setting environmental standards.

8 Strengthening Preventive Measures against Damage to Living Conditions & Environmental Destruction Resulting from U.S. Military Activities & Base Operation

Requests:

- A. Strengthen preventive measures against harm to the community environment and to the natural environment caused by U.S. Forces activities and base operation. Also, report the incident or accident to relevant authorities swiftly, and grant permissions expeditiously to enter the installations.
- B. Add new environmental provisions to the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement with stipulations that Japanese domestic laws concerning environmental conservation shall apply.
- C. Comply with the standards and procedures of the relevant Japanese environmental laws concerning environment-related incidence and/or accidents that may occur before the possible revision of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, and explain such cases promptly to the concerning local governments and other concerned bodies,.
- D. Cooperate with investigations in identifying the cause of the high level of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS, etc.) which was detected within the vicinity of Kadena Air Base, MCAS Futenma and other areas, prohibit the use of PFOS, and take appropriate measures such as identification of the cause, purification measures at target levels set by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of the Environment, conduct survey on the health of the residents, and cover the cost of measures that OPG bears.
- E. Notify in advance through Ministry of Defense to relevant municipalities when the U.S. military forces remove buildings which use materials that contain dispersible or non-dispersible asbestos under its direct control, as well as establish a framework where relevant municipalities can conduct on-site inspections.
- F. Implement appropriate measures upon conducting necessary studies concerning the issue of reception interruptions/disturbances of television broadcasting, etc. caused by the base operation of the U.S. Forces.
- G. Include Futenma Air Station as a defense facility that is subject to subsidies for the projects related to broadcasting receptions in the surrounding areas.
- H. Confirm all facts in the statements of U.S. Forces veterans regarding defoliants being used at the U.S. military facilities and areas on Okinawa, and explain to the local governing bodies concerning this issue under the responsibility of GOJ.
- I. Reduce waste, promote recycling to the furthest extent possible by separating wastes discharged from the U.S military facilities and areas, and conduct proper waste disposal under the responsibility of the U.S. government.
- J. Properly dispose PCB waste and products using PCB within U.S military facilities and areas based on the deadline for domestic disposal in Japan.

- K. Resume the drainage monitoring at the base that was conducted by GOJ in order to prevent environmental pollutions.
- L. Conduct soil testing at the site, share the test results with the government and relevant municipalities, and take necessary measures when an incident that could affect the environment occurs at U.S. military facilities, and build an effective cooperative system with relevant local entities.
- M. Regarding the confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus aboard the U.S. Military installations, report promptly, take thorough preventive measures including the strict adherence to HPCON to prevent the spread, take measures off and on-base to prevent infecting locals residents including Japanese employees, and lock down the U.S. Military installation where an outbreak occurred.
- N. Thoroughly control and prevent invasion against alien species in the U.S military bases and contribute to preservation of living environment and ecosystem of Okinawa Prefecture by implementing alien species countermeasures in cooperation with relevant local municipalities.
- O. Conduct surveys on living creatures inhabiting, the bottom sediment, PCB, DDT and lead in the soil in Makiminato Service Area. Disclose the findings and implement appropriate measures if the U.S military base is identified as the contamination source, and cooperate with the investigation that local governing bodies conduct.
- P. Disclose operation status of Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEKS).
- Q. Set up a meeting where the U.S. Forces, both governments of Japan and the U.S., and relevant local governing bodies discuss the environmental issues.

Reasons:

At Kadena Air Base, training and exercises are conducted using sirens, blast sounds, and loudspeakers. This adds to the stress of the residents in the vicinity of the installation who are already exposed to the strain of daily aircraft noise.

Moreover, concerning the surrounding areas of the U.S. military training facilities on Okinawa such as Camp Schwab, explosive sounds and vibrations generated by fire arms training, explosion training, explosive ordinance disposal (including disposal by JSDF), and others cause tremendous adverse impacts on their living environment.

Especially now, since thorough air ventilation is encouraged in entire Okinawa to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, the aircraft noise and odors from gas emissions caused by training at day and night have had huge impacts on the living environment of the local population.

Furthermore, since the U.S military bases occupy a large proportion of the land area of the east coast of northern Okinawa, red-soil runoff prevention measures within the bases are important. Especially, with regard to the red soil pollution at the south east coast of Ginoza Village, it is believed that a leakage from the U.S military bases is the major factor of the pollution.

Also, when a fire occurred at a Hazmat facility on Kadena Air Base in June 2020, report was not made swiftly, and it caused huge concerns to the residents of the surrounding communities because there was not information on how the



situation was being handle nor what chemicals were stored at the facility.

For these reasons, it is necessary to strengthen the preventive measures against harm to the community environment and destruction of the natural environment by U.S. Forces activities and base operation. In addition, in cases of incidence and/or accidents, it is necessary that our permission requests to enter into the relevant installation(s) to be granted expeditiously, and information to be shared with relevant municipalities promptly.

With heightened global awareness regarding the importance of environmental conservation in today's society, and in the midst of our challenge to have the northern area of Okinawa registered as a Natural World Heritage site, which is said to be the last possible site to be registered in Japan, it is necessary to put our efforts, in particular, towards the conservation of our natural environment.

However, on Okinawa Prefecture, a wide range of damage and destruction to the communities and natural environment continues to occur, stemming from the U.S. military bases. Currently, Japanese environmental conservation laws are not applied to the U.S. Forces operation, and in addition, information is not sufficiently disclosed. This has given rise to a great number of issues.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish and add provisions under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement which stipulate that the U.S. military operation is subject to Japanese environmental conservation laws.

For the period of time in which the Japan-U.S. SOFA is reviewed, it is necessary for all of the environment-related incidence and accidents to be handled, under the responsibility of GOJ, according to the standards and procedures of domestic laws, and for the outcome of these cases to be promptly explained to the relevant municipalities.

Concerning the issue of high levels of PFOS, etc. and other materials being detected in Hija River and the Kadena wells, it has become a great obstacle in terms of securing safe drinking water. In addition, high levels of PFOS, etc. detected from spring water and rivers in the vicinity of MCAS Futenma and Camp Hansen have been a cause for concern among the local residents.

Because PFOS, etc. have been known to cause cancer and increase in cholesterol, the health impacts are concerning issues. On April 1, 2020, a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare ordinance went into effect. This sets the level of PFOS, etc. in water to be 50 nanogram per liter (a combined amount of PFOS and PFOA) as water management target. Also, on May 28, 2020, notification issued by the Ministry of the Environment that sets environmental standards for observation requirement concerning water contamination level as 50 nanogram per liter (a combined amount of PFOS and PFOA) went into effect.

Therefore, it is essential to cooperate with the investigation such as on-site inspections at the base to identify the cause, and prohibit the use of PFOS. It is also essential that GOJ takes appropriate measures such identifying the cause and taking purification measures at the target levels, and cover the cost of measures that OPG bears.

Although asbestos removal works are regulated under Air Pollution Control Act and Okinawa Prefectural Ordinance on Conservation of the Living Environment, Japanese laws are not applicable to construction works that are under the direct control of the U.S. military forces. Therefore, it is difficult to grasp the actual situation and on-site inspection, and information gathering regarding asbestos removal works cannot be conducted.

In order to secure the safety and comfort for the residents around the U.S. military facilities, it is essential to establish a framework where relevant municipalities can conduct on-site inspections. The U.S. forces need to notify in advance through Ministry of Defense when conducting constructions under their direct control on buildings which use materials that contain dispersible or non-dispersible asbestos.

For the issues surrounding reception disturbances of television broadcasting, etc., caused by the base operation of the U.S. Forces, it is necessary to promptly conduct appropriate studies in accordance with the request of residents and others within the communities that surround U.S. Forces facilities. We ask for appropriate measures to be implemented swiftly such as sharing the costs of construction and maintenance of shared facilities, if and when reception disturbances are confirmed in the studies.

Futenma Air Station is a U.S. Marine Corp aviation facility that sees incoming flights of aircraft including F/A-18s and other fighter jets. The results of the aircraft noise monitoring for JFY 2019 conducted by OPG show (as preliminary data) Lden values still exceeded the environmental quality standard for aircraft noise in the vicinity of Futenma Air Station. For these reasons, it is necessary to take appropriate measures including the designation of the air station as a defense facility that is subject to subsidies for broadcasting receptions fees in the surrounding areas.

Fear of health hazards and environmental contamination have spread even further among local government bodies due to media reports where veterans of the U.S. Forces who were stationed at U.S. military bases on Okinawa, claim defoliants were once used at the U.S. military facilities and areas in this prefecture. Furthermore, there is media coverage on the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency report describing that the defoliants had been brought from Vietnam to Okinawa for storage. Therefore, to eliminate anxieties among the local residents, it is necessary for GOJ to promptly verify and confirm all the facts, and explanations must be provided to the relevant municipalities.

Private companies, etc. are currently entrusted with the responsibilities of collection, transportation, management and disposal of wastes discharged from the U.S. military bases on Okinawa. However, waste sorting has not been carried out, which makes recycling and waste treatment difficult.

Therefore, it is necessary for the U.S. military to make efforts to reduce waste, and promote recycling through thorough separation of waste. A proper waste management system should also be put in place regarding unrecyclable waste.

Concerning the bases in use, the U.S. military disposes PCB waste under the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS). However, the U.S. Forces are not responsible for restoring the land to its original state when returning the bases, meaning that GOJ (the Okinawa Defense Bureau) restores and disposes PCB waste etc., found at buildings on the returned land.

The Act on Special Measures concerning Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes sets a deadline which PCB wastes must be disposed by, and regarding high-level PCB wastes on Okinawa, the deadline for disposal of transformers and condensers have already passed. Furthermore, the PCB wastes need to be commissioned to dispose by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027 for low-level PCB wastes, and by March 31, 2021 for stabilizers and contaminated objects.

Upon the return of the facilities and areas of Okinawa, if high-level PCB

wastes were found after the deadline, they cannot be disposed. If that happens, there is a concern that the Okinawa Defense Bureau may need to keep storing PCB waste.

Therefore, it is necessary that the Japanese government requests that the U.S. Forces dispose PCB wastes and equipment using PCB in the U.S. military bases and facilities appropriately and in a planned way. It is also necessary to inform the U.S. forces of the deadline for disposal before the return of the U.S. military bases.

Regarding oil and wastewater spill incidence, there have been 179 confirmed incidence (as of the end of June, 2020) since Okinawa's reversion to Japan in 1972 where leaked oil and waste water spilled into rivers and streams and flowed into residential areas. The incidence include the higher fighting foam spills on MCAS Futenma in December 2019 and April 2020, and numerous incidence where wastewater and jet aircraft fuel spilled into residential areas through rivers.

These creeks and rivers along with underground water wells within the U.S. military installations, are precious sources of water for the residents of Okinawa Prefecture. Such leakage accidents are matters of great concerns not just as environmental pollution, but also regarding the negative health impacts on the residents of our prefecture.

The drainage monitoring at the base had been conducted as commissioned projects of GOJ since JFY1980 to prevent environmental pollutions caused by the waste water from U.S. military facilities. However, the monitoring has not been done at the military facilities since JFY2014 despite the current situation.

We request GOJ to resume the monitoring in order to protect the health and sound living environment of the prefectural residents, and prevent pollution of public waters such as rivers and ocean waters where the drainage is discharged.

When a CH-53E made an emergency landing and burst into flames at Takae District of Higashi Village in 2017, the U.S. military removed the soil before conducting a soil test. This could have led the contamination to spread, and affect the environment including the living environment of nearby residents.

Also, when PFOS-containing firefighting foam was leaked from MCAS Futenma to off base in April of this year, the responsible entities of the U.S. Military and GOJ, did not collect the fighter fighting foam. The local authorities and fire fighters had to collect and remove the foam.

If aircraft related accident such as an emergency landing or a fire were to occur, necessary measures need to be taken such as soil testing at the site and sharing the test result with the GOJ and relevant local authorities. Furthermore, if environmentally contaminating chemicals leaked to outside of the provided facilities, we think the U.S. Military and GOJ are responsible for removing the chemicals. However, since it is important to keep the spread of contaminating chemicals to the minimum, it is necessary to build collaborative relations where the U.S. Military, GOJ and local authorities are able to work effectively together.

Regarding the U.S. Forces on Okinawa, there was an explosive spread of the novel coronavirus aboard U.S. Military installations on Okinawa since July, 2020. The U.S. Military personnel who presumably live off-base were spotted shopping without facial coverings. The U.S. Military personnel were also spotted without masks on ferry to Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield, these are causing concerns among the residents.

Therefore, it is necessary to request the U.S. Forces to take thorough preventive measures off and on-base, including the followings: lock down of the base where an outbreak occurred, thorough adherence to HPCON, PCR testing all

incoming and outgoing military personnel, strict isolation of infected personnel and incoming personnel on base, preventive measures on Japanese employees, and using chartered aircraft or military aircraft even for transportation for training and refraining from using public transportation until the pandemic is over.

We also ask the U.S. Forces to swiftly provide information regarding the PCR testing and contact history, among others, since it is necessary to work closely together with the U.S. Forces to prevent the spread of the virus.

Recently, there is a considerably growing risk of invasion and settlement of alien species being introduced via cargo and there have been cases such as fire ant which is designated as an invasive alien species, was found at harbors in various places in Japan. Since protection of the living environment and ecosystems by implementing measures against alien species is an important issue, we should request the U.S Forces thorough implementation of such measures.

PCBs, DDTs and lead were detected from habu snakes captured in the vicinity of Makininato Service Area and the same type of the substances were also detected from the bottom sediment within the area. For ensuring the security and safety of local residents, cooperation from the U.S Forces to conduct an on-site survey on base is necessary to determine the contamination source. When it is confirmed that the contamination source is the U.S military bases, appropriate measures should be taken by the U.S Forces.

Environmental protection and safety works by the U.S. military are regulated under JEGS. However the operation status is unclear, therefore GOJ needs to request the disclosure of operation status.

Enough information is not provided regarding the U.S. Military operations. Due to this reason it is difficult to assess the contamination level and what the U.S. Military does to protect the environment.

When an environmental accident occurs under this circumstance, it causes huge concerns to the local residents, and affect the relevant authorities to work effectively together.

Therefore, we think it is necessary to set up a meeting consisted of the U.S. Forces on Okinawa, GOJ, and relevant authorities to strengthen measures on the environmental issues.

9 Expansion of the Portion Accessible to Japanese for Fishing Operation and Types of Fishery Allowed in Training Area Hotel Hotel and Return of Tori Shima & Kume Jima Ranges

Requests:

- A. Expand the portion accessible to Japanese for fishing operation, and types of fishery allowed in Training Area Hotel Hotel
- B. Return Tori Shima and Kume Jima Ranges.
- C. Cancel the joint use of Fukuchi Dam, Arakawa Dam and Kannna Dam

Reasons:

The waters close to Okinawa Island within Training Area Hotel Hotel and its surroundings are favorable fishing grounds for diamondback squid and skipjack and other tuna.

Furthermore, in close proximity to this designated training area, there are air and sea traffic routes between the capital city of Naha on the main island to both Minamidaito and Kitadaito islands. Therefore, this issue is a matter of concern from the perspective of ensuring the safety of the routes that support the livelihood of the residents on the islands.

Under the agreement made by the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, the partial lifting of restrictions on the use of the Hotel-Hotel training area, thus allowing tuna longline fishing for Japanese fishermen, was implemented in July 2014. However, the water area that is subject to this lifting of restrictions is small and Fish Aggregating Device (FADs) associated fishery and diamondback squid fishing are still prohibited. Therefore, we request the expansion of the portion accessible to Japanese for fishing operation in Area Hotel Hotel as well as the expansion of the types of fishery allowed in this area.

In addition, the area in the surrounding waters of Tori Shima and Kume Jima Ranges are thriving FADs fishing sites and aquafarms are located nearby that cultivate mozuku seaweed.

Water areas surrounding Okinawa Prefecture are designated for the use of U.S. Forces based on the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, which limits fishing sites and also greatly restricts mobility from one area to another. In addition to this, in April 2008, a U.S. Marine Corps aircraft accidentally dropped a bomb outside of the designated training waters of Tori Shima Range, jeopardizing the safe operation of fishing boats in the area.

Furthermore, Tori Shima continues to lose its original geographic features as an island from the many years of live-ammunition training. This is an important issue related to our national sovereignty and security interests.

To that end, the return of the Tori Shima and Kume Jima Ranges is necessary for ensuring the safe operation of fishing vessels, protecting the fishery environment, and preserving territorial integrity.

With regard to Fukuchi Dam and Arakawa Dam in Northern Training Area, as well as Kanna Dam in Camp Hansen, those dams are important source of water which are critical to maintain the daily lives of the people of Okinawa. However, those dams are available for joint use by the U.S Forces under stipulations in item 4 (b) in Article 2 of SOFA. Although the U.S Forces have not conducted training over those dams since 1988, conducting military training at those dams of water sources gives anxiety to the people of Okinawa. From the viewpoint of ensuring stable supply

of tap water which can be drunk without anxiety or insecurity, we request cancellation of the joint use of those dams by the U.S Forces.

## II Fundamental Review of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement

We request the fundamental review of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement as stated below.

- (1) Provisions Related to Article I (Definition of SOFA Status Personnel)
  - (1)-1. With respect to the agreement concluded by GOJ and the United States to supplement SOFA on Civilian Components, information related to the content of the notification written in Article 5 and the periodical report on civilian component in order to secure transparency concerning its operation should be released.
  - (1)-2. Clearly stipulate detailed information including the total number of the U.S. Forces members, employees and their dependents, as well as classifications by services and municipalities (including residential information by each facility and area), shall be provided for local governmental bodies.
  - (1)-3. Clearly stipulate that consideration shall be given so that the clarification of the definition of civilian employees does not affect arrest of personnel not subject to SOFA inside the U.S. Forces facilities and areas.
  
- (2) Provisions Related to Article II (Permission, Determination, Return, and Special Usage of Facilities and Areas)
  - (2)-1. Clearly stipulate that the governments of Japan and the United States shall confer with relevant municipalities and take their opinions into consideration when both governments have plans such as providing new facilities and areas to the U.S. Forces, changing its intended usage, reclaiming facilities and areas, extensively alternating land shape and newly constructing or repairing structures on a large-scale.
  
  - (2)-2. Clearly stipulate that if request is made by the concerned local governing bodies to maintain security of local residents' lives and improve welfare, in accordance with the content of agreement on each facility and area which is to be concluded by the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, the Japanese Government and the United States Government shall examine this request.
  
  - (2)-3. Clearly stipulate that the Japanese Government and the United States Government shall hear the opinion of the concerned local governing bodies and shall respect their intentions when conducting the examination mentioned above. Furthermore, it shall specify that the Japanese Government and the United States Government shall hear the opinion of the concerned local governing bodies and shall respect their intentions when examining the return of the facilities and areas as well.
  
  - (2)-4. Clearly stipulate that the agreement concerning each facility and area, which is to be concluded by the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, shall state detailed description such as the scope of facilities and areas as well as the purpose of use and the conditions of use for the facilities and areas. Article 2 shall also specify that GOJ examines these contents on a

regular basis.

(3) Provisions Related to Article III (Safeguarding and Control Within and Outside of the Facilities and Areas)

(3)-1. Clearly stipulate that the U.S. forces shall provide the local governing bodies with any necessary and appropriate support for performance of duties, which includes entering the facilities and areas by reporting in advance. Furthermore, it shall specify that in cases of emergency, immediate entrance can be made by the local governing bodies without advance notice.

(3)-2. Clearly stipulate that information on incidence or accidents stemming from activities by U.S. Forces, such as aircraft accidents, mountain forest fires and oil leakage that may impact public safety or environment shall be promptly provided to the concerned local governing bodies and local residents, even in cases when they occur inside the facilities and areas. It shall also specify that appropriate measures shall be taken for prevention of disaster from spreading.

(3)-3. Clearly stipulate that that Japanese law, such as Air Navigation Law, shall be applied when activities, including exercises, training as well as maintenance and construction of facilities by U.S. forces are carried out.

(3)-4. Clearly stipulate that detailed and concrete information pertaining to U.S. Forces training and exercises shall be swiftly provided to concerned local governmental bodies and local residents in advance.

(3)-5. Article 3 A shall stipulate that the following environmental items be newly established. (Environmental Preservation of Facilities and Areas)

① The United States shall be responsible for preventing any kind of pollution, arising from activities by the U.S. Forces, such as soot and smoke, polluted water, red-soil, waste disposal and PCB. Furthermore, the United States shall be responsible for taking necessary measures for properly preserving the natural environment.

In addition, for all activities of U.S. forces in Japan, Japanese law concerning environmental preservation shall be applied.

② When developing plans for the facilities and areas, the U.S. Forces shall minimize any impact the plans may have on people, plant and animals, soil, water, air and cultural assets. Furthermore, before and after implementing projects based on the concerned plan, the impact of the concerned projects shall be surveyed, predicted or measured and evaluated regularly. The survey results shall also be released. Moreover, both the governments of Japan and the United States, on the basis of the concerned survey results, shall discuss measures for environmental preservation.

③ In regards to environmental pollution stemming from U.S. Forces' activities, the United States shall be responsible for taking appropriate restorative measures. Responsibility for the



expenses arising from such measures shall be discussed between the governments of Japan and the United States.

(3)-6. With regard to the “Agreement to Supplement the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement on Environmental Stewardship,” concluded by the governments of Japan and United States, both governments should make efforts for effective implementation of the agreement and give the followings consideration,

- ① Efforts shall be made to carry out the agreement so that smooth access of the concerned local municipalities to a site for a joint survey including sampling is achieved, if an incident or an environmental contamination is confirmed. Furthermore, the process of environmental surveys and decontamination shall be explained to the relevant local municipalities in advance. Confirmation surveys and fixed period monitoring shall be conducted after decontamination when concerned local governmental bodies require such.
- ② Pertaining to the access to facilities and areas before land return, an on-site survey shall be permitted at least three (3) years or more before the return in order to promote smooth reutilization of returned land. The access shall be allowed as soon as it is practical after the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee or Japan-U.S. Joint committee agree on land return. Furthermore, procedures pursuant to the agreement to supplement the Japan-U.S. SOFA on Environmental Stewardship interrupted surveys on cultural assets which had been conducted before the agreement. Although the survey resumed in 2017, Article 3 shall also specify procedures for admission to facilities and areas so that surveys on cultural assets shall be smoothly conducted by the concerned local municipalities.
- ③ With regard to an onsite survey in the facilities and areas which is required for public construction work, some works have been suspended due to the time required for consultation to determine whether it is subject to the Agreement to Supplement the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement on Environmental Stewardship. Therefore, it should clearly stipulate onsite-survey subject to the agreement.
- ④ Along with cultural asset excavation, surveys shall be conducted based on the above item ① when environmental pollutions and abandoned articles are detected. In addition, investigations shall be carried out in order to ensure safety of excavation.

(4) Provisions Related to Article IV (Return, Restoration and Compensation of Facilities)

(4)-1. Regarding the return of the facility (ies) and area(s) in use by the U.S. forces, the governments of Japan and the United States shall conduct joint surveys in advance on items such as environmental pollution, environmental destruction and disposal of unexploded shells etc. caused by U.S. forces activities. Furthermore, when such things as

environmental pollution are confirmed, necessary measures shall be taken by the governments of Japan and the United States for developing and implementing restorative plans, such as environmental clean-up. Responsibility for bearing the expenses of these shall be discussed between both the governments of Japan and the United States.

(4)-2. With respect to land planned to be returned, Article 4 shall stipulate that the governments of Japan and the United States shall provide concerned local governmental bodies with all information on the land including usage history such as modification, construction of buildings, and waste disposal.

(4)-3. With regard to agreement to supplement the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement on Environmental Stewardship, concluded by the governments of Japan and U.S., following items shall be taken into consideration.

① In the event of confirming incidence or environmental pollution, the agreement shall enable concerned local governmental bodies to swiftly access the site and conduct joint survey such as sampling. Furthermore, process of environmental surveys and decontamination shall be explained for the relevant local municipalities in advance. When concerned local governmental bodies require, confirmation survey and fixed period monitoring shall be conducted after decontamination.

② As to access to facilities and areas before land return, onsite survey shall be permitted at least three (3) years or more before the return in order to promote smooth reutilization of returned land. The access shall be allowed as soon as practical after Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee or Japan-U.S. Joint committee agree on land return. Furthermore, procedures pursuant to the agreement to supplement the Japan-U.S. SOFA on Environmental Stewardship interrupted surveys on cultural assets. Although the survey resumed in 2017, Article 3 shall also specify procedures for admission to facilities and areas so that surveys on cultural assets shall be smoothly conducted by the concerned local governmental bodies.

③ With regard to an onsite survey in the facilities and areas which is required for public construction work, some works have been suspended due to the time required for consultation to determine whether it is subject to the Agreement to Supplement the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement on Environmental Stewardship. Therefore, it should clearly stipulate onsite-survey subject to the agreement.

④ Along with cultural asset evacuation, surveys shall be conducted based on the above item ① when environmental pollutions and lost articles are detected. In addition, investigations shall be carried out in order to confirm safety of evacuation.

(5) Provisions Related to Article V (Access to Ships and Aircraft as well as Movement)

(5)-1. Clearly stipulate that that except in cases of emergency, U.S. forces

shall be prohibited from the use of civilian airports and ports, in order to secure smooth routine operation of commercial aircraft and commercial ships as well as maintain their safety. Article 5 shall also stipulate that domestic law shall be applied to U.S. Forces in the event of using airports or ports.

- (5)-2. Clearly stipulate that "access to" and "movement" written under this article shall not include any activity that is considered, in essence, as exercise and/or training.
  
- (6) Provisions Related to Article IX (Entry into or Departure from Japan by Members of the United States Military Service Members, the Civilian Component, and Their Dependents)
  - (6)-1. Clearly stipulate that Japanese law shall apply to inspection of persons, animals and plants as well as to public health of persons.
  
- (7) Provisions Related to Article XIII (Taxation)
  - (7)-1. Clearly stipulate that that private vehicles and light-weight vehicles of members of the U.S. armed forces, civilian component and their dependents shall be taxed at the same rate as private vehicles of Japanese people.
  
- (8) Provisions Related to Article XV (Non-Appropriated Fund Organizations)
  - (8)-1. Revise Paragraph 3 of Article XV to clearly stipulate that services, provided by organizations within the facility (ies) and area(s), shall be restricted in the same way with the sales of merchandise, when they are provided to the Japanese.
  
- (9) Provisions Related to Article XVII (Criminal Jurisdiction)
  - (9)-1. Clearly stipulate that if there is any request from the Japanese authorities for transfer of the suspect's custody before charges are issued, U.S. military authorities shall swiftly respond to this.
  - (9)-2. Clearly stipulate that Japanese officials shall exercise rights to investigate, seize and examine U.S. Forces properties outside the U.S. bases.
  - (9)-3. Clearly stipulate that necessary control shall be taken under the leadership of Japanese officials at accident sites outside facilities and areas.
  
- (10) Provisions Related to Article XVIII (Civil Claims)
  - (10)-1. Clearly stipulate that when damage arises due to act or illegal act by the members, employees, or their dependents of the U.S. armed forces, during the time they are not carrying out the performance of official duties, and if such things as the amount of compensation for damage to be paid to the damaged party does not satisfy the final decision amount made at court, both the governments of Japan and the United States shall bear the responsibility for covering the difference of the amount. Article 18 shall also specify that the Japanese and the United States governments shall discuss their responsibilities in bearing the expenses for covering the deficit of the compensation

amount.

- (10)-2. Clearly stipulate that when there is an order by the Japanese court, the U.S. authorities shall deprive of the U.S. armed forces members' or employees' rights of claim for benefits such as salaries to be paid to them, and turn them over to the Japanese authorities.

(11) Provisions Related to Article XXV (Joint Committee)

- (11)-1. Clearly stipulate that the agreements made at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee shall be immediately announced to the public.
- (11)-2. Clearly stipulate that in the event where matters that impact residents living in the vicinity of facilities and areas are discussed at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, the governments of Japan and the United States shall hear opinions from concerned local municipalities and respect their opinions. Furthermore, Article 25 shall specify that the Local Special Committee shall be established within the Joint Committee. Also, the representatives of the local authorities who own facilities and areas shall be the members of the special committee.

Reasons:

Even 75 years have passed after the end of the war, 70.3% of facilities and areas exclusively used by the U.S. military are concentrated on Okinawa Prefecture which accounts for only 0.6% of Japan's total land area. The people of Okinawa have been continuously forced to bear the excessive base-hosting burden.

In addition, majority of the U.S. bases are adjacent to residential areas, significantly impacting living environment of local residents by incidence and accidents, environmental problems, criminal offenses committed by the SOFA status personnel and daily-life troubles with local residents among other issues stemming from the U.S. bases. Therefore, consolidation and reduction of the bases as well as the revision of SOFA remain crucial.

The Guntenkyo council has repeatedly urged the governments of Japan and United States for enforcing strict discipline, implementing preventative measures and enhancing through education program every time incidence and accidents by SOFA status personnel took place. However, it is no exaggeration to say that situation has not been changed.

Under such circumstance, the tragic murder case by a U.S. civilian component took place in April, 2016, and crash of an Osprey among other incidence occurred thus anger of Okinawan residents are close to exceeding our limit. It would lead to fundamental solution of the base issues if both governments fully understand the current situation on Okinawa and promptly work on alleviation of excessive base-hosting burden including revision of SOFA as well as consolidation and reduction of the bases.

With regard to SOFA, it has never been revised for 60 years since its conclusion in 1960. Although both governments signed environmental stewardship related to U.S. Forces in Japan and a supplementary agreement to limit and clarify the definition of the civilian component protected under the SOFA, effectiveness of such agreements remain insufficient and most of base issues are still responded by operation improvement.

Therefore, it is imperative for both governments to sincerely work on revision of SOFA.

### III Promoting Resolutions for the Return of U.S. Forces Facilities and Areas and the Issues Related to the Land Use

#### 1. Steady Promotion of the Measures Concerning the Land Use of Former Military Installations

##### Requests:

- A. Steady promotion of the measures concerning the land use of former military installations through close coordination and cooperation among GOJ, Okinawa Prefectural Government, and related municipalities so that effective and appropriate use of the land can be achieved.
- B. Thorough implementation of artifacts elimination measures by the Japanese government pursuant to the Special Act for Promotion of Effective and Appropriate Land Use of Former Military Installations on Okinawa.

##### Reasons:

The land of former military installations needs to be utilized effectively and appropriately as a valuable space for Okinawa's development. This includes ensuring a favorable living environment, developing new industries, improving the transportation system, and preserving and restoring the natural environment.

In order to facilitate the use of returned land, it is essential to formulate plans at an early stage. Development of the plans require on-site survey with excavation (for cultural assets, natural environment, etc.) prior to the return.

We aim to make the former West Futenma Housing area which was returned in March 2015, "an international hub for medical services" through cooperation among the central government, Okinawa Prefectural Government, Ginowan City, the Ginowan City Military Land Owners Association and related parties including the University of the Ryukyus. This proposed "Hub for Health Care on Okinawa Based on Its Internationality and Characteristic as a Remote Island" has three major policies, comprising of advanced medical care and expanding research capability, improving local medical standards, and developing medical human resources and international research exchange. In realizing this plan, dedicated assistance by the government including financial support is necessary.

Concerning the area south of the Industrial Corridor which is adjacent to the former West Futenma Housing area, its joint use was agreed to at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee to construct a road connecting to National Road 58 in December 2015. However, to formulating the medical hub, it is crucial to utilize the land integrally with the former West Futenma Housing area and to return the area south of the Industrial Corridor at an early stage.

The so-called "Basic Policies" of the "Basic Policies for the Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2020" approved in a cabinet meeting on July 17, 2020 addresses a holistic and affirmative promotion of the economy of Okinawa as a national strategy, including the promotion of prompt use of the land formerly used by U.S military Installations on Okinawa.

Based on the above, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Act for the Promotion of Land Formerly Used by U.S. Military Installations, it is essential to steadily promote the related policies via close cooperation among the

prefecture, related municipalities, and the central government.

Regarding all the land formerly used by U.S Military installations which was agreed to be returned, the Japanese Government should take necessary measures to eliminate artifacts such as soil pollution and so forth, before it is returned to land owners, regardless of whether it is attributable to activities by the U.S Forces or not, pursuant to the aforementioned act. However, when a part of Northern Training Area was returned in December of 2017, it was confirmed that wastes such as scrap tires were left at the site. Therefore, the Japanese Government should implement thorough artifacts elimination measures and carry out public participation to environmental measures intended for local residents as necessary.

In addition, in June 2013, drums presumably originating from the U.S. military were unearthed at a construction site in the Okinawa City soccer ground, which is former U.S. military land. One of the substances found in the drums was dioxins, thus it caused a financial burden to Okinawa City from such soil sampling and suspension of the construction, and it has affected the use of the facility by the local community.

Dioxins were detected from the areas in operation of the Prefectural Farm Land Improvement Projects within the land of formerly used as Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield in December 2013. In addition, illegally dumped waste was unearthed from the area for the Land Readjustment Projects. Such issues have significantly disturbed the progress of the projects.

Therefore, based on the Act for the Promotion of Land Formerly Used by U.S. Military Installations, it is necessary for the national government to apply the same measures to the land which have already been passed over to land owners. Such measures include identifying the cause of the contamination, eliminating the artifacts, and avoiding land owners' burden.

For enforcing measures to eliminate artifacts, it is essential to take conservation measures after conducting natural environment surveys and confirming their results to preserve the natural environment at the returned land and its surrounding areas.

2 Expedite the Partial Return of U.S. Forces Facilities and Installations Associated with the Implementation of Public Works Projects, and Expand the Opportunities for Local Construction Companies on Okinawa to Receive Public Works Contracts Issued by U.S. Forces

Requests:

- A. Accelerate procedures associated with the partial return of U.S. Forces facilities and areas, as these procedures are required to implement public works projects involving roads, rivers and other public space, cooperation in order to start on-site surveys and public works early in points and areas where the on-site surveys or works are feasible, even before return of land.
- B. Reduce performance bonds required in public works contracts awarded by the U.S. Forces as well as for the efforts to divide and/or separate the construction orders.

Reasons:

On Okinawa, we are largely dependent on automobiles for transportation on land, and in a Prefecture that sees much flooding damage caused by typhoons and torrential rainfall, the development and maintenance of road networks and water-related measures such as flood controls are important public projects and critical in improving mobile accessibility and convenience, and in ensuring a safe and secure living environment for our local residents.

However, when partial returns of U.S. Forces facilities and areas are necessary to implement such public works projects, there have been numerous cases of projects being delayed for a significant amount of time due to stalls in the talks over issues that involve only partial changes to the borders of the relevant facilities and areas.

Therefore, it is necessary to move the procedures involved in the partial returns of U.S. Forces facilities and areas in a speedy and steady manner, as these procedures are required in the implementation of public works projects involving roads, rivers and other public spaces in our prefecture.

Moreover, even before return of land, it is necessary to cooperate to make an early start on on-site surveys or public works in points and areas where the on-site surveys and works are feasible to swiftly enhance the living environment, including public infrastructure, of Okinawans.

Funded by the U.S. federal government, the U.S. Forces on Okinawa award a number of contracts for construction including large-scale work.

Bidding procedures in the U.S. require the furnishing of a performance bond at the time of the contract in an amount equal to the total cost of the work when this work exceeds an amount higher than \$150,000.

In order to be awarded construction works ordered by the U.S. military on Okinawa, submission of a performance bond is necessary. Until 2004 when a performance bond was approximately 35% of the total cost, there were more opportunities for local construction companies to join the bidding.

However, while the scale of construction works ordered by the U.S. Forces on Okinawa has expanded, provision of 100% of performance bonds is demanded. Therefore, there are fewer possibilities that local construction firms are able to ensure the bond, additionally, local insurance firms are not able to cover the expense.

Consequently, it is essential to separate and/or divide the construction orders as much as possible on a scale that would allow the local contractors to get involved in the bidding of construction work which are ordered by the U.S. military on Okinawa. Furthermore, in the event local builders join the bidding, Okinawan builders would have greater opportunities to be awarded work orders for projects within the U.S. bases in the prefecture by reducing performance bond rates to the lowest extent possible with consideration of the past construction records.



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Military Land Conversion & Base Problems**

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