

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

**February 2019**

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



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

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

In our prefecture of Okinawa, which accounts for only 0.6 percent of the total land area of Japan, approximately 70.3 percent of the facilities for the exclusive use of the U.S. Forces in Japan are located in and around our islands. The activities of the U.S. Forces, such as aircraft accidents, daily aircraft noise and harms on the natural environment and so forth, have various impacts on the residents living around the bases and on the lives of the citizens of the prefecture at large.

Moreover, we absolutely cannot allow the indefinite use of MCAS Futenma and it is necessary to make utmost efforts to relocate the base out of the prefecture, return the base at an early stage, and remove the dangers posed by MCAS Futenma including the suspension of its operation within 5 years.

Considering the current situation of Okinawa, where challenges stemming from military bases have spread into various fields and have become more serious year after year, the Okinawa Municipal Council for Military Land Conversion and Base Problems (the Guntenkyo Council), has petitioned for promotion of resolutions for these challenges. We would like the GOJ to make steady progress toward the tangible alleviation of the burden connected to the military bases.

If Japan considers the U.S-Japan Security Arrangements important, the burden should be equally borne by the entire Japanese nationals.

The people of Okinawa have been continuously forced to shoulder the excessive weight of military bases for a long period of time. It is the sincerest wish of the citizens

of Okinawa to see the resolution of base issues in our island prefecture.

To that end, we respectfully ask for your further efforts in our requests toward the resolution of various issues deriving from the military bases.

Sincerely,

Denny Tamaki  
Governor of Okinawa Prefecture  
President of the Guntenkyo Council

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

### 1 Relocation of Marine Corps Personnel in Okinawa Overseas, Return of Installations & Areas South of Kadena Air Force Base

We call for:

- (A) relocation of Marine Corps personnel from Okinawa to overseas facilities to be carried out without fail;
- (B) provision of a sufficient explanation and updates regarding the consolidation plan for facilities and areas in Okinawa including information on relocation sites, facilities to be relocated, specific return sequences, etc.;
- (C) considerations toward facilitating effective and smooth utilization of land ;
- (D) due arrangement for relocation sites, resolution of issues associated with relocation, and support to reduce the base-hosting burden at relocation sites under the responsibility of the GOJ;
- (E) provision of necessary assistance including securing cultural property research specialists;
- (F) establishment of framework where opinions of OPG and municipalities concerned will be reflected in the process of formulating the master plan to implement the consolidation plan; and
- (G) provision of detailed information associated with the implementation of the consolidation plan and thoroughgoing attention to be paid to ensure the job security of on-base employees;

Reasons:

The concentration of U.S. Forces Japan in Okinawa Prefecture is clearly disproportionate, and the scale of the troop force far exceeds the fair share of burden from a national perspective.

The lives of the Prefecture's citizens are impacted in a wide range by daily aircraft noise, field fires and other harms on the natural environment caused by live-ammunition exercises, pollution of rivers, seas, groundwater and soil caused by oils and polluted water, aircraft accidents, as well as criminal offenses involving U.S. Forces troops and other persons subject to SOFA.

Under the circumstances, the Governments of Japan and the U.S.

announced the “Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas in Okinawa” on April 5, 2013.

As the relocation of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa overseas and the return of installations and areas south of Kadena Air Force Base associated with this relocation will undoubtedly shape the nature of U.S. bases in Okinawa in the future and serve as a major turning point for Okinawa’s future growth and development, steady implementation is greatly required.

We also believe that the transfer of the U.S. Marines in Okinawa to overseas needs to be started promptly in such a way that it will not hinder the progress of the implementation of the consolidation plan.

The consolidation plan stipulates areas, timing, sequences and more regarding the return of six (6) installations and areas south of Kadena Air Force Base, but Guntenkyo Council feels that not all details about the plan are shown.

Furthermore, timing of return of installations and areas should be updated in every three years and made public. However, it has not been updated even after 5 years from the announcement.

We believe that it is necessary for the GOJ to provide sufficient information in regard to the consolidation plan, resolve issues associated with the relocation under the responsibility of the GOJ, continue measures to reduce the burden on areas which take on new burdens, reflect the local voices, implement it in a structured manner, and give special consideration to the requests from local residents living in the vicinity of the relocation site.

As the land in use by the U.S. Forces is scheduled for return on a large scale under this consolidation plan, such necessary information as the history of the use of the installations and areas to be returned, soil survey, infrastructure status, land owners and more concerning the land should be provided to facilitate effective and smooth utilization of land.

It is also required to give consideration to the opinions of the OPG and the relevant municipalities regarding the utilization of national land and the timing of the return.

For issues related to ensuring job security of on-base employees, we feel it is necessary 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.

- I Reducing the Impact of U.S. Military Bases on Okinawa
- 2 The Prevention of the Indefinite Use of MCAS Futenma: Implementation of the Relocation Outside of the Prefecture, Prompt Return, and Elimination of Dangerous Factors

We call for:

- (A) return to the core issues surrounding MCAS Futenma and absolute avoidance of the indefinite use of MCAS Futenma, as well as steps toward both its relocation outside of Okinawa Prefecture and the prompt return of the land; and
- (B) have a sense of urgency and work towards suspension of operations within five years and elimination of the dangers posed by the Air Station by the time of returning the land, and reduction of the U.S. military base burden.

Reasons:

As MCAS Futenma is located in the heart of an urban area and with its significant impact 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 the Okinawa International University and burst into flames. Furthermore, aircraft belonging to MCAS Futenma have been repeatedly causing crash accidents, emergency landings and other accidents such as a case where a window fell from U.S. military heavy lift helicopter onto a playground of Futenma Daini elementary school in December 13, 2017. This accident only 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, 22 years have passed since the governments of Japan and the U.S. agreed to return the whole area of MCAS Futenma, and the return has yet to be carried out. The burden placed on the surrounding residents has exceeded the limits of their patience.

In order to carry out the prompt return of MCAS Futenma, it is necessary to once again strive for the relocation of this Air Station outside of Okinawa

Prefecture. We must also examine and put in place options to avoid indefinite use of the facility.

Further, as we cannot leave the current dangers unresolved, it is necessary to look at the situation by firmly accepting sincere wish of the local residents and recognizing the burden reduction as a critical challenge. We also need to address the matter of eliminating the risks and reducing the burden of the U.S. military bases including the noise abatement with a sense of urgency at the earliest possible time, even if only for the duration of time before 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 are necessary as well as a tremendous effort towards suspension of operations of MCAS Futenma within five years.

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

### 3 Deployment of the MV-22 Ospreys

We call for:

- (A) re-evaluation of the plan to deploy MV-22 Ospreys to Okinawa;
- (B) relocation of aviation training for MV-22s outside of Okinawa to be steadily promoted;
- (C) thorough compliance with the safety measures agreed upon at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee;
- (D) suspension of the use of the landing areas adjacent to residential areas;
- (E) investigation into the effects of the low frequency noise from the Ospreys on people and the environment.
- (F) avoidance of the further increased burden of U.S. military bases derived from the training of Ospreys among others.
- (G) conducting of an environmental review, full disclosure of the findings and implementation of 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 operations of MV-22 Ospreys. Further, in its reply to the OPG's request made in December 2012 to examine the flight operations involving the aircraft, the GOJ said on July 30, 2013 that it believed the Ospreys were operated in line with this agreement.

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

With the anxiety of the people of Okinawa over the safety of the MV-22 Osprey having not been dispelled, the Guntenkyo Council has repeatedly expressed that we are opposed to the deployment of the aircraft to Okinawa. Despite our plea, the basing of two MV-22 squadrons (24 aircraft) at MCAS Futenma was completed

on August 2013.

As MCAS Futenma is located in the heart of an urban area, it is obvious that the Osprey deployment 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 in the same year.

Every time such accidents/incidents occurred, the Okinawa Prefectural Government 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/incidents and Government of Japan 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, thus causing concern of a greater impact on daily lives than before.

Low-altitude flight operations, 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 weight 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 incidents, 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 operations of the Ospreys, and suspension of the use of the landing areas adjacent to residential areas are necessary.

Moreover, the GOJ should examine Osprey's operation-related impact on

humans and the environment by conducting low frequency sound measurement surveys and proactive information gathering. If any adverse effect is confirmed, it is necessary to take appropriate actions such as setting environmental standards.

Furthermore, 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 the GOJ states that half of all Osprey training among others would be conducted outside of Okinawa, the planned training of CV-22 in 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 operations 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 operations 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.

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

### 4 Fundamental Preventive Measures Regarding Incidents Involving U.S. Military Personnel & Other Persons Subject to SOFA

We call for:

- (A) utmost efforts to prevent a recurrence of incidents through further disciplinary measures and strengthening human rights education;
- (B) improvement of education programs for U.S. military personnel and other persons subject to SOFA after thoroughly and continuously consulting with the Okinawa Prefectural Government and other related authorities; and
- (C) verification of effectiveness concerning preventative measures relating to incidents, etc., and implementation of 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 incidents involving U.S. military personnel and related persons. However, these incidents among others continue to occur.

As of the end of December 2017, there have been a total of 5,967 criminal cases involving those subject to SOFA since Okinawa's reversion to Japan in 1972. The figure includes 580 cases of heinous offenses such as murder, robbery, and rape.

48 criminal cases including robbery resulting in bodily injury, trespassing and fraud occurred in last year, which continue to give anxieties to the people of Okinawa.

In order to make sure that such incidents, etc., will never happen again, it is necessary to make the utmost effort to take preventive measures including further disciplinary measures and strengthening human rights education. Furthermore, it is also necessary that transparency is ensured by information disclosure such as disciplinary action and punishment against persons subject to SOFA who caused incidents and accidents. Furthermore, it is crucial to improve training and education programs for U.S. military personnel and other persons subject to SOFA after thoroughly and continuously consulting with the Okinawa

Prefectural Government and other related authorities. In addition, it is imperative to verify the gate checking and operation status of liberty policy as well as to implement fundamental preventative measures based on the findings. Furthermore, from the standpoint of alleviating the anxiety of the residents of the prefecture, it is also necessary to conduct thorough investigations into the cause of incidents and accidents as well as to disclose the findings in a prompt manner.

- I Reducing the Impact of U.S. Military Bases on Okinawa
- 5 Thorough Preventive & Safety Management Measures Regarding Accidents in U.S. Military Training & Exercises

We call for:

- (A) advance disclosure of the details about scheduled training and exercises of the U.S. military, and re-evaluate the exercises from the perspective of securing the safety of the people of Okinawa Prefecture;
- (B) prompt disclosure of the investigation reports, if/when accidents caused by training and exercises occur, and the implementation of fundamental and effective measures of safety management, including the thorough examining of the causes of accidents, as well as the suspension of training and exercises if/when an incident which is suspected to be relevant to such training and exercises occurs and cooperation for investigation into the cause;
- (C) establishment of a new council consisting of the Government of Japan, the U.S. Forces Japan, and the Okinawa Prefectural Government in response to accidents/incidents;
- (D) suspension of parachute drop training at Kadena Air Base; and
- (E) adequate assistance to the local governing bodies under the responsibility of the GOJ, including financial measures for the development of safety arrangements and maintaining equipment which will be used in case of nuclear accidents caused by U.S. nuclear-powered ships.

Reasons:

The Council has repeatedly called for the strengthening of preventive measures and safety management to the relevant authorities in order to work towards the eradication of incidents and accidents associated with the U.S. military training and exercises. However, the situation surrounding training-related accidents continues to recur.

As of December 31, 2018, there have been a total of 786 aircraft accidents (49 of which were aircraft crashes) since Okinawa's reversion to Japan. These aircraft-related accidents include the U.S. military helicopter crash on the grounds of the Okinawa International University in 2004, an AV-8 Harrier fighter jet crash

in the ocean east of Okinawa in September 2016, an MV-22 Osprey crash off the east coast of Nago City in December the same year, and a CH-53 emergency landing burst into flames in the Takae District of Higashi Village in October 2017, a F-15 fighter jet crash in the ocean south of Okinawa in June 2018, and a F/A-18 fighter attack jet crash in the ocean east-southeast of Okinawa in November the same year.

Various situations have occurred in the recent years, including forest/field fires as well as incidents 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 (as of December 31 2018, there have been a total of 624 of such cases since Okinawa's reversion to Japan); red-soil runoff from the depletion of vegetation in the mountains; an accidental bombing by Harrier attack aircraft in a non-designated training water area (within the proximity of Tori Shima Range, 2008).

Regarding other training and exercises, service members parachuted down to a site outside of the provided facilities and areas during parachute training (Ie Island, December 2017 and April 2018) dropped supplies weighing about 800 kg outside of the provided facilities and areas during another parachuting drill (Ie Island, April 2014); and a tire dropped during external-lift training (Kin Town, March 2017).

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 the specific scheduled times. In addition, if/when accidents occur, the disclosure of accident investigation reports take a considerable amount of time and sufficient details are not provided. These factors contribute to the heightened concern among the residents in 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 endanger neighboring residents, but cause a great impact on the living environment of local communities. In addition, regarding training over dams which provide waters to the people of Okinawa, they could cause contamination of water sources if an incident or accident happens.

Furthermore, 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. With regard to the stray bullet accident in Sukuta of Nago City, a live-fire training was resumed without any detailed

information regarding the cause of the accident and preventive measures. Therefore, a feeling of distrust towards the responses to accidents and incidents by the central government and the U.S. forces has been growing among local residents.

In addition, parachute drop trainings are repeatedly conducted, which runs counter to the intent of SACO final report, and local communities have developed a strong sense of crisis towards forcibly conducted training ignoring their requests and protests.

In order to alleviate the anxiety of the residents, it is necessary to have the detailed information disclosed in advance, concerning the military training and exercises. Also, from the perspective of securing safety and considerations to the living environment of the people of Okinawa Prefecture, it is necessary to re-evaluate how U.S. military training is conducted, including suspension of flight training over residential areas and use of landing zones adjacent to civilian areas, as well as suspension of the flight training over dams and suspension of trainings until explanation of the cause of the accident, implementation of effective measures and disclosure of those measures.

In addition, we request the swift disclosure of investigation results if/when accidents occur, and to conduct thorough examinations to uncover the causes of accidents, and in regard to safety management, the implementation of fundamental and effective measures.

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 the Government of Japan, the U.S. Forces Japan, and the Okinawa Prefectural Government in response to accidents/incidents.

It also is necessary to have a conference by the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee concerning suspensions of parachute drop training at Kadena Air Base.

Moreover, matters concerning the creation of adequate preventive/emergency measures in case of nuclear accidents are pressing issues in our Prefecture, where we have frequent port calls of nuclear-powered American vessels. Therefore, it is necessary to have the 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.

I Reducing the Impact of U.S. Military Bases on Okinawa  
6 Aircraft Noise Mitigation at Kadena Air Force Base & MCAS Futenma

We call for:

- (A) examination of the effectiveness of the partial relocation of exercises presently conducted from Kadena Air Force Base and Futenma Air Base, and the implementation of specific and efficient measures based on its results and of long-time rotation assignment of aircrafts belonging to those bases to locations outside of Okinawa and Japan;
- (B) disuse of the former naval aircraft apron at Kadena Air Base by aircrafts, etc. which cause noises, in accordance with the Noise Reduction Initiative in the Final Report of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa;
- (C) investigation of odors at Kadena Air Base;
- (D) strict compliance of the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures at Kadena Air Force Base and Futenma Air Station to keep within the environmental standards, and verification and disclosure on the effects of countermeasures at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee;
- (E) research on the health impact caused by disruptive noise in the nighttime;
- (F) avoidance of flying over residential areas including schools and hospitals etc.;
- (G) installation of systems to clearly define the flight altitude, course, etc., of aircraft at both facilities, and the disclosure of this data;
- (H) strengthening and upgrading of noise countermeasures such as the expansion of areas covered for home sound-insulation work, including those residences built after the notification of areas subject to soundproofing work, expanding these measures to offices and retail premises, and securing a sufficient budget for sound proofing work;
- (I) designation of all unauthorized nurseries as eligible for soundproofing work;
- (J) coverage of the maintenance costs for newly installed air conditioners for noise grade 3 and 4 school classrooms that have become ineligible due to policy changes regarding subsidies for soundproofing projects

- surrounding defense facilities ; and
- (K) prompt institutionalization of subsidies for solar photovoltaic system installations.

Reasons:

The U.S. military operations impact the surrounding communities in various ways, but the most notable impact is the aircraft noise associated with Kadena Air Force 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 iteratively called for the alleviation of aircraft noise and its adverse impacts, yet the situation remains to be one with 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. In addition, fighter jets including F-35A and F-16 which flew in 2017 and F-22 which flew in 2018 have been repeatedly deployed over a span of a couple of months several times, 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 as well as abnormalities in hearing and disruptions in the classrooms, among other issues.

Although Kadena Air Force Base has partially relocated its training and exercises as part of the U.S. Forces realignment, the alleviation of burden has yet to be realized, as positive effects are not noticeable at the present time. For this reason, it is necessary to continuously examine and determine the effectiveness of the training relocation, and reflect these examination results on the expeditious implementation of specific and substantial measures.

The residents living nearby the Air Base complain that they feel sick and suffer from headaches, loss of appetite, etc. which are thought to be caused by odors from gas emissions from U.S. military aircraft. There is concern about the effects on the health and daily lives of local residents; therefore, it is necessary to understand the actual situation of damages caused by such odors.

At MCAS Futenma, the low-altitude flights of helicopters that circle above the surrounding residential areas are raising issues concerning the consistent occurrence of noise including low-frequency noise. In particular, night-time 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 Force Base and Futenma Air Station was made in March 1996, the aircraft noise monitoring conducted at various monitoring stations continued to show results which exceeded the environmental standards every year. We call for the 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. In the event detrimental effects are confirmed, it is necessary to take proper measures, such as the establishment of parameters for nighttime noise and include them into current environmental standards.

There has been an excessive amount of aircraft noise not only around the residential areas of Kadena Air Base and Futenma Air Station, but also around U.S. training areas such as Camp Hansen, Camp Schwab and Northern Training Area.

U.S. military aircraft fly over a wide area across various parts of Okinawa Island including storage facilities for gas and other potentially hazardous materials.

With an increase in complaints and concerns from citizens affected in these various parts of Okinawa, it is necessary to avoid flights over residential areas as well as the aforementioned facilities.

Furthermore, in order to effectively handle the matters concerning the Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures and also 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 the GOJ to establish a system which will continuously examine the current situation of flights, such as their altitude, course, and other relevant details, and provide this data to the citizens of Okinawa.

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 Force Base and MCAS Futenma have undergone soundproofing work. However, the number of homes constructed after the designation of areas, and therefore not subject to this work, has increased. Moreover, despite the real impact of noise, there are many homes located outside of the designated soundproofing areas, as well as many offices and other businesses

which are not subject to sound-insulation work.

For these reasons, it is necessary to expand the designated soundproofing areas, which currently is limited to those areas with a noise level of up to Lden 62 dB or 75 WECPNL, to areas with noise impacts of up to Lden 57 dB or 70 WECPNL, which is the environmental standard. Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen and expand the present measures to include homes constructed after the designation of soundproofing areas, as well as offices and businesses. In particular, it is necessary to urgently carry out fittings restoration works in the areas with more than 75 WECPNL. 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.

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

Additionally there are concerns that aircraft noise may have adverse effects 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 those of soundproofing equipment, air-conditioning related works as well as maintenance fees of air conditioners.

Furthermore, 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 subject to grant funding. In order to alleviate aircraft noise and guarantee the 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 these apparatus are principally 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.

- I Reducing the Impact of U.S. Military Bases on Okinawa
- 7 Strengthening Preventive Measures Against Damage to Living Conditions & Environmental Destruction Resulting from U.S. Military Activities & Base Operations

We call for:

- (A) strengthening of preventive measures against harm to the community environment and destruction to the natural environment caused by U.S. Forces activities and base operations, and for permissions to be granted expeditiously to enter the installations in cases of incidents and/or accidents;
- (B) new environmental provisions to be added to the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement with stipulations that Japanese domestic laws concerning environmental conservation shall apply;
- (C) compliance to the standards and procedures of the relevant Japanese environmental laws concerning environment-related incidents and/or accidents that may occur before the proposed revision of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, and for the handling of such cases to be explained promptly to the local governments and other concerned bodies;
- (D) appropriate countermeasures for and cooperation with investigations of the high level of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) which was detected in rivers and other places within the vicinity of Kadena Air Base and MCAS Futenma;
- (E) implementation of appropriate measures upon conducting necessary studies concerning the issue of reception interruptions/disturbances of television broadcasting, etc. caused by the base operations of the U.S. Forces;
- (F) inclusion of Futenma Air Station as a defense facility subject to subsidies for the projects related to broadcasting receptions in the surrounding areas;
- (G) confirmation of all facts in the statements of U.S. Forces veterans regarding defoliants being used at the U.S. military facilities and areas in Okinawa, and the explanations to the local governing bodies concerning this issue under the responsibility of the GOJ;

- (H) waste reduction, promotion of recycling to the furthest extent possible by segregating wastes discharged from the U.S military facilities and areas, and proper waste disposal under the responsibility of the U.S. government;
- (I) proper disposal of PCB waste and products using PCB within U.S military facilities and areas based on the deadline for domestic disposal in Japan;
- (J) thorough control and invasion prevention against alien species in the U.S military bases and contribution to preservation of living environment and ecosystem of Okinawa Prefecture by implementation of alien species countermeasures in cooperation with local municipalities;
- (K) implementation of surveys on living creatures inhabiting in Makiminato Service Area and the bottom sediment and PCB, DDT and lead in the soil of the area, as well as disclosure of the findings and implementation of appropriate measures in a case that the U.S military base is identified as the contamination source.

Reasons:

With heightened global awareness regarding the importance of environmental conservation in today's society, it is necessary to put our efforts, in particular, towards the conservation of our natural environment.

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

In particular, since Okinawa's reversion to Japan in 1972, there have been 176 confirmed incidents of leaked oil, fuel, waste water, and other liquids (as of the end of December 2018). Recently, there have been frequent occurrences of waste water and/or jet fuel spilling into rivers and streams and flowing into residential areas. Despite the current situation, an on-base environmental survey, which the GOJ had been conducting in attempt to prevent environmental pollution, has not been conducted after JFY 2014. Therefore, we request resuming such surveys.

Furthermore, concerning the issue of high levels of PFOS and other materials being detected in Hija River and the Kadena wells, it has become a great

obstacle in terms of steadily securing safe drinking water. In addition, a problem remains as high levels of PFOS, detected from spring water in the vicinity of MCAS Futenma, have been a cause for concern among the local residents. Therefore, it is essential to cooperate for the investigation and take appropriate measures in order to determine the cause at an early stage.

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 concern not only in regard to environmental pollution, but also in the health aspects of the citizens of our prefecture.

Additionally, at Kadena Air Force 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. The central government needs to assess the current situation to make countermeasures.

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.

For these reasons, it is necessary to address the strengthening of preventive measures against harm to the community environment and destruction to the natural environment from U.S. Forces activities and base operations. In addition, in cases of incidents and/or accidents, it is necessary for our permission requests to enter into the relevant installation(s), to be granted expeditiously.

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

Moreover, for the period of time in which the Japan-U.S. SOFA is reviewed, it is necessary for all of the environment-related incidents and accidents to be handled, under the responsibility of the GOJ, according to the standards and

procedures of domestic laws, and for the outcome of these cases to be promptly explained to the relevant local governing bodies and other parties.

In addition, for the issues surrounding reception disturbances of television broadcasting, etc., caused by the base operations of the U.S. Forces, it is necessary to promptly conduct appropriate studies in accordance with the wishes of residents and others within the communities that surround U.S. Forces facilities. We ask for appropriate measures to be implemented swiftly 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 2017 conducted by OPG show 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 subject to subsidies for broadcasting receptions fees in the surrounding areas.

Additionally, 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 the GOJ to promptly verify and confirm all the facts, and explanations must be provided to the local governing bodies.

Furthermore, 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 make 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 segregation 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 (JEKS). However, the U.S. Forces are not responsible for restoring the land to its original state when returning the bases, meaning that the government of Japan (the Okinawa Defense Bureau) restores and disposes equipment containing PCB, etc. found at buildings on the returned land.

In accordance with the Act on Special Measures concerning Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes, regarding high-level PCB wastes on Okinawa, it is necessary to complete disposal of high pressure transformers and condensers by March 31, 2019 and stabilizers and contaminated objects by March 31, 2022.

If high-level PCB wastes are found after the aforementioned dates at the facilities and areas in Okinawa scheduled to be returned, they cannot be disposed of. If that happens, there is a concern that the Okinawa Defense Bureau should keep PCB waste.

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

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

Furthermore, PCBs, DDTs and lead were detected from habu snakes captured in the vicinity of Makinato Service Area and the same type of the substances were also detected at some points of bottom materials within the area. For ensuring security and safety of local residents, cooperation from the U.S Forces 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

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

### 8 Expansion of the portion accessible to Japanese for Fishing Operation and Type of fishery allowed in Training Area Hotel Hotel and Return of Tori Shima& Kume Jima Ranges

We call for:

- (A) expansion of the portion accessible to Japanese for fishing operation and type of fishery allowed in Training Area Hotel Hotel
- (B) return of Tori Shima and Kume Jima Ranges.
- (C) cancellation of the joint use of Fukuchi Dam, Arakawa Dam and Kannna Dam

Reasons:

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

Further, in close proximity to this designated training area 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 subject to this lifting of restrictions is small and Fish Aggregating Device (FADs) associated fishery and diamondback squid fishing are still prohibited. Therefore, we call for 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 operations of fishing vessels, protecting the fishery environment, and preserving territorial integrity.

Furthermore, 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 call for 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 the government of Japan 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 citizens' 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. Further, 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 the Government of Japan (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 incidents 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 trainings 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. Further, 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. Further, 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. In regard to 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. Further, 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 incidents 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 Aircrafts 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 aircrafts 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. Clearly stipulate that that Paragraph 3 of Article XV be revised so 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 73 years have passed after the end of the war, 70.3% of facilities and areas exclusively used by the U.S. military are concentrated in 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 incidents 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 incidents 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 incidents 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 in 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 nearly 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

We call for:

- (A) steady promotion of the measures concerning the land use of former military installations through close coordination and cooperation among the Government of Japan, 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 in 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 in 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 2018” approved in a cabinet meeting on June 15, 2018 addresses the promotion of prompt use of the land formerly used by U.S military Installations in Okinawa. With regard to the former West Futenma Housing Area, it is necessary to be designated as a national strategy under “the central government’s policy” based on Article 27 of the “Act for the Promotion of Land Formerly Used by U.S. Military Installations” from this time forward.

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.

Furthermore, regarding the 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. 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.

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

#### 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 in Okinawa to Receive Public Works Contracts Issued by U.S. Forces

We call for:

- (A) procedures associated with the partial return of U.S. Forces facilities and areas to be accelerated, as these procedures are required to implement public works projects involving roads, rivers and other public spaces; 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; and
- (B) reduction of 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:

In 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 citizens.

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 in 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 in 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 in 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.

**Members of The Okinawa Municipal Council for  
Military Land Conversion & Base Problems**

President	Governor of Okinawa	Denny Tamaki
Vice President	Mayor of Okinawa City	Sachio Kuwae
Vice President	Mayor of Ginoza Village	Atsushi Touma
Member	Mayor of Naha City	Mikiko Shiroma
Member	Mayor of Ginowan City	Masanori Matsugawa
Member	Mayor of Ishigaki City	Yoshitaka Nakayama
Member	Mayor of Urasoe City	Tetsuji Matsumoto
Member	Mayor of Nago City	Taketoyo Toguchi
Member	Mayor of Itoman City	Hirotsune Uehara
Member	Mayor of Uruma City	Toshio Shimabuku
Member	Mayor of Miyakojima City	Toshihiko Shimoji
Member	Mayor of Nanjo City	Choubin Zukeran
Member	Mayor of Kunigami Village	Hisakazu Miyagi
Member	Mayor of Higashi Village	Seikyu Iju
Member	Mayor of Motobu Town	Takeyasu Taira
Member	Mayor of Onna Village	Yoshimi Nagahama
Member	Mayor of Kin Town	Hajime Nakama
Member	Mayor of Ie Village	Hideyuki Shimabukuro
Member	Mayor of Yomitan Village	Denjitsu Ishimine
Member	Mayor of Kadena Town	Hiroshi Touyama
Member	Mayor of Chatan Town	Masaharu Noguni
Member	Mayor of Kitanakagusuku Village	Kunio Arakaki
Member	Mayor of Nakagusuku Village	Keisuke Hamada
Member	Mayor of Tonaki Village	Masaru Tobaru
Member	Mayor of Kitadaito Village	Mitsumasa Miyagi
Member	Mayor of Kumejima Town	Haruo Ota
Member	Mayor of Yaese Town	Yasuhiro Arakaki
Member	Mayor of Yonaguni Town	Shukichi Hokama