

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
REGARDING THE
TRAINING OF U.S. MARINE CORPS IN OKINAWA
AT NAHA PORT FACILITY**

Ignoring the calls from the governments of Okinawa Prefecture and Naha City to cancel the training, the US Marine Corps in Okinawa forced through their large-scale training at Naha Port Facility (Naha Military Port) for six (6) days from February 8 to 13, 2022. The training included the use of CH-53E large transport helicopters and MV-22 Osprey. It was confirmed that the Marine Corps personnel were armed with automatic weapons as they engaged in security drills and exercises, assuming the presence of civilian protesters holding placards. This military training has caused great concern to the local residents and citizens of Okinawa.

The Naha Port Facility is situated in the central part of Naha City, where many civilian aircraft arrive at and depart from the nearby Naha Airport. If there were to be an aircraft incident such as crashes, parts falling from aircraft, or other such accidents, it would be an irreparable disaster. Similar military training has not been confirmed at the Naha Port Facility in the past. Holding such exercises only compels the people of Okinawa Prefecture to shoulder another new military base burden, which is totally unacceptable.

According to the 1972 agreement between Japan and the U.S. (“the 5.15 memo”) which set the conditions for the use of military bases when Okinawa was reverted to Japan, the primary purpose of the Naha Port Facility is described as “port facilities and oil storage.” It is clear that military drills and exercises using U.S. military aircraft deviate from the primary purpose.

On the other hand, it is regrettable that the Government of Japan has ratified the holding of this military training by describing it as “a training believed to be relevant to the assumed operations of the port and is following the main purpose of the Naha Port Facility.”

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa’s administrative rights to Japan. The Government of Japan must strongly call for the fundamental revision of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement which permits the U.S. forces to use the military bases freely.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly strongly protests this recent military training and calls for the prompt execution of the following two (2) items.

1. To return the Naha Port Facility at the earliest possible stages without reinforcing military base functions such as takeoffs and landings and trainings of U.S. military aircraft.
2. To fundamentally revise the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement which allows the U.S. forces to use the military bases on Okinawa freely.

The above is resolved as stated on this 30th day of March 2022.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly