

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
US FORCES CV-22 OSPREY CRASH
OFF THE COAST OF YAKUSHIMA ISLAND, KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE**

At approximately 2:50 PM on November 29, 2023, a truly tragic accident occurred when a CV-22 Osprey stationed at the US Yokota Air Base crashed off the shores of Yakushima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, killing all eight crew members on board.

The aircraft was en route from Yokota Air Base in Tokyo to Kadena Air Base by way of MCAS Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture when it crashed, and this serious accident could have led to a disastrous one involving residents. There were 13 CV-22 Osprey flights to Kadena Air Base confirmed in 2022, and 22 flights as of November 1, 2023, extending the risk of accidents involving this type of aircraft to Okinawa Prefecture. This recent accident sends anxiety and fear to not only the citizens of Okinawa Prefecture, where the residents have no choice but to live next to US Forces bases, but to the rest of the Japanese citizens, and this is extremely regrettable.

The Osprey, a tiltrotor aircraft with vertical takeoff and landing capabilities, has seen repeated crashes and other accidents in various locations in recent years, including at the coast of Abu in Nago City, in Norway, California in the US, and off the shores of Australia. In addition, it is difficult to say that the Osprey is a safe aircraft as there has been a spate of emergency landings at airports within Okinawa Prefecture and other areas in Japan, due to malfunctions in the aircraft. Moreover, the anxiety and distrust felt among the people of Okinawa to the management and operational frameworks of the US Forces only increased when several flights of the MV-22 Osprey were confirmed in Okinawa only a day after this accident.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has repeatedly called upon the US Forces and relevant agencies for thorough investigations and the implementation of preventive measures, but it is sincerely regrettable that accidents continue, and we must strongly point out the deficiencies in the safety management system of the US Forces.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa Prefecture, make our strong protest and call for the prompt execution of the following three items.

1. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident and halt the flights of all Ospreys until effective safety measures and preventive measures are taken.
2. Promptly announce the findings in the investigation of the accident and preventive measures, and at the same time, conduct comprehensive inspections on all US

Forces' aircraft in Okinawa.

3. Make fundamental revisions to the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, and apply Japanese aviation laws to the US Forces.

The above is resolved as stated on this 7th day of December, 2023.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly

U.S. Ambassador to Japan

Commander, United States Forces Japan

Okinawa Area Coordinator, U.S. Forces Japan

Commander, The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force

Consul General of the United States to Naha, Okinawa