

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
OVER THE
INCIDENT OF A WINDOW FALLING FROM A
US FORCES CH-53E LARGE TRANSPORT HELICOPTER**

At approximately 5:30 PM on August 27, an incident occurred in which a window from a US Forces' CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter, measuring 58 centimeters by 47 centimeters in size, and approximately one (1) kilogram in weight, fell into the seas eight (8) kilometers from the eastern coast of Okinawa Island.

This recent accident could have led to a very serious outcome involving lives and properties, and causes great concern to the citizens of Okinawa Prefecture. Furthermore, the system regarding the reporting of such incidents is seen as problematic, as this incident was not reported to the Prefecture and relevant local authorities by the Japanese Government until two (2) days after it occurred.

Each time an incident occurs, including the time when a window fell onto the grounds of Futenma Daini Elementary School in December of 2017 and when an aircraft part fell onto the grounds of Uranishi Junior High School in June of this year, we have called for preventive measures, thorough investigations into the causes of the accidents, and for operations at MCAS Futenma to cease. Despite our calls, similar accidents have happened repeatedly, and this stance of the US Forces is absolutely unacceptable.

Moreover, another problem lies in how operations are continuing today at MCAS Futenma despite the time limit has passed for its operations to cease, which was set to be at the end of February 2019.

The US Forces and both governments of the United States and Japan must take the abnormal situation in Okinawa Prefecture, where parts are frequently falling from US Forces aircraft, with a sense of urgency, and do the utmost to address and dispel the concerns of the residents of our Prefecture.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the incident in which a window from a US Forces CH-53E large transport helicopter was dropped, and call for the prompt execution of the following four (4) items.

1. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incident, the reporting system and other relevant issues, and promptly disclose the findings to the people of the Prefecture, and at the same time, take specific steps to prevent recurrences.
2. Cease flights and exercises of US military aircraft above nurseries, schools, hospitals, and residences.
3. Immediately halt operations at MCAS Futenma, and proceed with its closure and removal.
4. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement. In particular, eliminate the "Act on Special Provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act upon the enforcement of the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement", and comply with the aviation laws of Japan.

The above is resolved as stated on this 18th day of September, 2019.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly