

**RESOLUTION OF PROTEST  
OVER THE  
INCIDENT OF AN AIRCRAFT PART FALLING FROM A  
US FORCES FA-18 FIGHTER/ATTACKER**

On February 12, 2020, an incident occurred in which a US Forces FA-18 fighter/attack aircraft stationed at MCAS Iwakuni dropped its fuel panel into the seas near Kadena Air Base. Furthermore, despite confirming on the same day that the aircraft part was dropped, the US Forces reported the incident to relevant local authorities only on the following day.

We have been seeing an abnormal situation since last year, in which a string of similar incidents in a short span of time, where US military aircraft have been dropping objects and parts, such as a torque tube, supplies dropped on to civilian property during parachute training, and mortar flares falling on to private property.

The dangerous circumstances in which objects are falling from the skies in such frequency are a cause of great concern for the people of the Prefecture, who are forced to live in close proximity to US Forces bases. Although damages from these incidents have not been confirmed, this does not make these incidents admissible.

With each occurrence of accidents and incidents where aircraft parts were dropped from US Forces aircraft, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has strongly called for investigations into the cause of the accidents and incidents and the implementation of preventive measures to be conducted in a thorough manner. Despite our calls, it is truly regrettable that such accidents have taken place one after another, and this situation is absolutely unacceptable.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, properties, and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the recent incident, and call for the prompt execution of the following four items.

1. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause(s) of the incident and promptly disclose the findings to the people of Okinawa Prefecture.
2. Cease flights and flight exercises/drills of all aircraft of the same model within the Prefecture until safety and measures for preventing recurrence are implemented.
3. Thoroughly review the aircraft maintenance and inspection framework in place and make greater efforts to prevent accidents from occurring.
4. Eliminate the “Act on Special Provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act upon the enforcement of the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement,” in order to apply aviation laws that establish the safety and other issues involving flights of aircraft, and fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement.

The above is resolved as stated on this 6th day of March, 2020.

**Okinawa Prefectural Assembly**