

Resolution of Protest
OVER
THE CRASH OF A U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTER
INTO A CIVILIAN AREA

On the thirteenth of August, at around 2:15 p.m., a serious and major accident took place when a large U.S. Marine Corps CH-53D transport helicopter crashed on the grounds of Okinawa International University in Ginowan City.

This U.S. military helicopter dropped its tail rotor over a residential area, and unable to maintain stability, the fuselage began spinning before it struck the University's Administration Building and crashed to the ground where it burst into flames. Part of a rotor and other falling debris from the helicopter scattered over a broad area, both on the campus and throughout the adjacent, densely populated residential areas. Parts broke through the door of a private home, and damaged a moped and cement bloc walls, terrifying university personnel, students, and local residents.

This accident puts the threats from your Futenma installation and U.S. military aircraft into sharp relief. With your aircraft flying over our own City, this danger is not something we can disregard.

Moreover, the crash was followed by the aberrant act of U.S. military personnel cordoning off both crash site and surrounding areas, denying the Okinawa Prefectural Police, fire fighters, and University staff access to any part of area.

MCAS Futenma is in the center of a dense urban concentration; the threat of innocent civilians being caught up in a major disaster is real and one that has clearly and often been brought to your attention.

With each accident, the U.S. military authorities and the Government of Japan have announced efforts to "prevent reoccurrence" and to implement "comprehensive safety measures." Yet the same types of accidents repeatedly occur.

Therefore, we of the Naha City Assembly, acting on our responsibility to protect the lives and property of our citizens and the people of Okinawa, do most vehemently protest this accident and call for the implementation of the following:

DETAILS

- I. A complete cessation to U.S. military aircraft training and flights over civilian residential areas.
- II. Immediate closure and halt to use of the MCAS Futenma facility, located as it is in the heart of a city.
- III. A scrupulous investigation into the causes and facts of the accident with full compensation to all victims.
- IV. Review the Status of Forces Agreement, to eliminate the root causes of accidents and incidents stemming from U.S. military installations.
- V. To effect the earliest possible return of MCAS Futenma, review and modify the SACO parameters.

The above resolved this eighteenth day of August, 2004.

Naha City Assembly