

Introduction

Okinawa Prefecture understands the need for the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

However, the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, which were established during the Pacific War and expanded through subsequent forcible seizure of land by the U.S. military, comprise approximately 70% of the facilities exclusively used by the U.S. military throughout all of Japan, even today.

The incidents, accidents, noise pollution, environmental issues and other problems that have arisen from these sprawling bases have had a significant impact on the lives of people residing in Okinawa, and just the presence of these bases is the biggest factor inhibiting Okinawa's economic development.

This is the context within which the greatest issue facing Okinawa Prefecture today is the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Relocating Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to a site off the coast of Henoko in Okinawa and building a new base there will not only make permanent the excessive burden that these bases place on Okinawa and the gap vis-à-vis the extent to which such facilities are hosted in mainland Japan, but it will also lead to the destruction of a natural environment that is deemed internationally to be very precious.

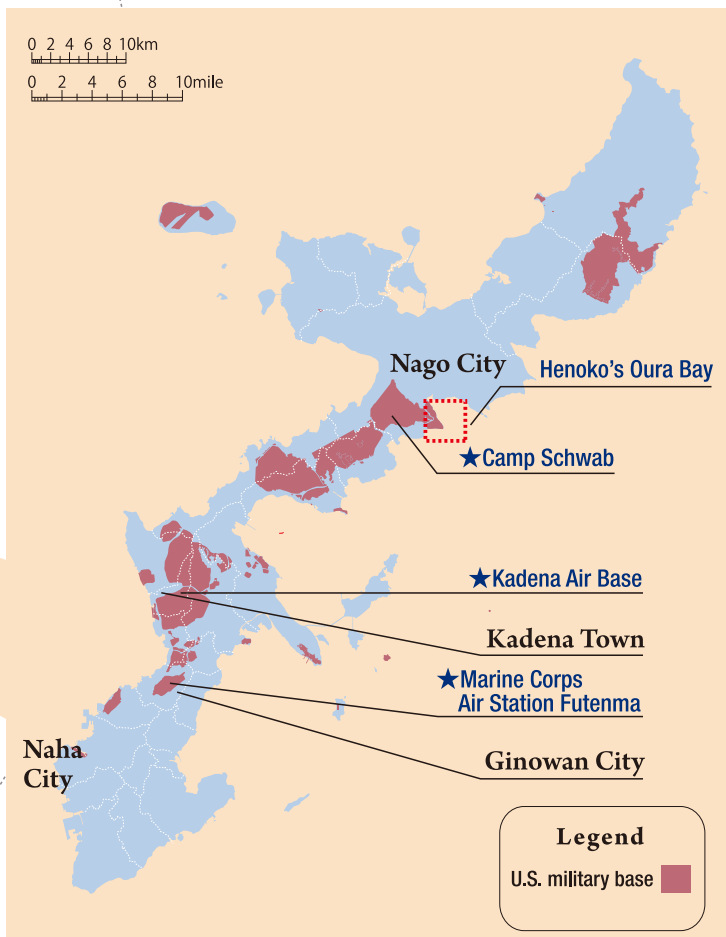
The people of Okinawa Prefecture have continued to demonstrate their popular will in opposition to the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa through numerous elections where this plan has been the central issue.

Because of these facts, Okinawa Prefecture opposes this plan. Both the Japanese and U.S. governments need to think seriously about the impact that imposes this plan on Okinawa will have without the consent of the people of Okinawa Prefecture – the very same people who have continuously shouldered an excessive burden of the U.S. military facilities that support the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

In addition, with the security situation today in East Asia in flux as China increases its military prominence, North Korea develops missiles and other significant changes take place, prominent figures in Japan and the United States have argued that the plan should be reviewed from a strategic perspective as well.

Shouldn't both the Japanese and U.S. governments make an effort to review the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma relocation plan so that a more stable Japan-U.S. security arrangement may be constructed?

We hope that this pamphlet will provide you with a chance to consider this issue.



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