

Section 1 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

(5) Marine Corps Air Station Futenma

The area around the airfield is a densely populated residential area. Ginowan City where the base is located is home to 98,000 people. There are 15 elementary and junior high schools, four high schools and one university. A large population is concentrated in this urban area.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is located in the center and has been called the world's most dangerous base. On August 13, 2004, a large helicopter crashed on the campus of Okinawa International University. This accident among other events have caused tremendous anxieties among the people living in the surrounding community.

Moreover, night training is still conducted after 10:00pm, the time when flights are restricted to reduce aircraft noise. The people living in the vicinity of the airfield have no other choice but to go about their daily lives together with the noise pollution, aircraft accidents as well as other dangers emanating from the airfield.

(6) Reasons Why the Issue of the Relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Is Not Resolved

In April 1996, then Prime Minister Hashimoto and Ambassador Mondale held a joint press conference where they announced the complete return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. However, the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) Final Report released in December 1996 set relocation of the base within the prefecture as a condition for its return, which was decided without the consent of the people of Okinawa. This is the reason why the base relocation issue has still not been resolved until today.



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is located in the middle of Ginowan City and divides the city in an east-west direction.