

## Q1

### What Does the Okinawa Prefectural Government Think of the Relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangement?

The Okinawa Prefectural Government believes that the Japan-U.S. security arrangement has contributed to maintaining peace and stability in Japan and East Asia, and we understand the significance of this arrangement.

However, today with the security situation 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 relocation plan should be reassessed to also adopt a strategic perspective.

Even though 72 years have passed since the end of the war, approximately 70.4% of the facilities exclusively used by the U.S. military continue to be located in Okinawa Prefecture, which accounts for only 0.6% of Japan's total land area. Constructing a new base at Henoko, which will likely be used for the next 100 or 200 years, makes permanent this excessive burden as well as the gap in responsibility between Okinawa Prefecture and mainland Japan. For the people of Okinawa Prefecture, this is totally unacceptable.

The public will of Okinawan people opposing relocation to Henoko has been demonstrated in a series of elections, including the Nago mayoral, Okinawa gubernatorial, and Japan House of Representatives elections in 2014 as well as the prefectural assembly and Japan House of Councillors elections in 2016. The central issue in all of these elections was the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko.

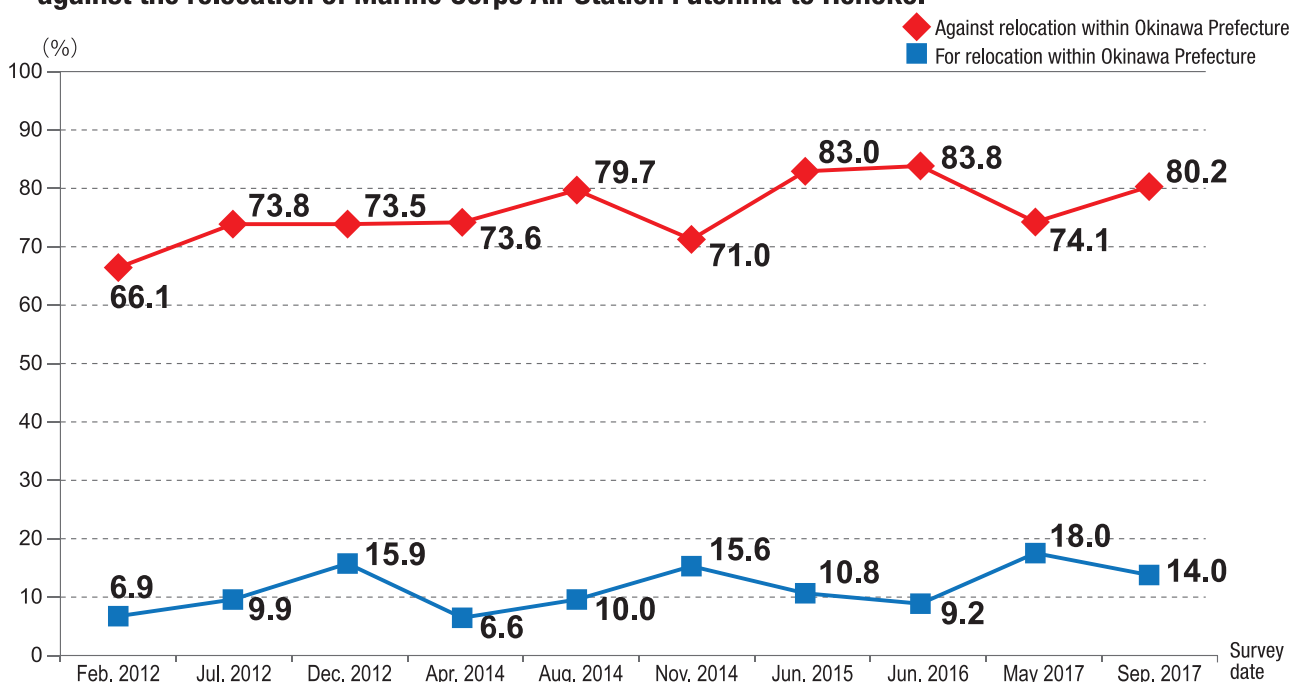
In addition, many precious species have been identified in the waters of Henoko's Oura Bay, the proposed relocation site. If the waters are reclaimed for this new base, this precious natural environment will be lost forever.

Okinawa has never once provided a site for a base of its own volition. While the Okinawan people were held in concentration camps when the U.S. military occupied Okinawa after the war, the U.S. military tore down houses and destroyed fields to build bases. Even after Japan regained its sovereignty in 1952, Okinawa remained under U.S. occupation. Armed soldiers forcibly confiscated people's land and other areas in a "bayonets and bulldozers" operation so that bases could continue to be constructed one after another without any regard for the thoughts of the Okinawan people.

It is simply outrageous that the Japanese and U.S. governments intend to further burden the people of Okinawa, whose lands were taken from them by the U.S. military during and after the war and have truly suffered ever since, with another base at Henoko to replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which has become superannuated and is the world's most dangerous base, because these governments claim Henoko is the only solution.

It is for these reasons that the Okinawa Prefectural Government opposes the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko.

■ (Change in) Percentage of Okinawa Prefecture residents for and against the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko.



\*1 Survey conducted by Ryukyu Shimpo newspaper

\*2 Figure for those against relocation within Okinawa Prefecture is the total for those in favor of relocation outside Okinawa Prefecture, relocation outside Japan, and the unconditional closure and removal of the base.