

Governor's Comments

Letters to the U.S. Government concerning Prompt Suspension of Operations at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma

Prompt elimination of the dangers posed by MCAS Futenma is an urgent matter, and the Okinawa Prefectural Government has demanded that the government of Japan should work towards prompt elimination of the dangers, regardless of the progress of the relocation to Henoko, in the Council for Promoting the Alleviation of the Burden of Futenma Air Station and in other occasions.

However, the suspension of operation within five years, as originally promised, was not even realized, the number of flights of visiting aircraft has increased at the air station, and the aircraft noise has significantly increased. We must say that the situation is considerably worse than reducing the burden.

In regard to the relocation to Henoko, the only solution according to the government, more than 70% of the total votes demonstrated their overwhelming opposition against the plan in the prefectural referendum conducted in this February.

Additionally, the existence of extremely soft ground, which is described as soft as mayonnaise, has been confirmed and the construction period is uncertain. Therefore, it became clear that the relocation to Henoko will not lead to prompt elimination of the dangers posed by the air station.

Given these circumstances, I decided to send letters with the thought that I would like to directly convey my thoughts to the United States government in order to realize the prompt elimination of the dangers posed by MCAS Futenma.

We would like to ask the United States government to take the will of Okinawan people seriously and to make steps towards prompt elimination of dangers, including the immediate suspension of operations at MCAS Futenma.

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