

RESOLUTION OF PROTEST
CALLING FOR THE
ENFORCEMENT OF STRICT OFFICIAL DISCIPLINE AMONG
US MILITARY PERSONNEL

Since the end of October of this year in Okinawa Prefecture, we have seen frequent occurrences of crimes committed by US Forces service members such as driving without a license, driving under the influence of alcohol, incidents resulting in injury, and robbery. Into December, a US Marine Corps personnel who caused a collision was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol after tests indicated a blood alcohol level that was approximately four times the legal limit.

Furthermore, a Marine Corps service member stationed in Okinawa was arrested on November 8, for assaulting a taxi driver by choking him, stealing cash and the taxi, and causing an accident in the stolen taxi as the service member drove under the influence of alcohol. This is a particularly atrocious incident and is absolutely unacceptable. The spike in incidents and accidents in such a short span of time is abnormal, and the outrageous actions of the US military service members are a far cry from being good neighbors to the residents of Okinawa.

With each occurrence of incidents and/or accidents caused by US service members, we have strongly called for the enforcement of strict discipline and implementation of preventive measures to the US Forces and other related bodies, yet, since the end of October, many of the incidents and accidents involving US military personnel have happened while those involved were in violation of the Liberty Policy that the US Forces has established to regulate late-night liberty and/or drinking. Looking at such circumstances, it must be said that the training and managements system of the US Forces is insufficient.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives and properties of the people of Okinawa, solemnly protest these recent incidents and accidents, and call for the prompt execution of the following four items.

1. Offer apologies and complete compensation to the victims and their families.
2. Enforce strict disciplinary measures to US Forces service members and implement preventive measures that are effective.
3. Comply with the off-duty liberty guidelines (Liberty Policy).
4. Execute fundamental revisions in the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement.

The above is resolved as stated on this 21st day of December, 2020.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly