

RESOLUTION OF PROTEST OVER THE US FORCES F-15 FIGHTER JET CRASH

At approximately 6:26 AM on June 11, an F-15 fighter jet stationed at Kadena Air Base crashed into the sea approximately 80 kilometers south of Naha City.

The waters surrounding the site of the crash is known to be favorable fishing grounds for tuna and diamondback squid. This crash may have led to tragic results involving fishermen, and it has caused great anxiety and fear among those in the fishing industry and to the citizens of the Prefecture.

With this recent crash, we have seen a total of ten (10) F-15 fighter jets thus far, including the April 1994 crash into the Kadena Ammunition Storage Area, and the crashes in the waters surrounding Okinawa Island in August 2002, January 2006, and May 2013. The concern and fear among the people of the Prefecture had been heightened with the September 2016 crash in Kunigami Village of the AV-8 Harrier attack aircraft not stationed in Okinawa, and with this recent crash, we are compelled to question the aircraft maintenance and inspection conducted by the US Forces.

Furthermore, seen at Kadena Air Base is a succession of flights by aircraft not stationed there, and the residents in the surrounding areas are living with concerns that such conditions are going to be permanent, and their peaceful living is being heavily disrupted with the intense noise of aircraft.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly has sternly addressed the safety framework of the US Forces with the repeated accidents and incidents involving US military aircraft, and yet, the US Forces resume the aircraft drills and exercises without improving on the situation. This is absolutely unacceptable. Sufficient explanation regarding the recent accident was also not disclosed, and still, exercises resumed only two (2) days later. We cannot help but feel strong indignation with such approach of the US Forces.

The people of our Prefecture cannot be left to live in fear because of the base presence any further, and we strongly urge the US Force and both governments of Japan and the US to do their utmost to dispel the concerns of the Prefecture's residents.

To that end, we, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in our duty to protect the lives, safety and the living environment of the people of Okinawa, strongly protest the recent accident and call for the prompt execution of the following five items.

- I. Conduct a thorough investigation into the cause(s) of the accident and promptly disclose the findings to the people of the Prefecture.
- II. Cease flights of all aircraft not stationed within the Prefecture.
- III. Immediately cease the resumed flights of the F-15 fighter jets until thorough investigation into the cause(s) of the accident is conducted and the findings are disclosed and explained.
- IV. Fundamentally revise the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement. In particular, eliminate the “Act on Special Provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act upon the enforcement of the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement”, and comply with the aviation laws of Japan.
- V. Conduct an assessment survey concerning the impact on the fishing industry in the surrounding waters of the crash.

The above is resolved as stated on this 19th day of June, 2018.

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly