

U.S. Military Base Issues in Okinawa

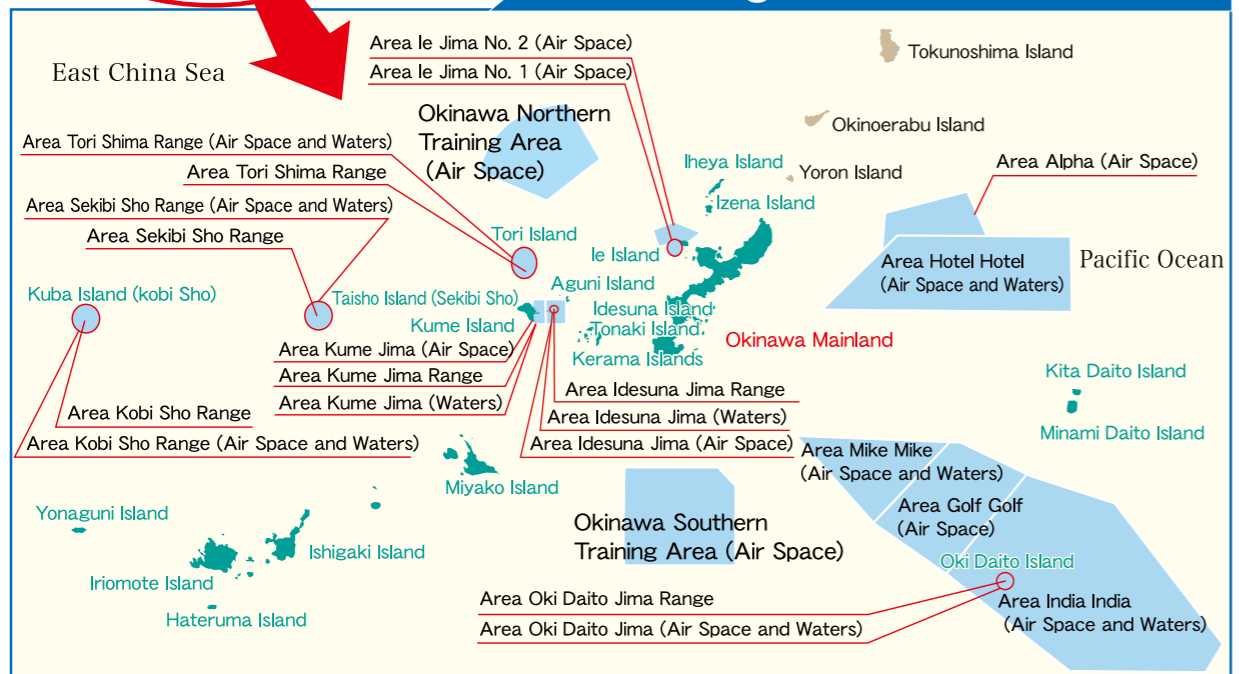


(Photos Provided by Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Air Spaces / Water Areas Used for U.S. Forces Training in Japan



Training Areas in Okinawa



20 areas of airspace and 28 areas of water around Okinawa remain under the control of U.S. military forces. As a result, there are restrictions on the fishery industry and on commercial air traffic such as takeoff and landing.

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Okinawan History



Royal crown: Sho royal family heirlooms (from the 18th to the 19th century A.D.) (property of the Naha City Museum of History)



Style of Tang clothing: heirlooms of the Sho royal family (from the 18th to the 19th century A.D.) (property of the Naha City Museum of History)

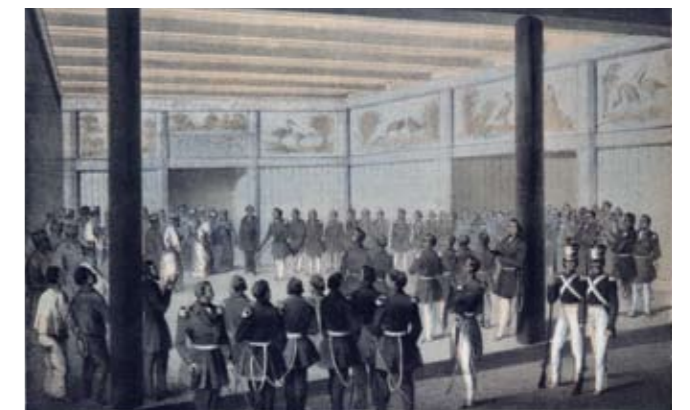


The original Shuri Castle Seiden bell (Bridge between nations bell) (in 1458) (property of the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum)

The Kingdom of Ryukyu, the independent nation of Okinawa, was established in 1429, even before Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. After that, the Kingdom of Ryukyu prospered for 450 years until 1879, governing its islands and trading with neighboring countries including China, one of the major powers in Asia. In 1609, Ryukyu was invaded by Satsuma Han forces and incorporated into mainland Japan's Tokugawa Era "bakuhan" feudal regime. Okinawa prefecture was created in 1879 when Japan's new Meiji government abolished hans (feudal domains). During the Pacific War, the people of Okinawa were engulfed in the war's only land battle on Japanese territory. After the war, America retained control of Okinawa until 1972 when sovereignty reverted to Japan.



Construction of Futenma Air Station (in 1945) (property of the Okinawa Prefectural Archives)



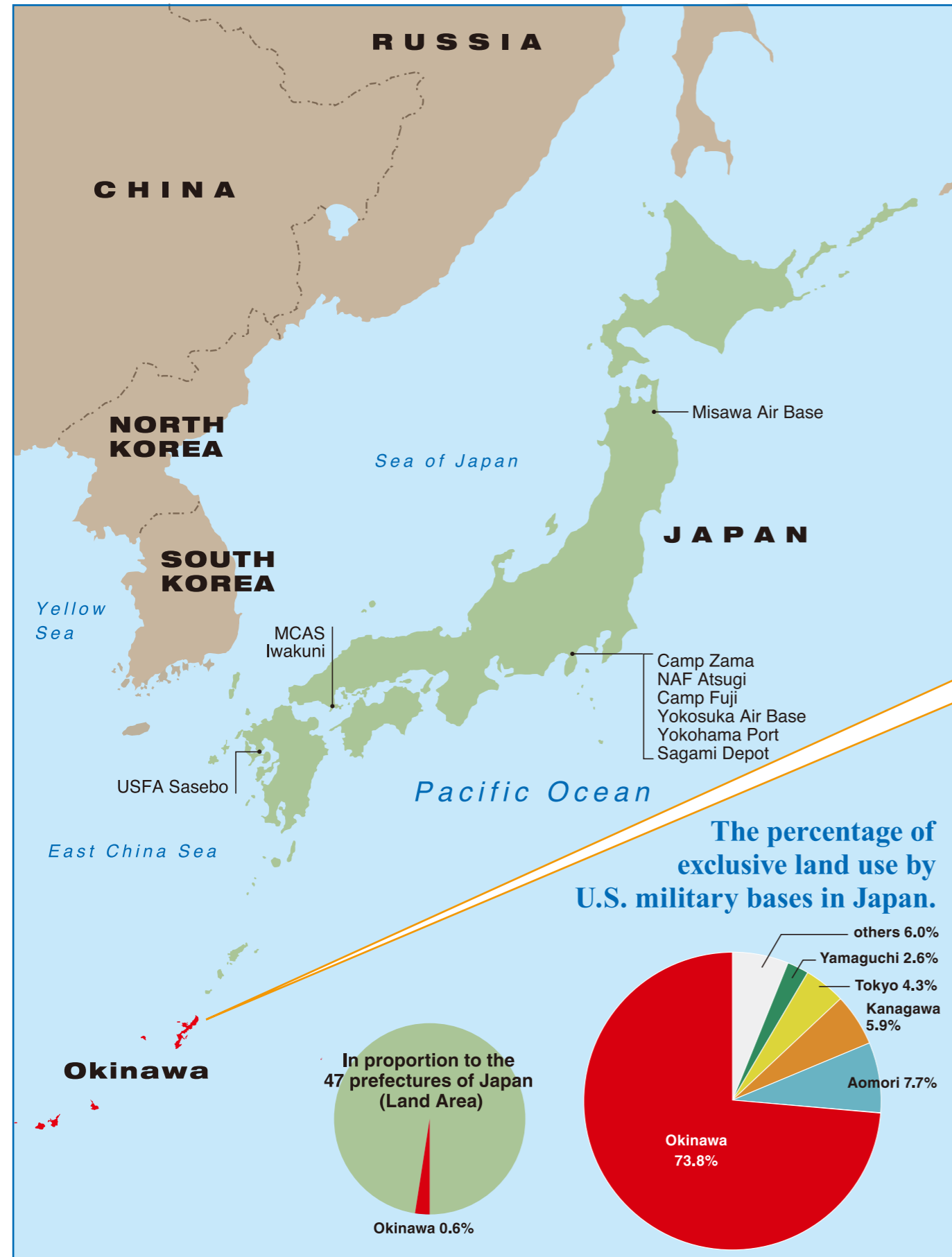
Welcoming Commodore Perry's party at Shuri Castle: Narrative of the expedition of an American squadron to the China seas and Japan (Published 1856) (property of the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum)



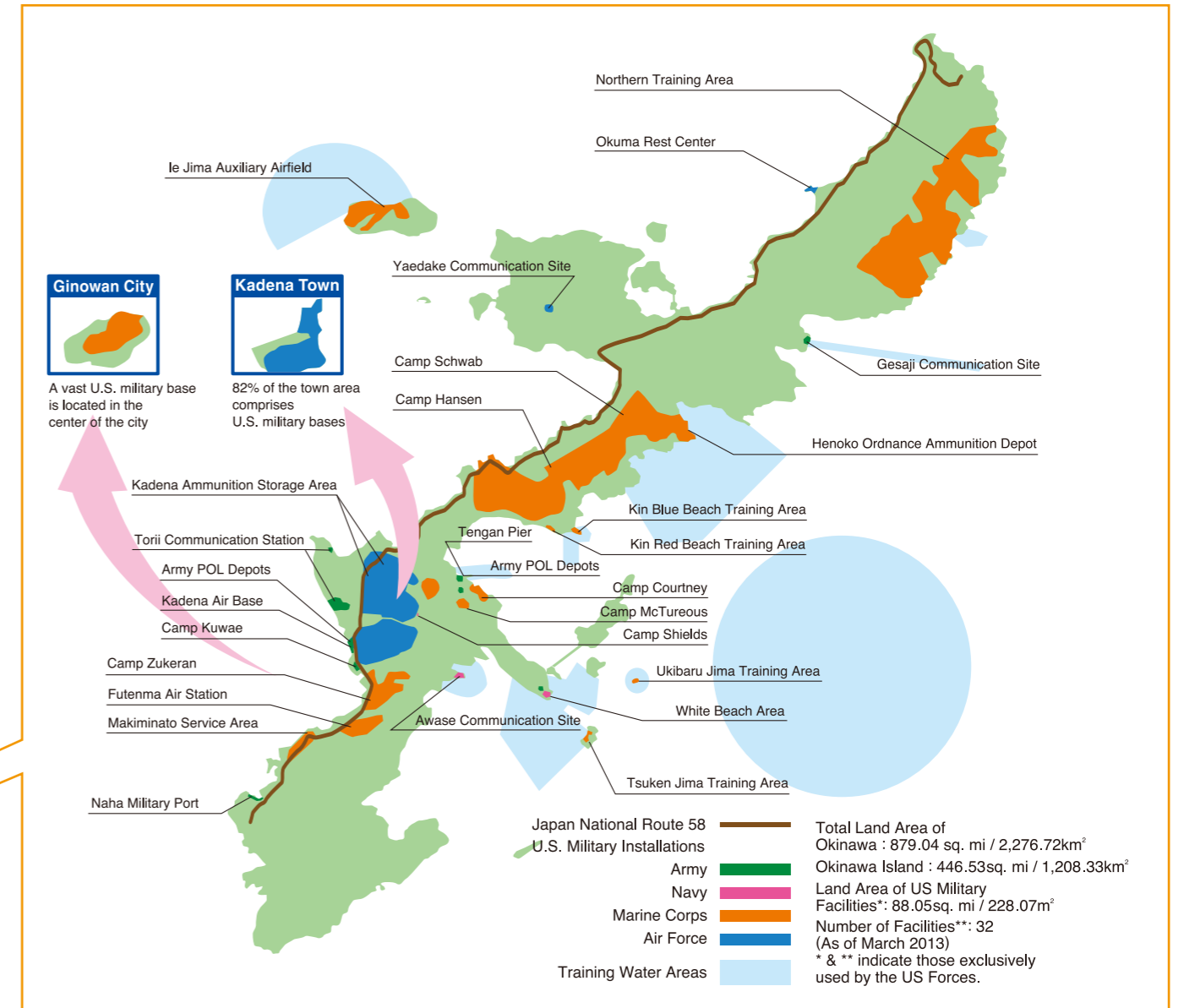
An illustration of Shuri and Naha Port (Eight-fold screen) (19th century A.D.) (property of the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum)

U.S. Military Bases and Facilities on Okinawa Island & Its Vicinity

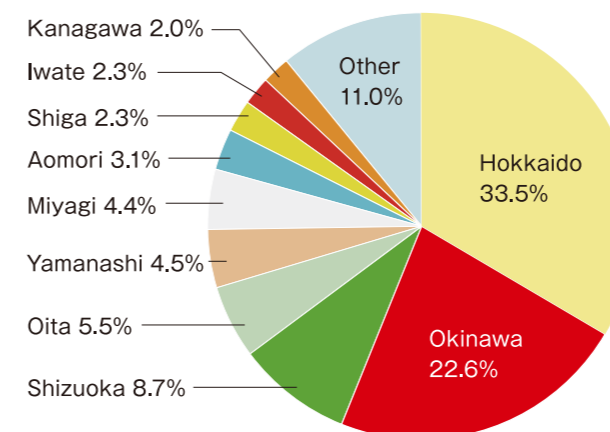
74% of U.S. Military Exclusive Facilities are Concentrated on Okinawa, which is 0.6% of Japanese Land



Over half of U.S. Military Personnel Stationed in Japan is Based in Okinawa



The Percentage of land use by U.S. military bases in Japan (including shared bases with the Japan self-Defense Force)



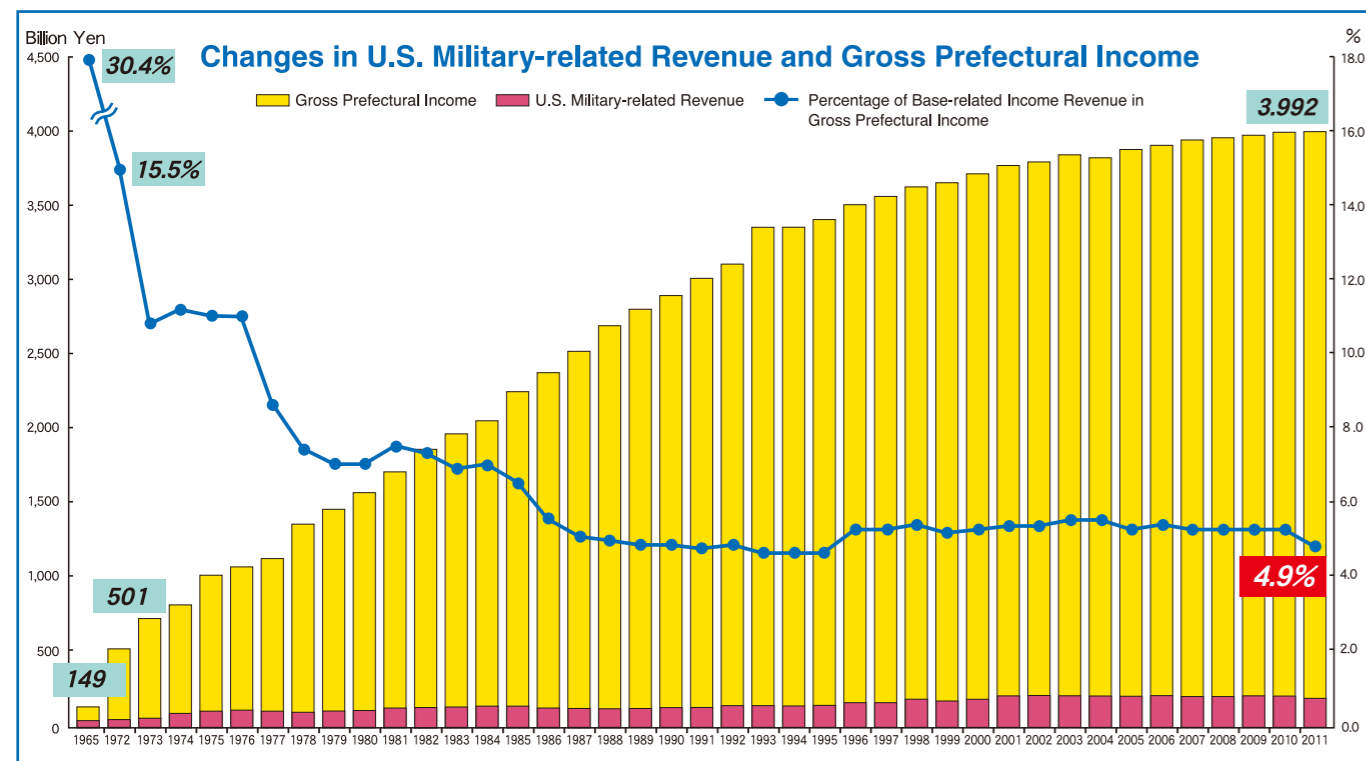
※This may not make a total of 100% due to rounding of numbers.

The Okinawa mainland bears the majority of U.S. bases in Okinawa, which take up about 18% of its total land area. It is home to about 91% of the prefecture's population (1.4 million), and approximately 90% of the island's population is concentrated in the southern half, where various industries are also located.

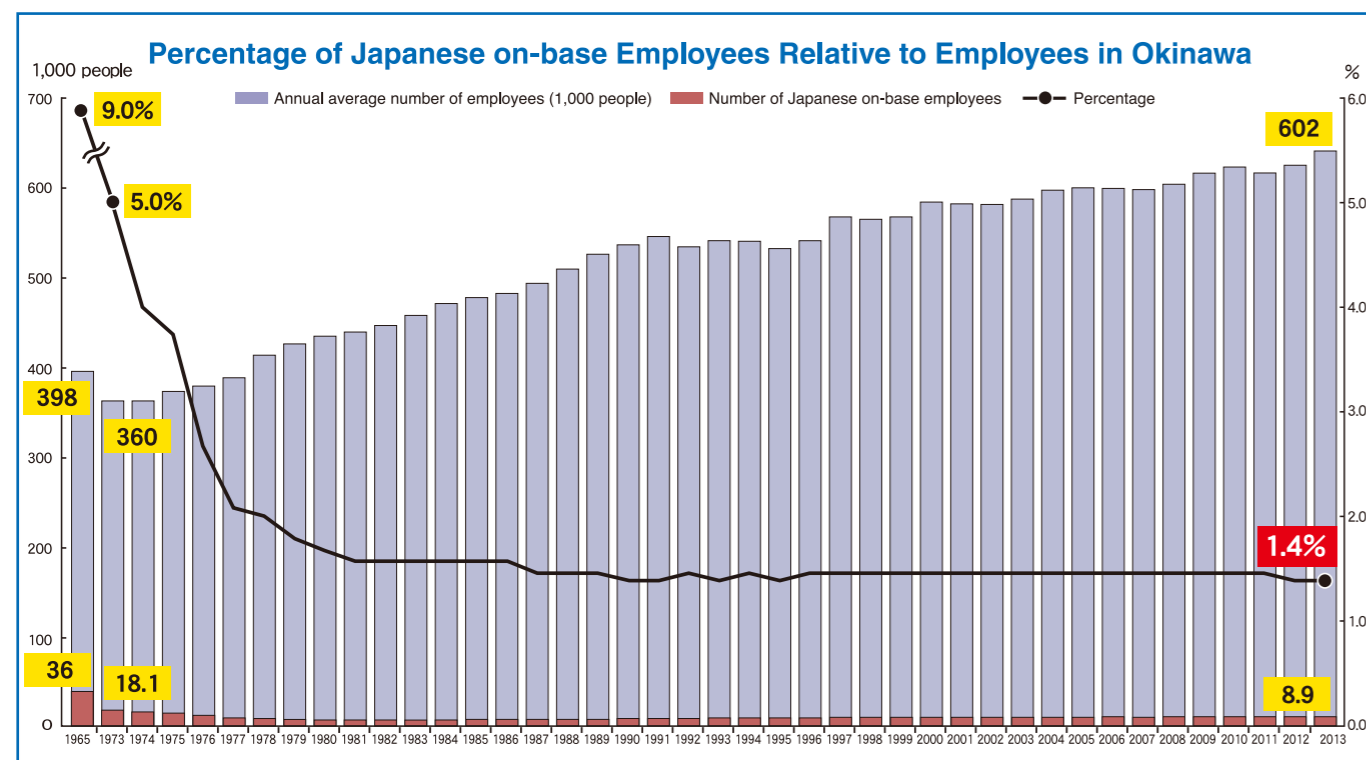
According to the Congressional Research Service Report "Japan-U.S. Relations; Issues for Congress" (January 13, 2015), over half of U.S. Forces Japan military personnel is located in the prefecture.

U.S. Bases and Okinawa's Economy

U.S. Military Accounts for Just 4.9% of the Okinawan Economy, and on-base Japanese Employees Account for Only 1.4% of Employees in Okinawa



Reference: U.S. military-related revenue includes income from services provided to U.S. forces, income of Japanese on-base employees, and income from leasing land. "U.S. Military Base and Japan Self-Defense Force Bases in Okinawa (Book of statistics)", Military Base Affairs Division, Executive Office of the Governor. The data for 1965 is taken from "Current Situation and Issues on the Diversion of U.S. Military Base Land Use" (March, 1977)



Reference: U.S. Military Base and Japan Self-Defense Force (number of Japanese on-base employees), and Planning Labor Force Survey of the Okinawa Prefectural Government (annual average number of employees). The statistics on the number of Japanese on-base employees are from the end of March every year. The data for 1965 is taken from "Annual Book of Statistics Vol.15" (1970)

U.S. Military Bases Constrain Local Governance, Transportation, and Land-use, and Land Return Guarantees Great Development

Okinawa's present economy is not as dependent on base-related revenue as before. The return of bases located in the central and southern regions of Okinawa Island has resulted in positive economic effects and has had great impacts on the prefecture's economy and employment.

1. Shintoshin Area in Naha City (Former Makiminato Housing Area)



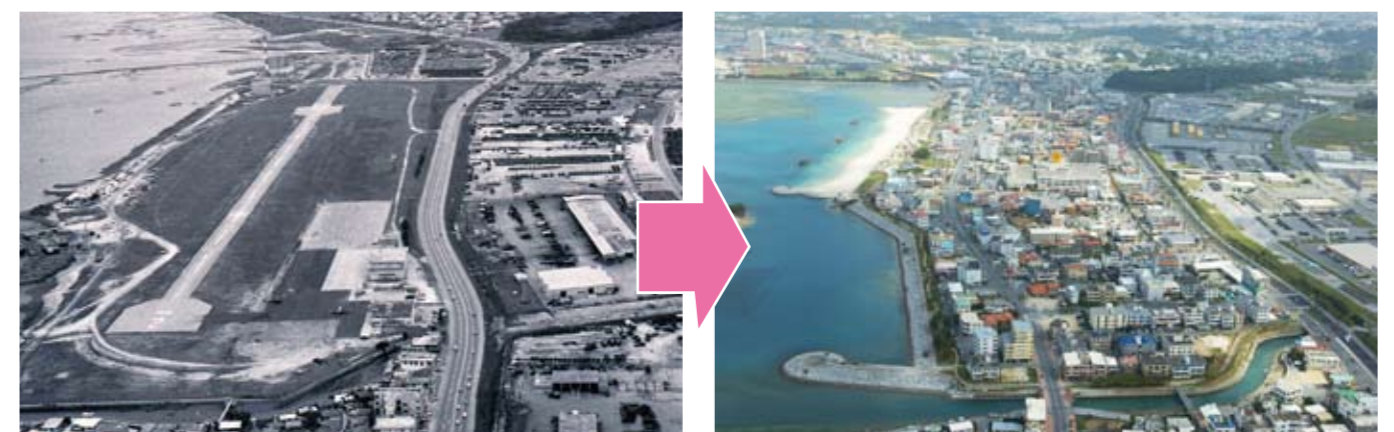
Pre-return

- Number of employees: 168 people
- Direct economic effect : 5.2 billion yen
- Tax revenue expected to increase: 0.6 billion yen

Post-return

- 15,560 people **x 93**
- 163.4 billion yen **x 32**
- 19.9 billion yen **x 31**

2. Kitamae District in Chatan Town (Former Hamby Airfield)



(Photos Provided by Okinawa Times)

Pre-return

- Number of employees: 0
- Direct economic effect : 0.3 billion yen
- Tax revenue expected to increase: 0.04 billion yen

Post-return

- 3,368 people **significant increase**
- 33.6 billion yen **x 108**
- 4 billion yen **x 94**

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Said to be the Most Dangerous Base in the World

It is located in the midst of a densely populated area and does not have established clear zones, which are necessary for safety in the areas near the runway. Schools, hospitals and other public facilities surround the Air Station, together with a great number of private homes.

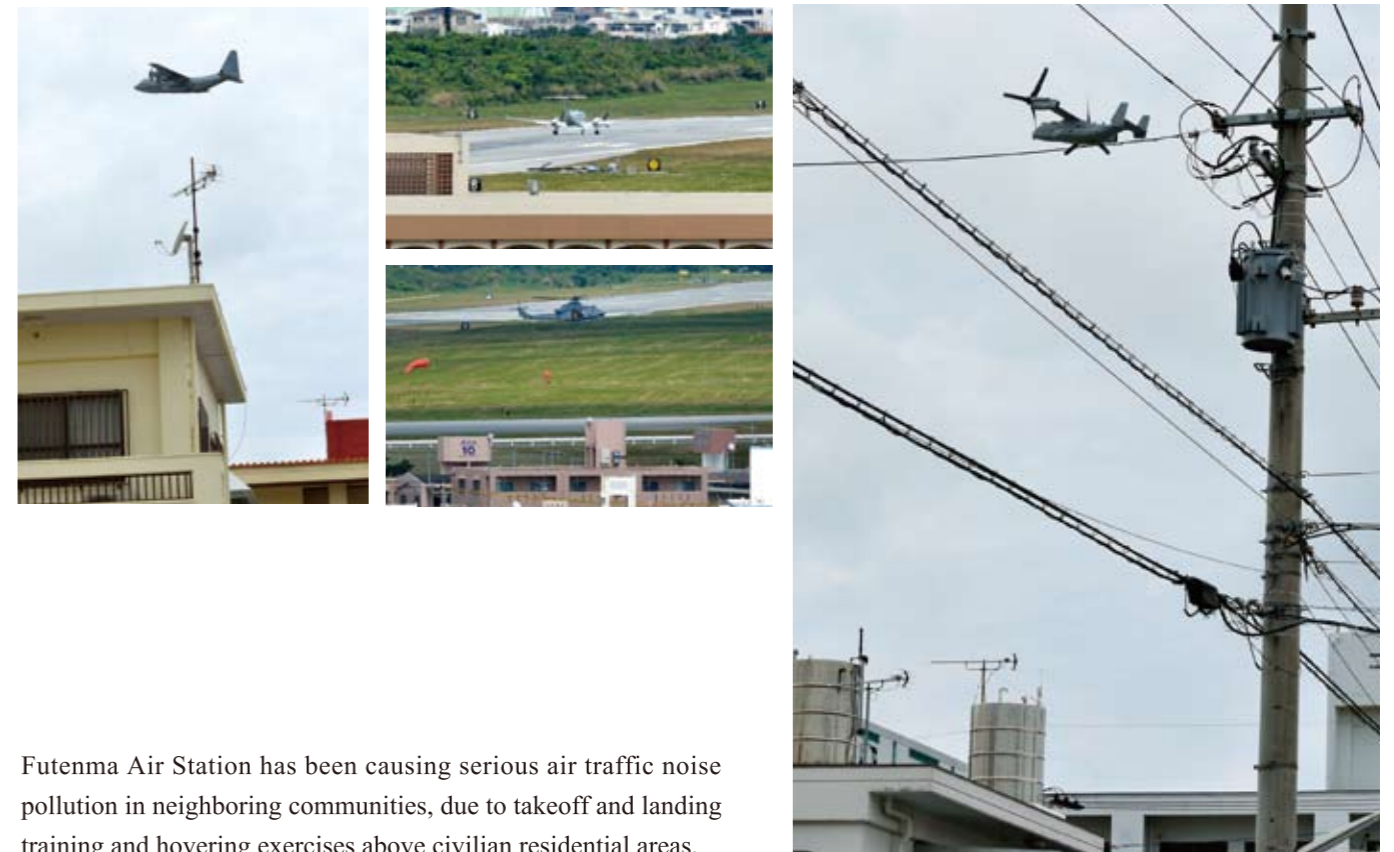


On August 13, 2004, a US Marine Corps CH-53D helicopter crashed into Okinawa International University.



(Photos Provided by Ginowan City)

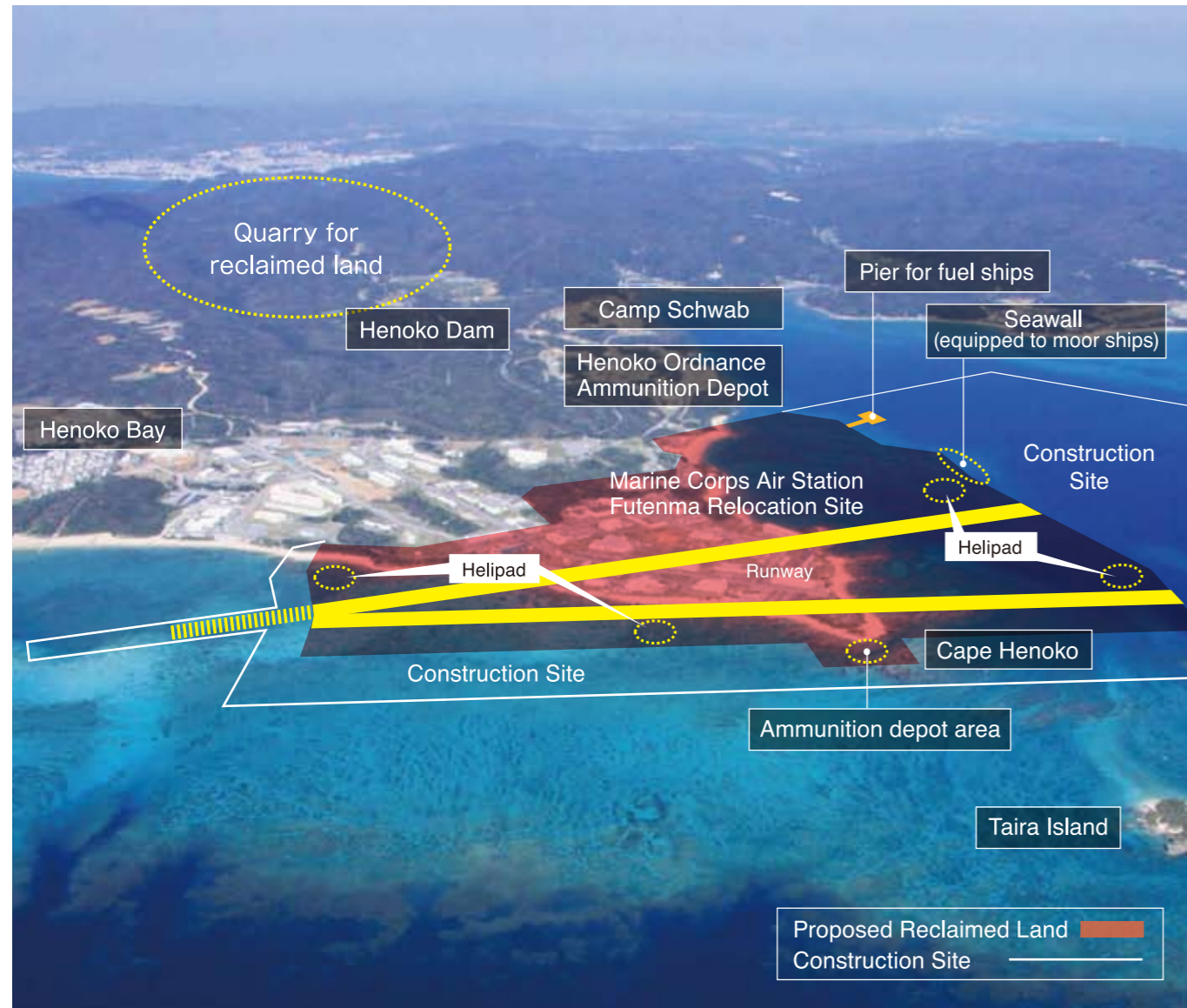
Nearby Residents Forced to Live with Daily Air Traffic Noise and Danger of Plane Crashes



Futenma Air Station has been causing serious air traffic noise pollution in neighboring communities, due to takeoff and landing training and hovering exercises above civilian residential areas.

The Plan to Relocate MCAS Futenma to the Henoko District of Nago

The Ocean that Provides a Home for Endangered Species (Dugongs, Green Turtles, etc.)



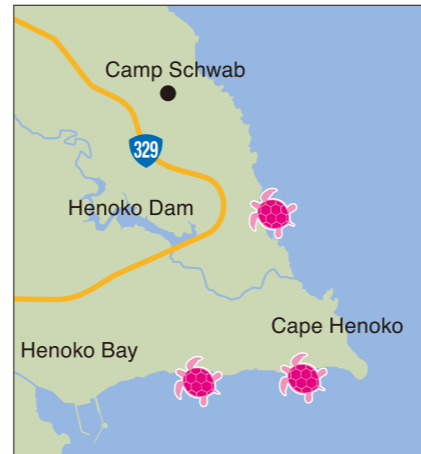
Henoko Bay



Dugong living offshore of Henoko Bay
(Photo Provided by Kyodo News)



Coral reefs living in colonies in Henoko Bay
(Photos Provided by Okinawa Times)



Sea turtle egg-laying area

The Plan to Reclaim Land from the Ocean that is Home to Endangered Species has not Gained the Okinawan People's Approval



People take part in a mass rally demanding relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma outside of Okinawa. Yomitan Sports Park, April 2010
(Photos Provided by Okinawa Times)



Citizens protesting against relocation of the Air Station to Henoko Bay
(Photos Provided by Okinawa Times)

For 70 years since the end of the war, Okinawa has been bearing the burden of U.S. military bases on the island and has been contributing to the national security of both the U.S. and Japan. However, with population increase and economic development, the existence of U.S. military bases acts as a barrier to growth, as Okinawa has 74% of U.S. Japan-based military facilities squeezed into just 0.6% of national land. To sustain these conditions is impossible. Since national security is an issue for all the people of Japan to consider, Okinawa Prefectural Government demands the relocation of Futenma Air Station to outside of Okinawa.