

# What Okinawa Wants You to Understand about the U.S. Military Bases

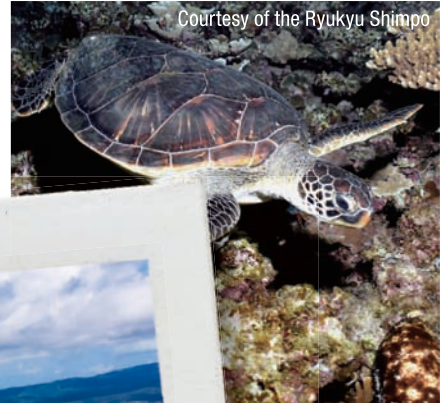
Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin



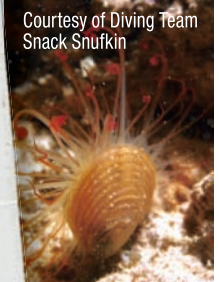
Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpō



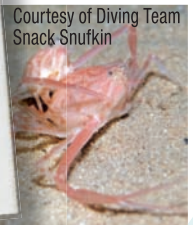
Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpō



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin



■ Illustration of runway



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpō

Over 5,800 species of life, including 262 endangered species, have been identified at Henoko's Oura Bay as well as in the surrounding waters. The Japanese and U.S. governments are working to fill in an area equivalent to 160ha of these precious waters to build a new base where they plan to relocate Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.



Russia

3000km

Mongolia

2000km

Beijing

Pyongyang

Seoul

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea

1000km

People's Republic of China

Shanghai

★Kadena Air Base

★Marine Corps Air Station Futenma

Taipei

Taiwan

Philippines

Manila

**Okinawa Prefecture**  
**Population:**  
**1.44 million**

### Okinawa's location, area, population, etc.

Okinawa Prefecture is to the east of the Asian Continent and on the western edge of the Japanese archipelago.

The prefecture consists of 160 large and small islands (49 inhabited) dotting a vast ocean stretching about 1,000 km (approx. 621 miles) from east to west and about 400 km (approx. 249 miles) from north to south. The islands are located in a subtropical oceanic climate and have an amazing natural environment that includes beautiful coral reefs and precious wildlife.

Historically, for 450 years after the establishment of the Ryukyu Kingdom in 1429 until Okinawa's incorporation as a prefecture of Japan in 1879, the Ryukyuan kings governed the islands of Okinawa, during which a unique culture developed through trade and exchange with China and Southeast Asian countries.

Okinawa's current land area is approximately 563,647 acres (0.6% of Japan's total land area) that is home to a population of approximately 1,440 million. The prefecture has continued enjoying significant development mainly through tourism which is leading industry in the prefecture, and approximately 8.77 million tourists visited the islands in JFY 2016.

It is in this context that, of the entire area exclusively used by U.S. forces throughout all Japan, 70.4% is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture.

Guam

### Okinawa's share of U.S. Military exclusive facilities

0 1000km

0 500mile

Japan's total land area

99.4%

Areas exclusively used by the U.S. Forces

29.6%

Okinawa  
0.6%

Okinawa  
70.4%



## Introduction

Okinawa Prefecture understands the need for the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

However, the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, which were established during the Pacific War and expanded through subsequent forcible seizure of land by the U.S. military, comprise approximately 70% of the facilities exclusively used by the U.S. military throughout all of Japan, even today.

The incidents, accidents, noise pollution, environmental issues and other problems that have arisen from these sprawling bases have had a significant impact on the lives of people residing in Okinawa, and just the presence of these bases is the biggest factor inhibiting Okinawa's economic development.

This is the context within which the greatest issue facing Okinawa Prefecture today is the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Relocating Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to a site off the coast of Henoko in Okinawa and building a new base there will not only make permanent the excessive burden that these bases place on Okinawa and the gap vis-à-vis the extent to which such facilities are hosted in mainland Japan, but it will also lead to the destruction of a natural environment that is deemed internationally to be very precious.

The people of Okinawa Prefecture have continued to demonstrate their popular will in opposition to the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa through numerous elections where this plan has been the central issue.

Because of these facts, Okinawa Prefecture opposes this plan. Both the Japanese and U.S. governments need to think seriously about the impact that imposes this plan on Okinawa will have without the consent of the people of Okinawa Prefecture – the very same people who have continuously shouldered an excessive burden of the U.S. military facilities that support the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

In addition, with the security situation today 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 plan should be reviewed from a strategic perspective as well.

Shouldn't both the Japanese and U.S. governments make an effort to review the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma relocation plan so that a more stable Japan-U.S. security arrangement may be constructed?

We hope that this pamphlet will provide you with a chance to consider this issue.



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## Section 1 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

### 1 History of U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa



Courtesy of the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum

#### 1945: The U.S. military landing on the main island of Okinawa

Okinawa, which has bountiful nature and a unique culture, was reduced to ashes during the Pacific War as a relentless land battle, unparalleled in history, took place with shelling from naval ships and bombardment from the air so fierce that it has been called the "Typhoon of Steel."

Estimates put the amount of unexploded bombs that remain from the fighting at approximately 10,000 tons (roughly 22 million pounds). Even in 2017, approximately 1,985 tons (approximately 4.4 million pounds) are believed to still remain in the ground.



Courtesy of the Okinawa Prefectural Archives

#### 1945: Construction of Futenma Airfield

The U.S. military, which landed on Okinawa, forcibly isolated residents in concentration camps and seized their land to construct a series of new bases. Okinawan people had their land expropriated without any say at all. Those whose land was taken could not return home even if they wanted to and were left with no choice but to settle in the area around the base.



Courtesy of the Wabiai no Sato Foundation

#### 1960: U.S. soldiers marching through town in Okinawa under U.S. rule

After the war, Okinawa was placed under the administration of the United States for 27 years until the prefecture's reversion to Japan in 1972. During this time, the Constitution of Japan did not apply to Okinawa, and the people were unable to even send representatives to the Diet until 1970.

#### 1955: New Base Construction

Even after the Pacific War ended, the U.S. military deemed it necessary to construct new bases due to the outbreak of the Korean War and other changes in world affairs, so they dispatched armed soldiers to forcibly remove residents in the "bayonets and bulldozers" campaign, which destroyed houses and flattened fields so that new bases could be constructed.



Courtesy of the Naha City Museum of History





Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpō

## 1972: Reversion of Okinawa to Japan

When Okinawa reverted to Japan in 1972, the Diet passed a resolution calling for “measures to be taken to promptly reduce and consolidate the U.S. military bases in Okinawa.”

## 1996: SACO Agreement

The rape of an elementary school girl by three U.S. soldiers in 1995 aroused the anger of the Okinawan people, which prompted the Japanese and U.S. governments to agree on the total return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (Ambassador Mondale and then Prime Minister Hashimoto holding a joint press conference)



Courtesy of Kyodo News



Courtesy of the Okinawa Times

## May 2015: Citizens' rally against relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko

Today, 72 years since the war ended, roughly 70.4% of the area exclusively used for U.S. military facilities in Japan is still concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, which only comprises about 0.6% of Japan's total land area. The people of Okinawa Prefecture have expressed their popular will in opposition to the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko.

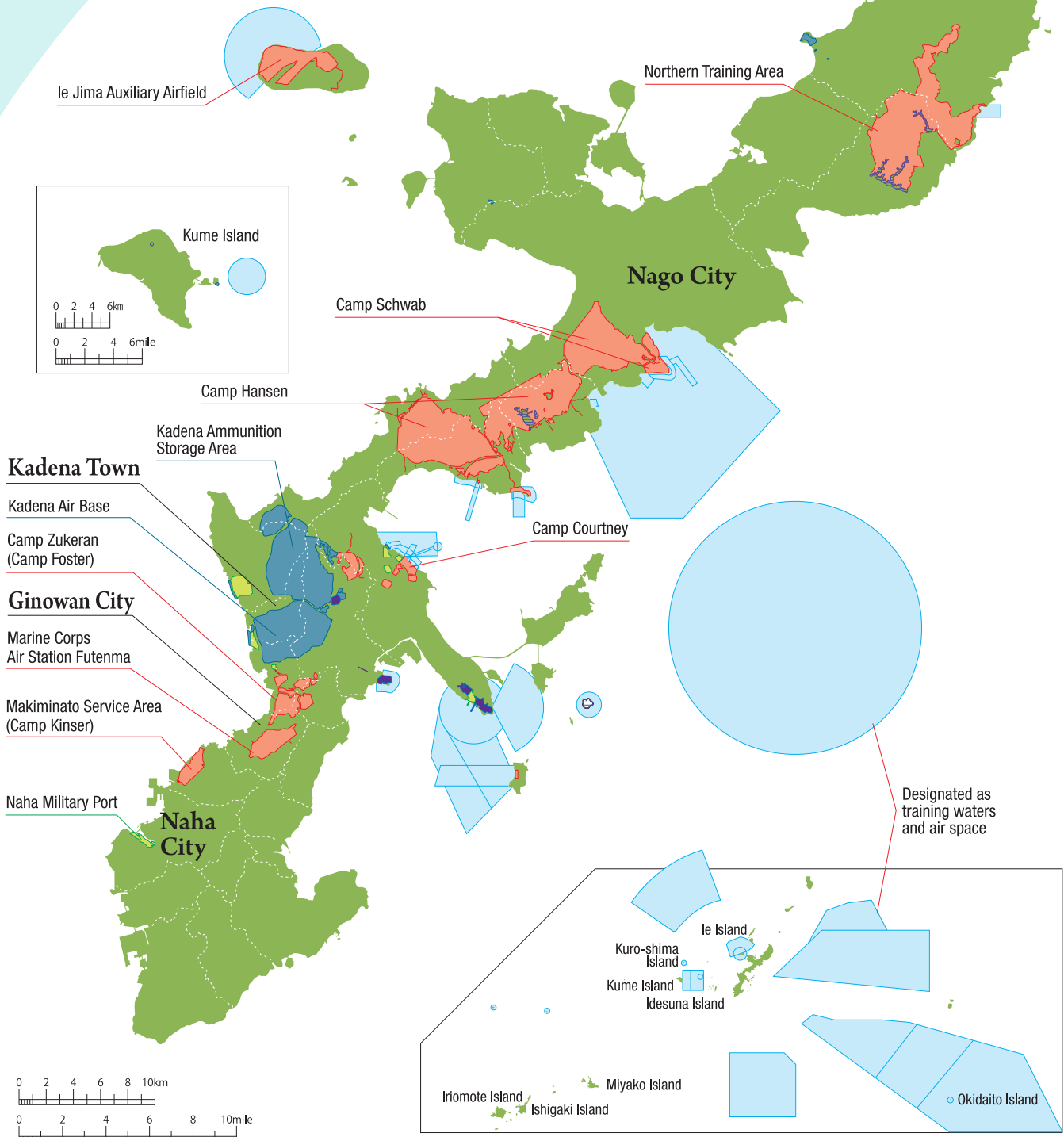
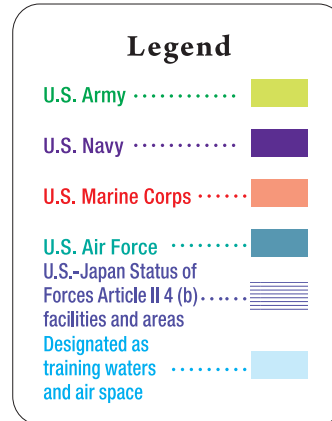
Whereas the majority of U.S. military bases on the Japanese mainland use bases constructed by the former Japanese military prior to the war, the U.S. military facilities in Okinawa not only use former sites, but also forcibly expropriated public and private land.

Okinawa has never once of its own volition offered land to the U.S. military.

## 2 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa Today

### (1) U.S. Military Bases

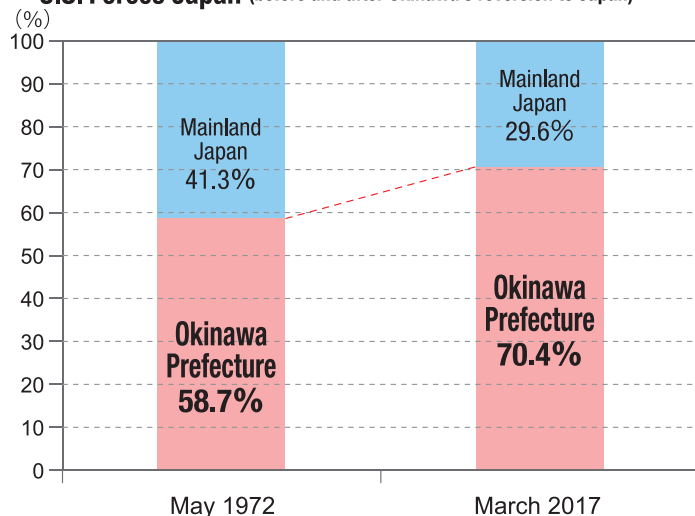
- Number of U.S. Military exclusive-use facilities: 31
- Area: 45,984 acres
- 8.2% of Okinawa prefectural land
- 14.6% of Okinawa main island
- Designated as water areas for training: 27 (13,575,475 acres)
- Designated as air space for training: 20 (23,577,807 acres)
- Number of military personnel: 25,843  
(70.4% of all military personnel in Japan)



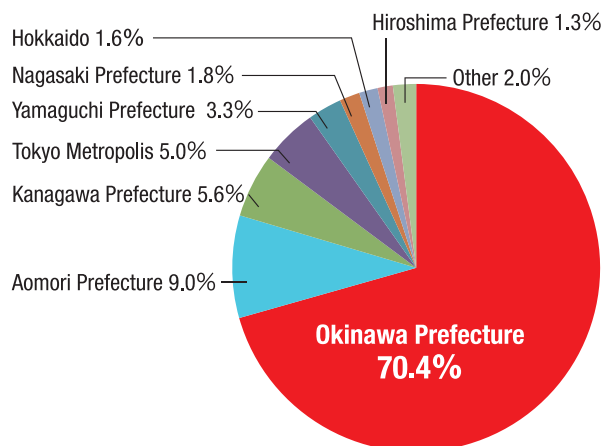
\*Area of U.S. military bases and facilities is current as of March 2017, and number of U.S. military personnel as of June 2011.



**Change in percentage of area exclusively used by U.S. Forces Japan (before and after Okinawa's reversion to Japan)**



**Percentage of area exclusively used for U.S. military facilities**

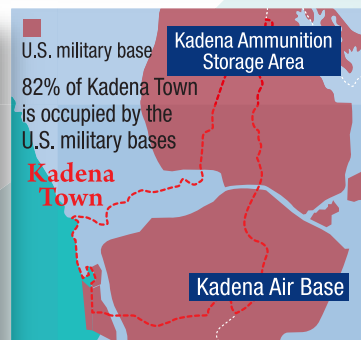


In 1972 when Okinawa Prefecture reverted to Japan, Okinawa was the location for 58.7% of the total area exclusively used for U.S. military facilities in Japan. Greater progress in consolidating and reducing the U.S. military presence has been made in mainland Japan than in Okinawa Prefecture, with the result that today 70.4% of the total area exclusively used for U.S. military facilities in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, which itself accounts for only 0.6% of Japan's total land area.

This has forced the 1.44 million residents of Okinawa Prefecture to live next to U.S. military bases.



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is located in the center of Ginowan City, which is home to nearly 100,000 people, and occupies one fourth of the city's land area. It has also been called "the world's most dangerous base."



Kadena Air Base is the largest U.S. Air Force base in the Far East. The noise produced daily by aircraft at this base has had a tremendous impact on the surrounding environment of local residents.



## Section 1 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

### (2) Incidents and Accidents Stemming from the U.S. Military Bases

#### Number of accidents involving the U.S. military aircraft\*

Crashes	Forced landings	Other	Total
47	518	144	709

\*From Okinawa's reversion to Japan (1972) until 2016



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

#### ① 1959: U.S. Air Force F-100 crashed into Miyamori Elementary School

A U.S. Air Force fighter jet crashed into Miyamori Elementary School, which was located in Ishikawa City (currently Uruma City) in the central part of Okinawa's main island, killing 17 people, including 11 children, and severely injuring 210 people.



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

② 2004: A U.S. military helicopter crashed into Okinawa International University  
A CH-53D Sea Stallion, which was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, hit the Main Administration Building at Okinawa International University in Ginowan City, crashed and burst into flames.



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

③ 2016: MV-22 Osprey crashed near community  
A MV-22 Osprey (stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma), the deployment of which the people of Okinawa have strongly opposed, crashed near a community in Nago City.





Courtesy of Akira Nishime

**4 October 2017: Helicopter crash landed on and burst into flames near private land**

A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter that was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma crash-landed and burst into flames in a field about 300 to 350 yards away from homes residential houses in Higashi Village.



**Futenma Daini Elementary School**

**5 December 2017: Helicopter window falls down onto an elementary school playground**

One of the windows from the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter fell onto the yard of Futenma Daini Elementary School, which is located right next to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Physical education class was in session in the schoolyard when the window fell. It is only a miracle that no one was hurt. If the window had fallen and hit the children standing not far away, they would have been seriously injured or even worse.



Courtesy of Ginowan City



## Section 1 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

### ■ Number of criminal arrests of U.S. military affiliated personnel\*

Felonious Offenses (Murder, rape, etc.)	Violent Offenses (Assault, injury, etc.)	Larceny Offences	Intellectual Offences (Fraud, counterfeiting, etc.)	Moral Offenses (Gambling, public indecency)	Other	Total
576	1,067	2,939	237	71	1,029	5,919

\*From Okinawa's reversion to Japan (1972) until 2016



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

#### 1995: Rally protesting against the rape of an elementary school girl by U.S. soldiers

An elementary school girl was abducted and raped by three U.S. soldiers. The case led to an explosion of anger of Okinawan citizens who have continually suffered from crimes committed by U.S. military personnel as well as harm from U.S. military bases for more than half a century.



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

#### 2016: Citizens rallying against the murder of a Japanese woman by a U.S. military contractor

A U.S. military base civilian worker was arrested in a case where the body of a woman was found. He was charged with abandoning a corpse, rape resulting in death, and murder. The case has reignited the intense indignation of the people of Okinawa.

The cases cited represent only a fraction of the many accidents and incidents caused by the U.S. Military in Okinawa.

Roughly 70.4% of the area exclusively used for U.S. military facilities in Japan is still concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, which only comprises about 0.6% of Japan's total land area. The people of Okinawa have been the repeated victims of crimes and accidents perpetrated by U.S. Military personnel for many years.

This distrust has been ingrained in the Okinawan people on account of the repeated crimes and accidents committed by U.S. military personnel since the time when Okinawa was under U.S. administration after the war.

The Okinawa Prefectural Government believes that this excessive burden of U.S. military bases needs to be reduced so that such crimes and accidents will not be repeated.



### (3) Noise Pollution & Environmental Issues Stemming from the U.S. Military Bases

The noise produced by Kadena Air Base and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma exceeds Japan's environmental standards. At peak levels, the noise level is similar to that sustained right next to an aircraft engine. The average peak level of noise is like that produced inside a very loud factory. High levels of noise have also been observed between the hours of 22:00 and 6:00, the time when flight restrictions were mutually agreed upon between the Japanese and the U.S. governments.

#### JFY 2016 U.S. military aircraft noise levels

Air Base Vicinity	Monitoring Site	Average Daily Frequency of Noise Occurrences	Maximum Peak Level	Average Peak Levels
In the vicinity of Kadena Air Base	Sunabe, Chatan Town	60.5 occurrences	114.1dB	91.3dB
In the vicinity of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma	Ue-ojana, Ginowan City	30.0 occurrences	116.7dB	88.8dB



Osprey flying low altitude over houses



Osprey flying over residential areas after 10:00 pm



Visiting aircraft flying into Kadena Air Base (F-35 fighter jet)



Many drum cans containing tar discovered in the earth of the land returned by the U.S. military

Rivers, creeks and other water areas have often been contaminated by leaks of aircraft or diesel fuel from inside the bases. In returned areas as well, toxic substances have been detected that exceed Japanese Environmental Standards.

According to the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, in principle, Japanese laws and regulations do not apply to the U.S. military.

Okinawa Prefecture has called for the Status of Forces Agreement to be revised and Japanese laws to be applied to the U.S. military in order to alleviate aircraft noise, prevent serious environmental damage, and preserve order.

## Section 1 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

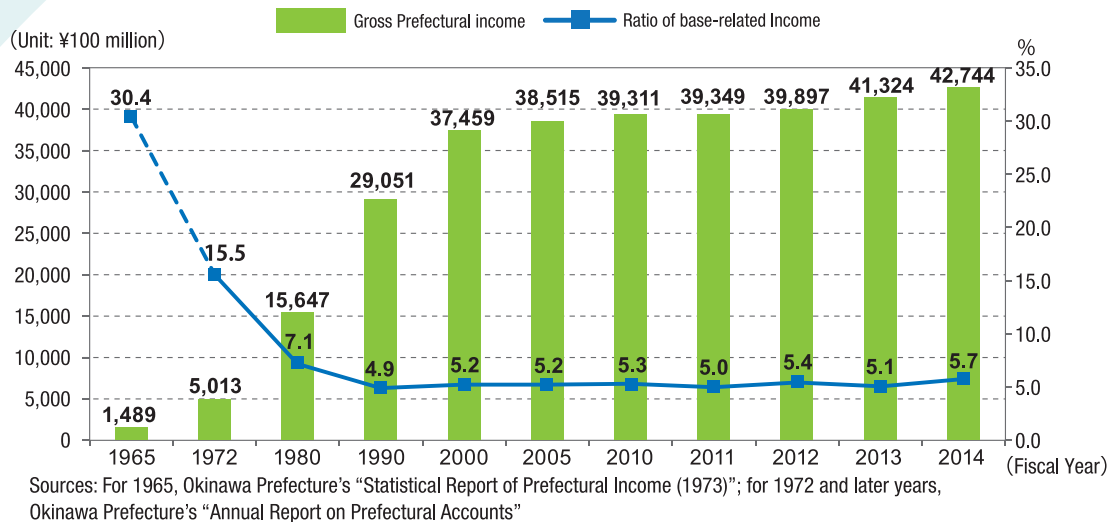
### (4) The Relationship between U.S. Military Bases and the Economy in Okinawa Prefecture

The U.S. military bases are not ordinary economic units like a company. As Okinawa's economy has expanded, the ratio of base-related income to the overall prefectural economy has significantly declined. Any economy dependent on a military base is limited in its ability to grow.

Significant economic development has been achieved in returned areas where U.S. Military bases were once located. Even greater economic development is anticipated with the early return of lands occupied by U.S. Military bases and already agreed upon by the governments of Japan and the United States.

The U.S. Military bases are the greatest impediment to Okinawa's economic development. To say that the Okinawan economy is dependent upon the U.S. Military bases is a completely wrong.

#### ■ Base-related income percentage of gross prefectural income



#### ① Naha Shintoshin district



Direct economic impact ¥5.2 billion/year  
Number of people employed 168

▶ ¥163.4 billion/year (32 times greater)  
▶ 15,560 (93 times greater)

#### ② Kuwae & Kitamae districts



Direct economic impact ¥300 million/year  
Number of people employed 0

▶ ¥33.6 billion/year (108 times greater)  
▶ 3,368 (new jobs created)



It is estimated that policies promoting the use of land, which is currently occupied by U.S. military bases but scheduled to be returned in the future, will have a direct economic effect and create jobs at approximately 18 times current levels.

**Use of the land of the bases scheduled for return is anticipated to offer significant development.**

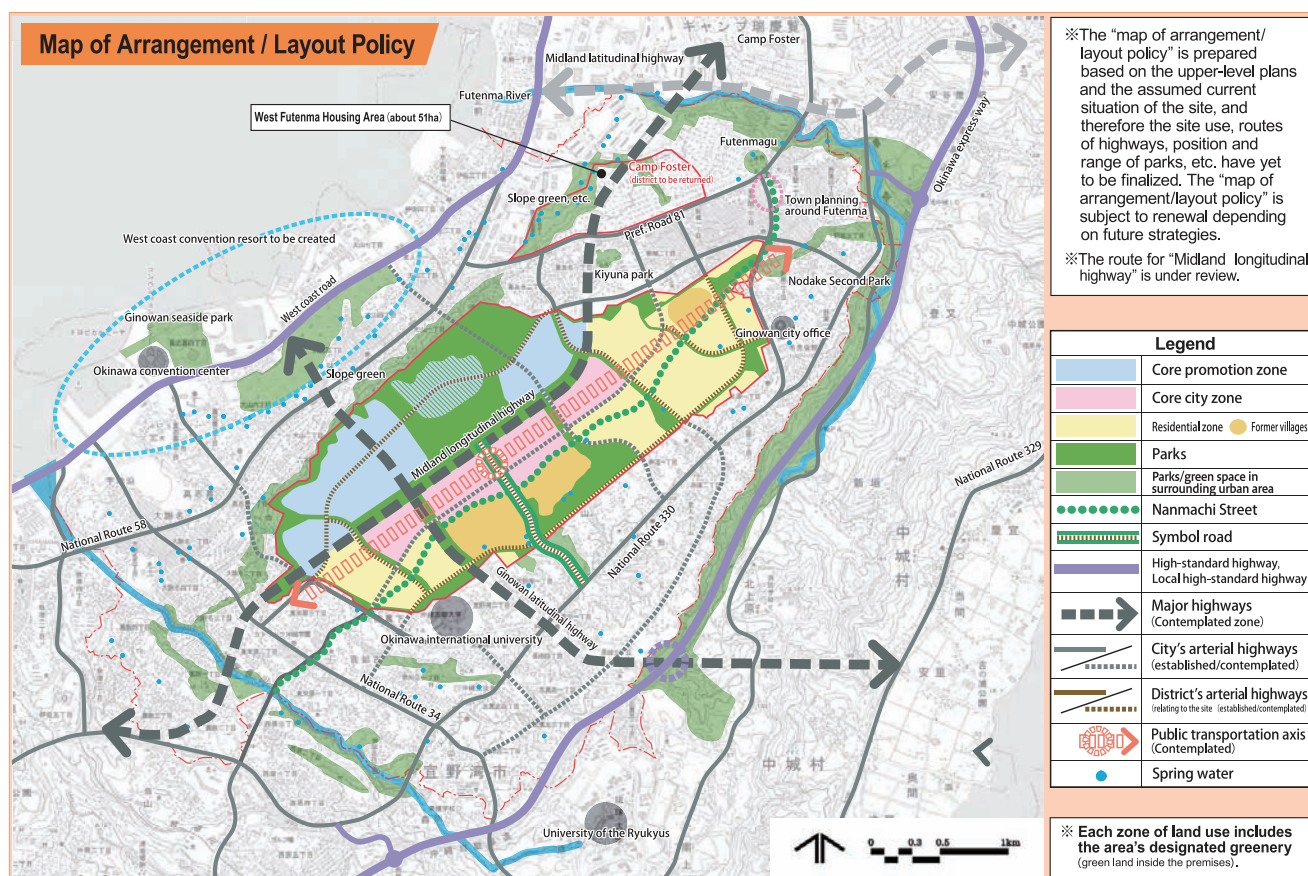
U.S. military bases scheduled for return	Direct economic effect (¥100 million/year)			Number of jobs created		
	Before return	After return	Multiplier effect	Before return	After return	Multiplier effect
Camp Kuwae	40	334	8 times greater	351	3,409	10 times greater
Camp Zukeran	109	1,061	10 times greater	954	7,386	8 times greater
Marine Corps Air Station Futenma	120	3,866	32 times greater	1,074	34,093	32 times greater
Makiminato Service Area	202	2,564	13 times greater	1,793	24,928	14 times greater
Naha Military Port	30	1,076	36 times greater	228	10,687	47 times greater
<b>Total</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>18 times greater</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>80,503</b>	<b>18 times greater</b>

Source: Survey of Economic Ripple Effect from Use of Land Occupied by U.S. Military Bases (Published by Okinawa Prefecture January 2015)

For example, Okinawa Prefecture and Ginowan City are envisaging the formulation of a plan to use the land where Marine Corps Air Station Futenma currently stands. (See map below)

As U.S. military bases are returned, these locations are expected to be put to better use to achieve significant economic development due to their location in the middle of Asia, an enormous market in which 2 billion people live and work.

**■ “Master Plan: Interim Report” toward formulation of a plan for use of land occupied by Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (Interim Reported drafted March 2013 by Okinawa Prefecture and Ginowan City)**





## Section 1 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

### (5) Marine Corps Air Station Futenma

The area around the airfield is a densely populated residential area. Ginowan City where the base is located is home to 98,000 people. There are 15 elementary and junior high schools, four high schools and one university. A large population is concentrated in this urban area.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is located in the center and has been called the world's most dangerous base. On August 13, 2004, a large helicopter crashed on the campus of Okinawa International University. This accident among other events have caused tremendous anxieties among the people living in the surrounding community.

Moreover, night training is still conducted after 10:00pm, the time when flights are restricted to reduce aircraft noise. The people living in the vicinity of the airfield have no other choice but to go about their daily lives together with the noise pollution, aircraft accidents as well as other dangers emanating from the airfield.

### (6) Reasons Why the Issue of the Relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Is Not Resolved

In April 1996, then Prime Minister Hashimoto and Ambassador Mondale held a joint press conference where they announced the complete return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. However, the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) Final Report released in December 1996 set relocation of the base within the prefecture as a condition for its return, which was decided without the consent of the people of Okinawa. This is the reason why the base relocation issue has still not been resolved until today.



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is located in the middle of Ginowan City and divides the city in an east-west direction.



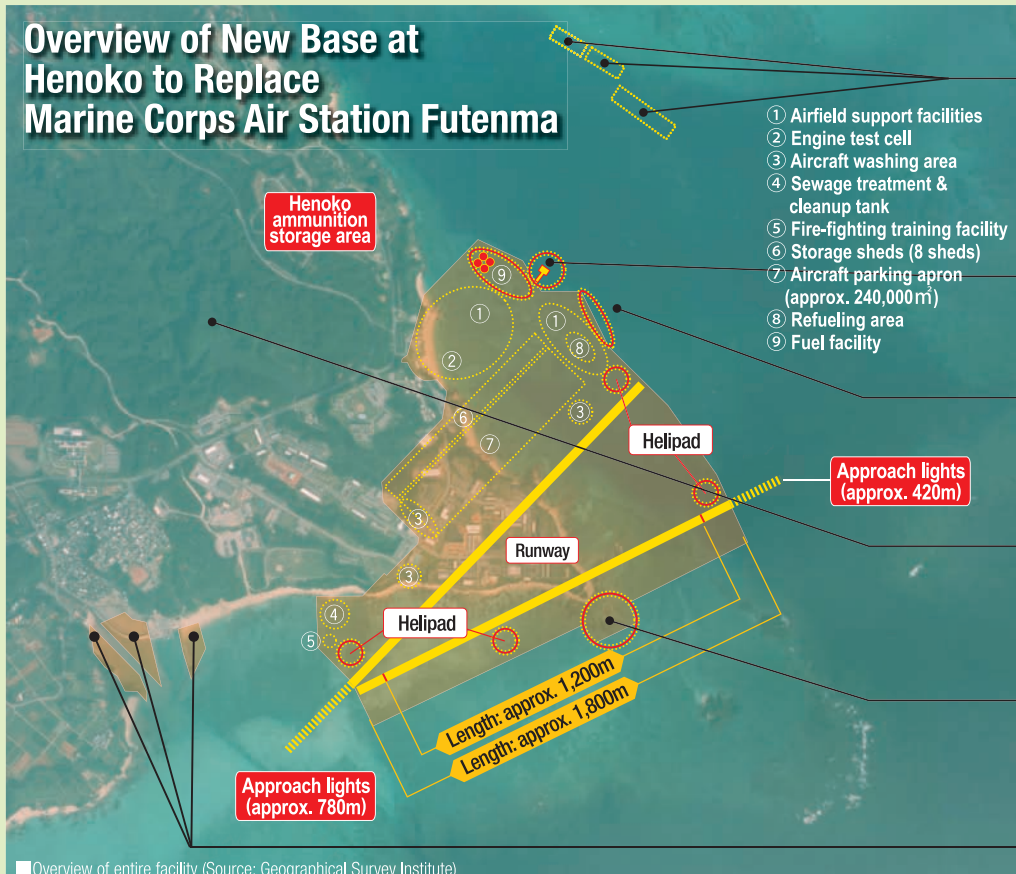
# Section 2

## Q&A about the Issue of the Relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma



At Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, aircraft conduct take-offs and landings in the middle of the city. (Photo above)  
The Japanese and U.S. governments say that relocation of this base to Henoko coast, which is only 25 miles away, is the only solution to this problem. However, no reasonable explanations have been given, and many residents of Okinawa Prefecture have been calling for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to be relocated outside of Okinawa.

### Overview of New Base at Henoko to Replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma



#### Offshore yards (Temporary storage of caissons)

Offshore yards will be set up for temporarily storing prefabricated caissons (reinforced concrete boxes used for sea walls and jetties). These will comprise an area of approximately 3 ha. Although the surface structure will be removed after completion of the reclamation work, a decision on removal of the foundations has yet to be made and is slated to take into consideration the impact on the ecosystem.

#### Fuel quay \*Currently not part of MCAS Futenma

Tankers up to 109m hauling aircraft fuel will be able to dock at this quay.

#### Embankment (Berthing-capable)

\*Currently not part of MCAS Futenma

A 272m embankment is planned, which will be able to accommodate ships up to 183.5m.

#### Fill material collection area for land reclamation

Two million m<sup>3</sup> of earth and sand needs to be collected. In this area, the remains of Mijagawa settlements, roads used for royal communications during the Ryukyu Kingdom, and other archaeological finds have been confirmed.

#### Ammunition loading area (Approx. 16,000 m<sup>2</sup>)

\*Currently not part of MCAS Futenma

In this area, ammunition will be loaded onto and unloaded from aircraft. A replacement facility will be located next to the Henoko Ordnance Ammunition Depot, which is adjacent to Camp Schwab. Camp Schwab also serves as a spent ammunition disposal site.

#### Work yards

These work yards are planned for manufacturing concrete blocks and temporary material storage. They will comprise an area of 7 ha (of this, 5 ha will be reclaimed land). This will decimate Matsuda beach, Mae beach and the dragon boat race venue.

\*The above aerial photo (which shows an overview of the entire facility) is a reproduction of aerial photos taken by the U.S. military, and is used with the permission of the Director General of GSI Japan. (Authorization number: 2016 Data Reproduction, No. 1360)

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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.

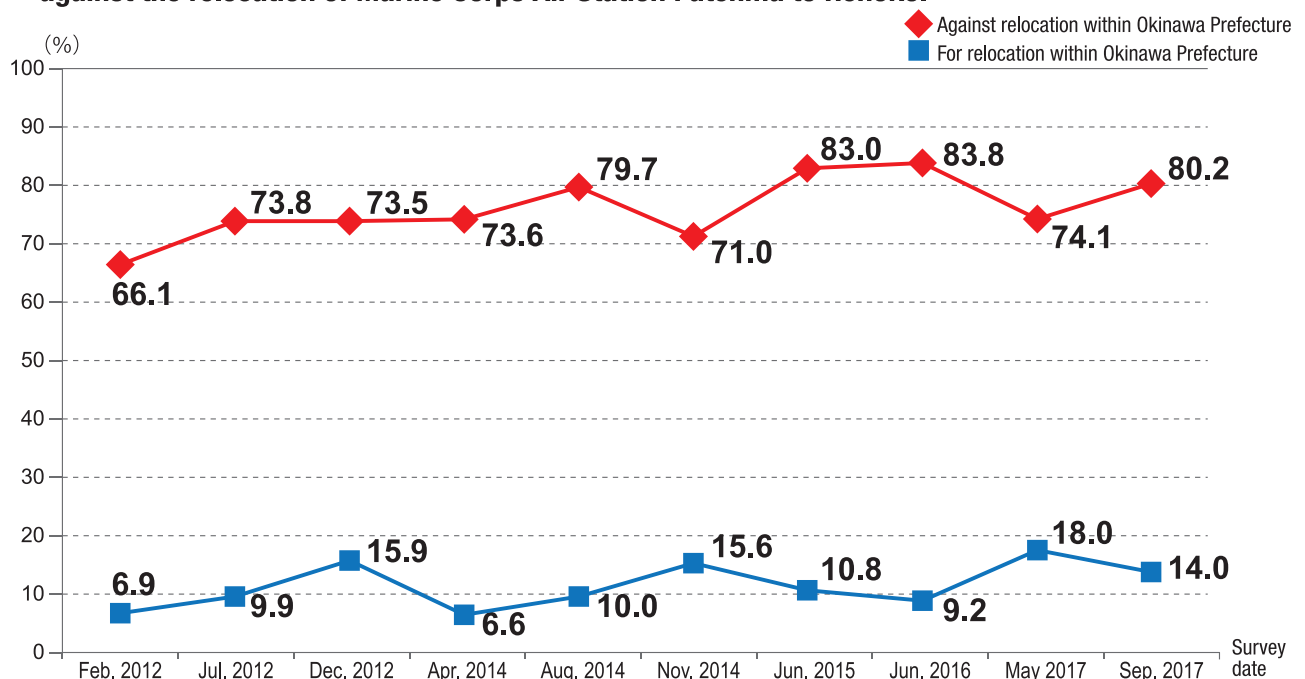
In addition, many precious species have been identified in the waters of Henoko's Oura Bay, the proposed relocation site. If the waters are reclaimed for this new base, this precious natural environment will be lost forever.

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.



Q2

## Isn't the Issue of the Relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma a Domestic Issue in Japan?

The U.S. military bases in Okinawa were established through the forceful seizure of Okinawan people's land. For many years, these bases have been the origin of crimes, accidents, noise pollution, and environmental issues among other problems.

In accordance with the agreement on the return of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, the U.S. military will use an alternate facility which is to be constructed by the Government of Japan. Moreover, the U.S. government has confirmed together with the Japanese government that relocation to Henoko is the only solution. In that sense, the United States government is also a party to this problem.

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 plan should be reassessed from a strategic perspective as well.

Q3

## Didn't the Court's Decision Resolve the Issue of the Relocation to Henoko?

The former governor of Okinawa Prefecture approved an application for reclamation of public waters in December 2013, which was for construction of a new base at Henoko. Thereafter, Takeshi Onaga, who campaigned on the promise not to allow construction of a new base at Henoko, won the gubernatorial election. A third-party committee carefully reviewed the previous authorization and determined that it had legal defects, after which the approval was revoked.

There have been a total of four lawsuits with the Japanese government over this revocation. In December 2016, the court reached a final decision in favor of the Japanese government. The Okinawa Prefectural Government complied with the decision of the Supreme Court and retracted the revocation of the reclamation approval. However, the court's decision only covers part of the procedures involving construction of a new base at Henoko, specifically the reclamation approval.

Naturally, the Japanese government needs to obtain the permission of the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture in accordance with relevant laws and regulations in order to proceed with construction.

The court's decision does not mean that the people of Okinawa have consented to relocation of the base to Henoko. The end of the previous court case has not resolved the relocation issue.

### 【Settlement Terms】

The Japanese government has criticized the Governor of Okinawa, saying that he should cooperate with the reclamation project simply because he declared that he would abide by the spirit of the court's decision in the settlement terms agreed to during the legal proceedings. In accordance with the Supreme Court's decision, the Okinawa Prefectural Government retracted the revocation of the reclamation approval.

However, this in no way means that the understanding or cooperation of the Okinawa Prefectural Government is no longer needed for any sort of construction the Japanese government undertakes in the future. Just because the Supreme Court rendered a decision on one procedural point does not mean that the Japanese government is free to disregard other procedures and do as it pleases.

### Okinawa Prefecture Governor's authority over the construction of new base at Henoko

#### Revocation of reclamation approval (Public Water Body Reclamation Act)

○○ Permission (○○ Act)

□□ Permission (□□ Act)

△△ Governor's Authority (△△ Act)

Other gubernatorial  
authorities

Effect of Supreme Court's decision

Decision does not affect other gubernatorial powers

**No conclusion reached on construction of new base at Henoko**

### Q4

### What Is Henoko's Oura Bay, the Relocation Site for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Like?

Henokozaki Cape and the adjacent Oura Bay in the northern part of the main island of Okinawa are home to a very fertile subtropical sea area and forest with internationally precious and rich biodiversity. These areas are treasures that we are very proud of. The sea area in and around Henoko's Oura Bay, which is set to be filled in for construction of the new base, is a rare and valuable natural environment. The deep bay and surrounding land, which faults and erosion continue to affect on both, interlaces very diverse ecosystems.

This very narrow strip of sea (approx. 8,900 acres) is inhabited by over 5,800 species, including 262 endangered ones and 466 planktonic species, establishing a rich ecosystem that is highly biodiverse. Many biological species have been identified in this area. In the 10 years since 2006, a total of 26 new species have successively been discovered, including those of shrimp, crab and goby fish. The area also holds high potential for the discovery of many more new species in the future.

This tract of Oura Bay has high level of biodiversity in Japan, which is recognized as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

The natural environment of Oura Bay is an irreplaceable treasure that should be shared with entire human race, and one that we must preserve and pass on to future generations.



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**1** Subtropical forest  
(Forms one of few subtropical laurel forests in the world)



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**2** Walking goby (*Scartelaos histophorus*)  
(Japan Red List: Critically Endangered Species)



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**3** *Microzoanthus kagerou*  
(newly discovered species, genus and family)



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**4** *Sargassum carpophyllum*  
(first 7.4 meter community identified in the world)



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

**Feeding trail** Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)  
(IUCN Red List: Endangered Species)



Work yard

Seagrass bed



Courtesy of the Ryukyu Shimpo

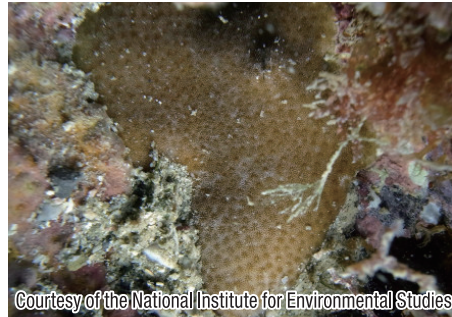
**6** Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)  
(Japan Red List: Vulnerable Species, International Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)





Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**12** Whiskered eel goby (*Taenioides cirratus*)  
(Japan Red List: Critically Endangered Species)



Courtesy of the National Institute for Environmental Studies

**11** *Porites okinawensis* veron  
(Japan Red List: Vulnerable Species)



Courtesy of the Okinawa Board of Education

**10** Purple terrestrial hermit crab (*Coenobita cavipes*)  
(Japanese natural treasure)



Overview of entire facility (Source: Geographical Survey Institute)

\*The above aerial photo (which shows an overview of the entire facility) is a reproduction of aerial photos taken by the U.S. military, and is used with the permission of the Director General of GSI Japan.  
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**\*Under the Ministry of the Environment's Red List, "critically endangered" is defined as a species that is not extinct, but ranks among the scarcest species.**



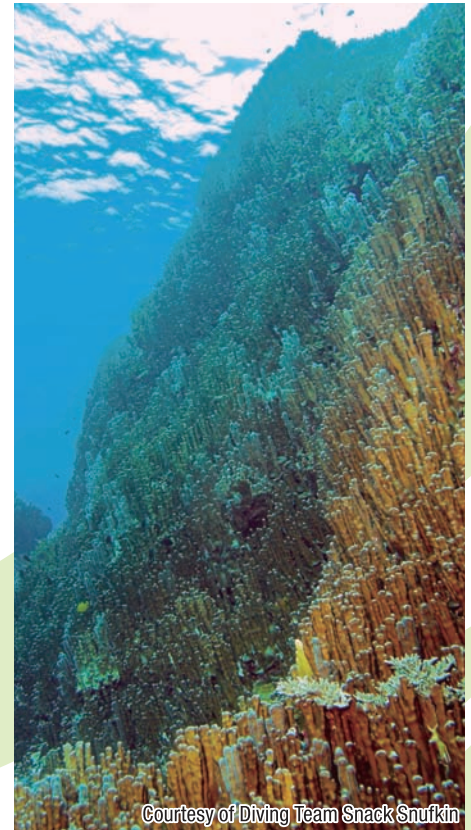
Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**9** *Aeretica tomlii*  
(Japan Red List: Critically Endangered Species)



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**8** *Uruma ourana*  
(newly discovered species and genus)



Courtesy of Diving Team Snack Snufkin

**7** Blue coral (*Heliopora coerulea*) community  
(largest in Japan)

### Q5

#### What is the Evaluation of Scholarly and Conservation Groups about the Relocation to Henoko?

Several national and international academic societies and nature conservation groups have made recommendations and called for additional surveys and environmental conservation measures to protect the Henoko area, which the Japanese government is promoting as the relocation site.

The joint communiqué (\*1) issued by 19 academic societies including the Ecological Society of Japan mentions that there are records of 5,334 species in the Henoko waters and 11 new species registered. The communiqué states that this sea area is “one of the few areas in Japan that has a very high level of biodiversity.” Regarding to the Japanese government’s response, the communiqué is critical: “Not only have recent discoveries not been recorded or mentioned in the environmental impact assessment, but a proper assessment has not been performed to evaluate the peculiarities of this sea area.”

In addition, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has issued four recommendations about this sea area to the Japanese government, but the Japanese government has failed to address them sufficiently and abstained from adopting any recommendation that calls for measures to prevent the infiltration of alien species through the medium of the sand and earth to be used as fill for the land reclamation.

In the United States as well, in August 2017, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned a decision by the district court dismissing the “Okinawa Dugong Lawsuit,” which was filed by environmental groups from the United States and Japan in 2003, and remanded the case back to the district court for further proceedings.

(August 21, 2017 Dugong lawsuit petition) <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2017/08/21/15-15695.pdf>

Despite repeated calls from academic societies, nature conservation groups and others for additional investigations and environmental conservation measures, the Japanese government has disregarded these and moved the construction forward. If the project is carried out as currently planned, the precious natural environment of Henoko’s Oura Bay will be lost forever.

\*1. “Joint Communiqué of 19 Academic Societies Calling for Conservation of the Environment of Okinawa Prefecture’s Oura Bay Which Possesses a Remarkably High Biodiversity” (November 11, 2014)

Reference: Recommendations issued by IUCN related to the natural environment of Henoko and Oura Bay:

IUCN Recommendation 2.72 “Conservation of Dugong, Okinawa Woodpecker, and Okinawa Rail on and around Okinawa Island,” World Conservation Congress, Amman, Jordan, October 2000 [http://www.nacsj.or.jp/katsudo/contents\\_img/okinawa/okinawa-010706-seimei-e.html](http://www.nacsj.or.jp/katsudo/contents_img/okinawa/okinawa-010706-seimei-e.html)

IUCN Recommendation 3.114 “Conservation of Dugong, Okinawa Woodpecker, and Okinawa Rail in Japan,” World Conservation Congress, Bangkok, Thailand, November 2004 <http://sea-dugong.org/english/main/IUCNrecommendation.pdf>

IUCN Recommendation 4.022 “Promotion of Dugong during the UN 2010 International Year for Biodiversity,” World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain, October 2008 [https://www.iucn.org/congress\\_08/assembly/policy/](https://www.iucn.org/congress_08/assembly/policy/)

IUCN Recommendation 6.020 “Strengthening Pathway Management of Alien Species in Island Ecosystems,” World Conservation Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, September 2016 <http://www.nacsj.or.jp/archive/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IUCNmotion201708e.pdf>

#### Fill Material Used for Land Reclamation in Construction of New Base at Henoko

The equivalent of 2 million 10-ton dump truck loads (approx. 21,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>) of earth and sand will be used for land reclamation. The majority of this is set to be delivered from mainland Japan.

Although concerns expressed by environment conservation groups have pointed out that this will lead to the invasion and spread of alien species, the Japanese government has failed to sufficiently address these concerns.

At the IUCN’s September 2016 World Conservation Congress, a recommendation was issued calling for measures to address the infiltration of alien species from such reclamation fill material, but the Japanese government abstained from adopting this recommendation.



Courtesy of Ministry of the Environment



Courtesy of Ministry of the Environment

There is a risk that the Argentine ant (above) and Red-back spider (below) may invade by becoming mixed in with the earth, sand and other fill material.



## Q6

### What is the view of experts about the risks of earthquakes striking and the ground subsiding at Henoko, the location where the new base is planned?

Digging down below the ground surface, one eventually reaches a layer comprised of very hard rock in which there are many cracks or geologic faults. As significant force is applied to this layer, these cracks will rupture. That impact is then transmitted throughout the layer, resulting in an earthquake. Of these geologic faults, those where seismic activity has repeatedly occurred for hundreds of thousands of years and where such activity is anticipated in the future are referred to as “active faults.”

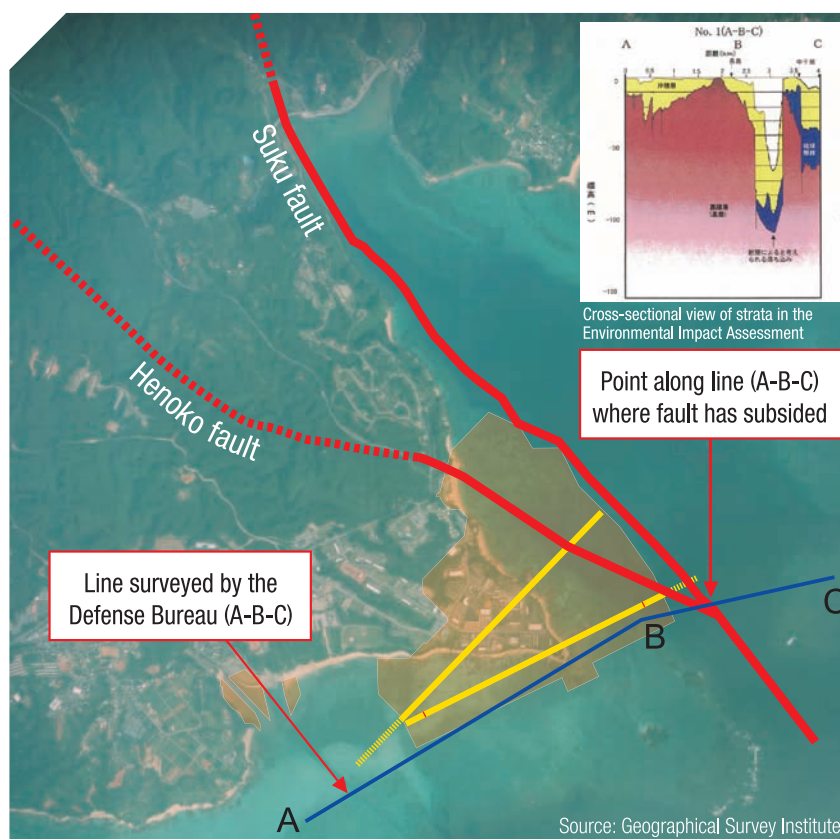
Two faults intersect below the waters of Oura Bay near the planned site for construction of the new base at Henoko. Submarine terrain has been observed where there is a sharp drop-off of over 50 meters. It is here that geologists point out the likelihood that the faults are active.

Trench earthquakes recur every 100 to 200 years, a much shorter interval than those originating in active faults. Based on actual data, geologists and environmentalists have pointed out the danger of trench earthquakes and subsequent tsunami to the area where construction of the new base is planned.

Between May 2014 and April 2017, the Japanese government used bedrock survey ships to conduct boring surveys predominately around the faults where this sharp drop off has been observed. Okinawa Prefecture has made several requests to the Japanese government for the survey data results. Although the Japanese government has not released the data nor disclosed the purpose of these surveys, it has moved forward with the land reclamation project.

In this same sea area, geologic maps indicate coral reefs and the poor subsoil beneath which there is an accumulation of Ryukyu limestone. Civil engineers have predicted that the project will be difficult to complete and maintain due to the extensive ground reinforcement required for construction.

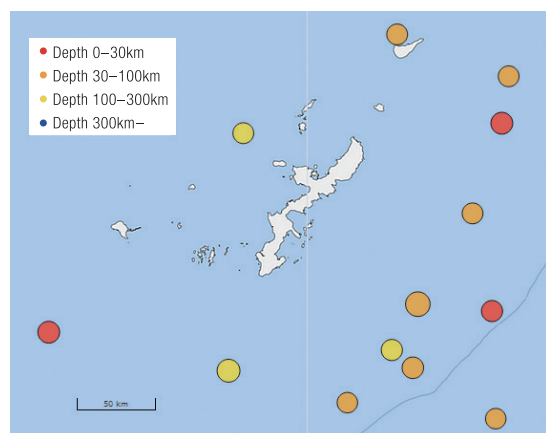
Regardless, the Japanese government should promptly release the geological survey data collected so that the safety of geological strata and ground at the planned construction site may be verified.



Subsiding sea bottom terrain \* (Red line indicates fault.)

\*The above aerial photo (which shows an overview of the entire facility) is a reproduction of aerial photos taken by the U.S. military, and is used with the permission of the Director General of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. (Authorization number: 2016 Data Reproduction, No. 1360)

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#### Earthquakes recorded in Okinawa Prefecture having a magnitude of 6 or greater (1923-2017)

	Date	Magnitude		Date	Magnitude
1	February 27, 2010	M7.2	8	June 23, 1962	M6.0
2	July 8, 2008	M6.1	9	September 12, 1960	M6.1
3	July 22, 2004	M6.1	10	May 26, 1959	M6.1
4	August 18, 2001	M6.4	11	July 22, 1953	M6.2
5	August 3, 1968	M6.3	12	February 3, 1926	M6.0
6	January 31, 1963	M6.2	13	August 12, 1923	M6.7
7	October 6, 1962	M6.4			

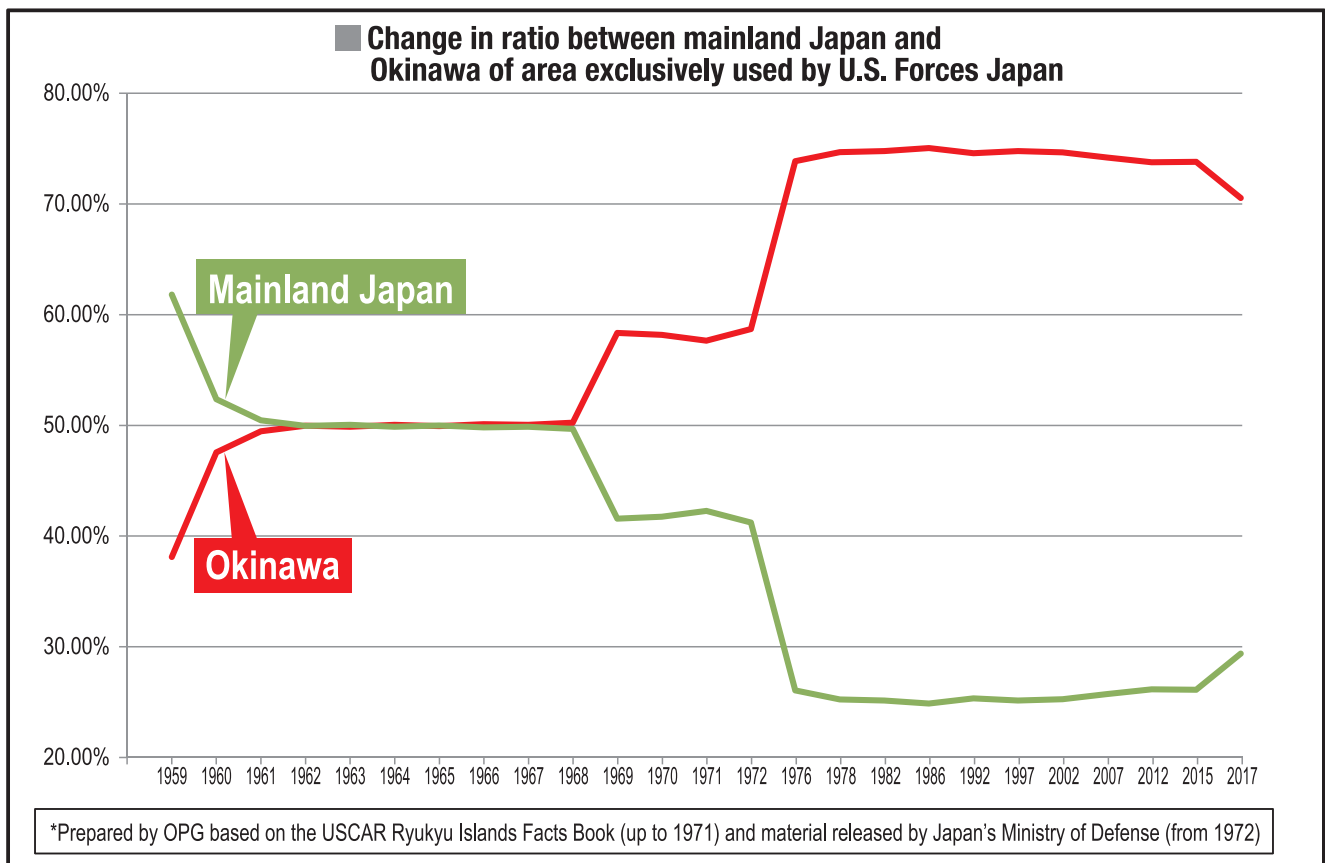
Source: Japan Meteorological Agency database

\*Statistical data collected by the Japan Meteorological Agency show that there have been 13 earthquakes registering a magnitude 6 or greater in the seas around the Okinawa main island over the 94 years from 1923 to 2017. Even in Japan which is plagued by earthquakes, Okinawa Prefecture is also experiences many earthquakes

Q7

### Aren't the U.S. military bases concentrated in Okinawa for military reasons?

When we look at the change in total area set aside exclusively for U.S. military facilities in Okinawa and mainland Japan, we see that although there was a greater percentage sited in Japan proper during the 1950s, a pattern developed around the time of the prefecture's reversion to Japan in 1972 whereby more than 70% of the U.S. military bases came to be concentrated in Okinawa, just as we see today.



The reasons behind this shift are the transfer of military units to Okinawa and the consolidation and reduction of bases in mainland Japan to quell anti-American and anti-base sentiment while, at the same time, bases were expanded and their function strengthened in Okinawa, which was governed by the U.S. military.

A former Japanese defense minister and even a former U.S. secretary of defense have stated definitively that U.S. military bases do not need to be in Okinawa for military reasons.

In December 2012, then Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto stated, "The U.S. Marine Corps doesn't have to be in Okinawa for military reasons, but Okinawa is the best place for them to be for political considerations."

In addition, former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, who agreed to the SACO Final Report, said in an interview with the Japanese media that there is nothing special about the geographical position of Okinawa militarily, and locating bases in Okinawa presents political and economic issues.

Recent improvements in missile technology have conversely placed the U.S. military bases at risk militarily due to their concentration in Okinawa, and this vulnerability has been pointed out in the United States as well.

Moreover, the U.S. Government Accounting Office identified numerous deficiencies in the current plan to relocate Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko, including the shortening of the runway from the current 2,800 m to 1,800 m, a length incapable of accommodating emergency landings by fixed wing aircraft. The GAO also pointed out that the maintenance of security capabilities in this area is not possible.

It is evident that there is no military rationale for concentrating the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and the current relocation plan of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko should also be revised from a military perspective.



Campaign against U.S. military bases (Tokyo, 1965)



## Q8

### What Will be the Impact if the Japanese and U.S. Governments Forcibly Relocate Henoko?

As has previously been stated, a majority of the people of Okinawa Prefecture oppose construction of a new base at Henoko.

Japan is a democratic state and the Okinawan people have demonstrated their public will. The position of the U.S. with respect to the Japanese government's disregard for democracy, dismissal of public opinion, and forcing through construction of a new base, which the U.S. regards as "Japan's domestic issues", is utterly incomprehensible.

The repeated crimes and accidents stemming from the U.S. military bases and the Japanese government's push to construct a new base at Henoko have and will incite greater sentiment among the people of Okinawa in opposition to this plan, which could transition into protests against the entire U.S. military. Such a situation would likely make stable operation of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, including Kadena Air Base, even more difficult.

We hope that the governments of both Japan and the U.S. will stop pressing ahead with this new base project in such a hasty manner, that they will look beyond the archaic stereotypes, take into account the transformation of the international situation, and rethink moving Marine Corps Air Station Futenma outside of Okinawa Prefecture or even outside of the country.

There are serious concerns that strong-armed attempts to press ahead with construction of the new base at Henoko will have an adverse effect not only on U.S. military bases in Okinawa, including Kadena Air Base, but also on the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

#### ■ Main U.S. Facilities on Okinawa



Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield



Camp Schwab



Northern Training Area



Kadena Ammunition Storage Area



Camp Hansen



Kadena Air Base



Camp Courtney



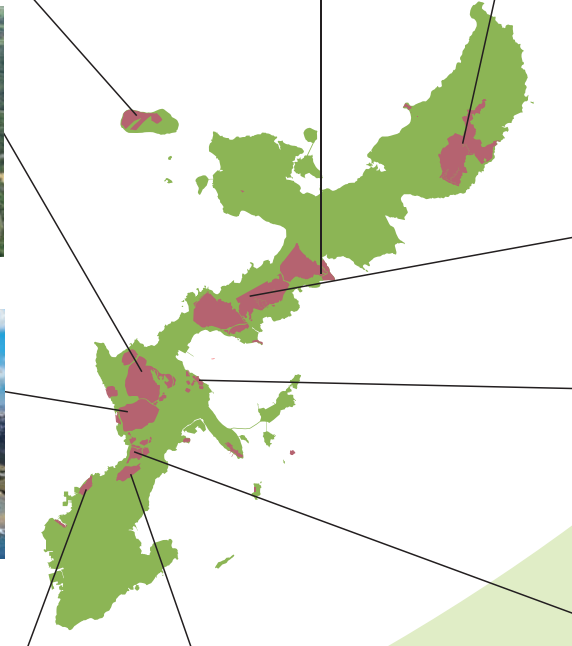
Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser)



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma



Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster)



## Okinawa Collection

The George Washington University Libraries in Washington, D.C. is home to the Okinawa Collection (OC). Located in the Libraries' Global Resources Center (GRC), the OC's specialized research and reference materials focus on Okinawa's contemporary history, politics, economy, public policy, culture and related topics, and are available to anyone interested in studying or learning more about contemporary Okinawa.

To gain access to the Okinawa Collection, contact the Global Resources Center at 202-994-7105 or email <grc@gwu.edu> to arrange for entrance in accordance with the Gelman Library's entrance policies.

For more information, please refer to <<https://library.gwu.edu/>>grc.



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## Okinawa Prefecture Washington D.C. Office

The Okinawa Prefectural Government Washington D.C. Office exchanges opinions with members of Congress, their staffs, U.S. government officials, think-tank professionals and other influential figures, and strives to collect and disseminate information about Okinawa so as to contribute to the resolution of the U.S. military base issues in Okinawa. Please feel free to contact the office whenever you need any information about Okinawa.



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