

It is unrealistic to oppose against base construction without facing the security environment in which the ocean under the jurisdiction of Okinawa prefecture is in the condition of infringement

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At a late stage of the World War II, in Okinawa, targeted for attack prior to the invasion of allied forces anchored by the United States of America into the Japan's mainland, consequently forced to experience to be the bloodiest battlefield, the warfare took its toll resulting in some two hundred thousand war victims including enormous numbers of civilian casualties. In postwar days, allied countries, played a central role by the United States in occupations of Japan having accepted the Potsdam Declaration, healed the wounds of war, but the subsequent Korean War involved Okinawa as a forward base for U.S. military forces, a key player of the UN force. At a following stage of the East-West Cold War, numerous American military facilities were established in Okinawa.

Meanwhile, just after the end of the World War II, former Japanese military forces were dismissed, and in 1947 Japan established Constitution of Japan under the initiative of GHQ (General Headquarters, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers). Although Japan regained its sovereignty with the effectuation of San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1952, Okinawa, located in East Asia where situated in high tensions due to Korean War and East-West Cold War, continued to keep placed under the sway of U.S. military forces, being registered "potential sovereignty" of Japan. Around the same time that its independence was regained, Japan made the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty with U.S.A., in order for Japan to protect its national security by means of depending heavily on American military power, whereby Japan promoted the postwar reconstruction and economically developed. Okinawa, however, yet assumed a role as an important military area supporting arrangements based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

In 1972 when Okinawa went back to Japan from the sway of U.S. military forces, the international situation surrounding Asia was then in the thick of the Cold War. Although Japan had Self Defense Force, as a force organization, with functional capabilities limited by the constitution established immediately after the war, its own national security had no other choice than depending on Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, so that a large number of American military facilities still continue to exist.

After reintegration of Okinawa into Japan, Japanese government invested more than 100 billion dollars of special treatment so far in order to have Okinawa advance,

in addition, keeps budget for Okinawa more than 3 billion dollars on an annual basis today. Besides these special treatments, the government achieves particular policies into action on Okinawa, which are different from and not seen in the rest. In parallel, American military facilities are being retroceded in a phased manner, so that these improvements of the situation in Okinawa brought in increasing the number of visitors both domestically and abroad, exceeding the number of Hawaii last year.

Currently both Japan-U.S. governments are carrying out a scheme as to consolidation of two American military facilities, relocating the Futenma Air Station exclusively used by US Marines, in spite of lying next to urban area, to Camp Schwab of US Marines' ammunition supply base located in the same Okinawa prefecture as Futenma and viewed safer. However, as for the relocation of the Futenma base, Okinawa prefectural governor Onaga opposes the project by reason that the relocation corresponds to construction of new base in Okinawa.

As well as improving spectacularly consolidation and scale-down of American military facilities deployed in central area of Okinawa's main island, countries responsible for security including many Asian countries appreciate the relocation project that shall realize to maintain security functionalities, along with revision of the legislations with respect to and in connection with consistent security scheme currently undertaken by Japanese government based on affirmative- pacifism. Taking into consideration that retrocession of American military facilities steadily advances and that Japanese government affords special advancement budget every year, a large number of residents of Okinawa are willing to contribute to peace and stability of the international society, as one of residents in area where big-hearted and self-respecting people live. In Asia, while there is a country that takes on a challenge toward changing the current conditions in South China Sea and East China Sea displaying the might of military power, crucial is Okinawa's role to contribute to international peace, as a place of strategic importance to maintain peace and stability in East Asia and the western Pacific, Many residents of Okinawa are conscious of the role.