

# Militarization and Demilitarization of Okinawa

As a Geostrategic “Keystone” under the Japan-U.S. Alliance



International Geographical Union (IGU)  
2013 Kyoto Regional Conference  
Commission on Political Geography  
Post-Conference Field Trip

In Collaboration with  
Political Geography Research Group,  
Human Geographical Society of Japan  
and  
Okinawa Geographical Society

## Contents

Organizers and Participants.....	p. 2
Co-organizers	
Assistants	
Supporting Organizations	
Informants	
Participants	
Time Schedule.....	p. 4
Route Maps.....	p. 5
Naha Airport.....	p. 6
Domestic Flight Arrival Procedures	
Domestic Flight Departure Procedures	
Departing From Okinawa during a Typhoon	
Traveling to Okinawa during a Typhoon	
Accommodation.....	p. 9
Deigo Hotel	
History of Deigo Hotel	
History of Okinawa (Ryukyu).....	p. 11
From Ryukyu to Okinawa	
The Battle of Okinawa	
Postwar Occupation and Administration by the United States	
Post-Reversion U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa	
U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa.....	p. 14
Futenma Air Station	
Kadena Air Base	
Camp Schwab	
Camp Hansen	
Military Base Towns in Okinawa.....	p. 20
Political Economic Profile of Selected Base Towns	
Okinawa City (formerly Koza City)	
Chatan Town	
Yomitan Village	
Henoko, Nago City	
Kin Town	
What to do in Naha.....	p. 31

## Organizers and Participants

### Co-organizers

Takashi Yamazaki, Osaka City University

Steering Committee member of the IGU Commission on Political Geography

Japanese Liaison for the IGU Kyoto Regional Conference

Head of Political Geography Research Group, Human Geographical Society of Japan

Mobile phone: 080-5335-4605

Mobile phone email: [yamataka0921@ezweb.ne.jp](mailto:yamataka0921@ezweb.ne.jp)

Email: [yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp)

Yasushi Sakihama, Okinawa International University

The Okinawa Geographical Society

### Assistants

Akihiro Takasaki, Osaka City University

Miki Makiya, Ryukoku University (Osaka City University)

Nika Nashiro, University of Hawaii at Manoa

### Supporting Organizations

General Affairs Department, Okinawa City (Takashi Onga and Katsumi Ishiki)

Economic and Culture Department, Okinawa City (Mitsugi Kamiya)

Koza Liaison Council for Live Houses (Hayato Oshiro)

Project Division, Kin Town

Board of Education, Kin Town (Yoko Nakama)

Osaka Branch, Okinawa Tourist, Co. Ltd. (Masahiko Kusano)

### Informants

Shoji Matsuda, the former head of the Sunabe District, Chatan Town

Shinzo Shimabukuro, Professor Emeritus, University of the Ryukyus

Hiroyuki Tanaka, Council for Opposing the Planned Helicopters Base (*berikichi hantaikyoi*)

Howard L. Kreamer, Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine Corps Camp Hansen

Tamio Shinzato, Board of Education, Ginoza Village

### **Participants (in an alphabetical order)**

Sueko Abe	General Affairs Department, Okinawa City Government
Sang-Hyun Chi	Assistant Professor, Kyung Hee University
Elena dell'Agnes	Professor, University of Milano-Bicocca
Kevin Evringham	Doctoral Student, University of Connecticut
Colin Flint	Professor, Utah State University
Miriam B. Grinberg	PhD Candidate, University of Warwick
Katsumi Ishiki	General Affairs Department, Okinawa City Government
Yuichi Kagawa	Associate Professor, University of Shiga Prefecture
Hiromi Kanno	General Affairs Department, Okinawa City Government
Shinya Kitagawa	Associate Professor, Mie University
Miki Makiya	Research Fellow, Osaka City University
Virginie D. Mamadouh	Professor, University of Amsterdam
Yoko Nakama	Board of Education, Kin Town
Nika Nashiro	Former Master's Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Takashi Onga	General Affairs Department, Okinawa City Government
Yasushi Sakihama	Professor, Okinawa International University
Shinzo Shimabukuro	Professor Emeritus, University of the Ryukyus
Tamio Shinzato	Board of Education, Ginoza Village
Asaka Sone	General Affairs Department, Okinawa City Government
Akihiko Takagi	Professor, Kyushu University
Akihiro Takasaki	Doctoral Student, Osaka City University
Takashi Yamazaki	Professor, Osaka City University

## Time Schedule

<b>Day 1: August 10th, Saturday</b> <b>Militarization of Okinawa</b>		<b>Day 2: August 11th, Sunday</b> <b>Demilitarization of Okinawa</b>	
14:00	Naha Airport <u>We meet in front of the post office near Gate B on the first floor</u>	8:00	Deigo Hotel Yaeshima Yamazato (observatory) Hamby Town Camp Kuwae
14:45-15:45	Camp Kinser Okinawa International University, Ginowan Futenma Air Station and the helicopter-crash site Camp Zukeran	9:00-10:30	Chatan Mihama American Village Sunabe (guided by Mr. Shoji Matsuda) Kadena Rotary
16:15-17:00	Camp Kuwae (Lester) Kadena michino eki (roadside station and museum) Kadena Air Base Gate 2 Street	11:30	Yomitan Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield Yomitan Village Hall Agricultural land use
17:15-18:15	Koza, Okinawa City Histreet 1&2 (street museums guided by Okinawa City officials) Chuo Park Avenue	12:30-13:30	Okashi-goten (sweets factory, lunch) Ishikawa I.C. Ginoza I.C.
18:30-20:30	Deigo Hotel Check-in Dinner (greetings from Mr. Satoru Miyagi)	14:30-15:30	Henoko, Nago City Henoko Port (guided by Dr. Shinzo Shimabukuro and Mr. Hiroyuki Tanaka)
20:30-	Live house crawl (guided by Mr. Hayato Oshiro)	16:00-17:30	Kin Camp Hansen (guided by Sgt. Maj. Howard Kreamer) Shinkaichi Kin I.C. Okinawa Minami I.C.
		18:00-20:30	Chatan Mihama American Village (dinner)

<b>Day 3: August 12th, Monday</b> <b>Free activities in Naha</b>	
8:00	Deigo Hotel (check-out after breakfast)
9:00	Naha Airport



## Naha Airport

Source: <http://www.okinawa-information.com/naha-airport-oka-okinawa>

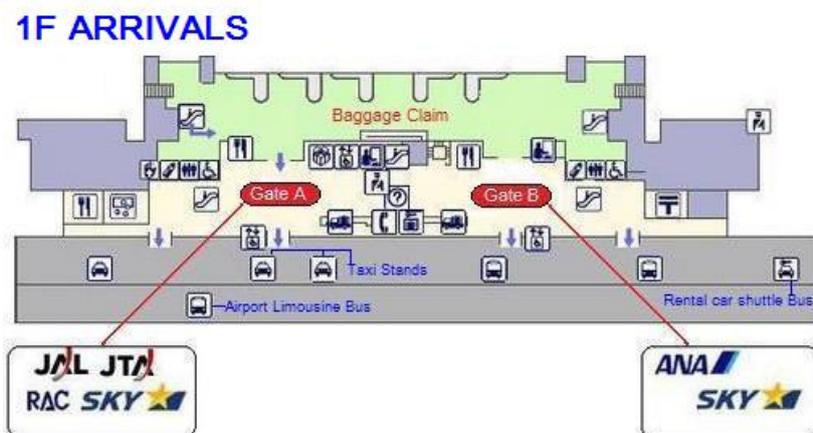
Naha Airport 那覇空港 (sometimes called Okinawa Airport) is the largest airport in Okinawa Prefecture and the central hub for flights going to other Okinawa Islands. The Airport consists of the Main Terminal that handles all domestic flights arriving and departing and a separate International Terminal. The walk between the two terminals is only 100 meters.

Naha Airport was fully upgraded in 1999, so it is a newer facility that features many amenities such as restaurants, duty free shops, souvenir shops, a kid's corner, massage booth, and a game center. The design of the terminal of course fits into the tropical feeling of Okinawa and consists of many subtropical plants, flowers, and even fish tanks that highlight some of the creatures found in the beautiful ocean surrounding the Okinawan Islands.

Accessing the airport has never been easier, since the Okinawa Urban Monorail (Yui Rail) was completed in 2003. Also servicing Naha Airport are shuttle busses/Airport Limousine Bus for many of the resort hotels on the main island, car rental agencies, and taxi cab stands located outside the 1st floor exit of the domestic terminal.

### Domestic Flight Arrival Procedures

Airplanes dock at the 2nd floor of the Main Terminal of Naha Airport. After disembarking from the aircraft passengers follow a path that leads them down to the 1st floor where baggage can be claimed and arrival gates A and B are located.



### Domestic Flight Departure Procedures

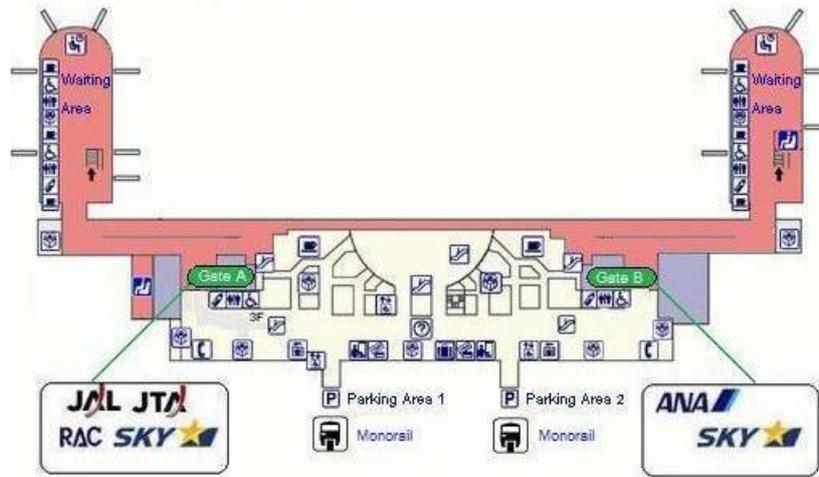
*E-tickets / Boarding passes*

If in possession of E-tickets travelers should first go to the ticket of counters of their respective airline on the 3rd floor to exchange their E-tickets for boarding passes. Baggage Check-in procedures are also completed at the same time.

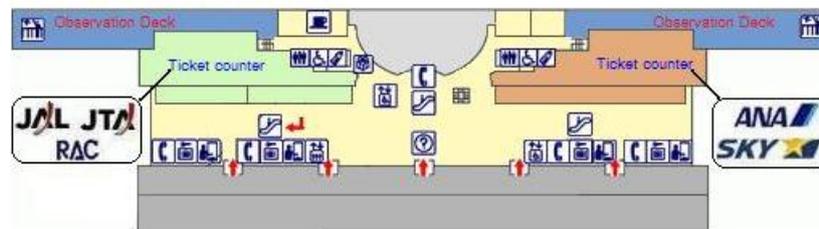
*Security check / Boarding*

After receiving boarding passes proceed to the 2nd floor departure area. After entering one of the two departure gates, there is an X-ray inspection of carry-on baggage and passengers are asked to step through a metal detector, then they may proceed to aircraft and board.

## 2F DEPARTURES



## 3F TICKET LOBBY



*For Peach (LCC) users*

All Peach flights depart from/arrive at the LCC terminal of Naha Airport. This is different from Naha Airport Domestic Terminal. Please take a free shuttle bus to the LCC terminal at least 45 minutes before the scheduled departure time. It leaves Bus Stop No.4 located just outside 1F of the domestic terminal. The free shuttle bus runs every 10 minutes. You cannot take any other transportation to get to the LCC terminal.

### **Departing From Okinawa during a Typhoon**

*Q: I heard there is a typhoon coming to Okinawa what is the first thing I should do?*

A: Ask the staff at your hotel for advice they quite often know what to do and what is going on. It is also a good idea to call the travel agent you bought your ticket from to find out the policy regarding typhoon and the airline you are dealing with.

*Q: Do the domestic airlines departing from Naha airport have English websites with delay and cancellation schedules online?*

A: Yes, many of the airlines departing from Naha Airport have English language websites that list departure cancellation and delay schedules. If you have internet access at your hotel or elsewhere, we recommend checking there first.

*Q: I've checked the web site of my airline and it says my flight is canceled what should I do?*

A: Go to the airport and get a waiting list number from the airline counter. This will help you get on the next available flight when service resumes.

*Q: Should I book a hotel room for an extra night?*

A: Depending on the situation, and severity of the typhoon booking a room may be a good idea to make sure you have somewhere to sleep for the night. Many hotels understand the circumstances surrounding traveling during a typhoon and will be ok if the reservation is canceled if the flight does end up leaving as long as you call them before departing. It is still recommended to go to the airport to check directly with the ticket counter no matter what.

*Q: My flight is definitely canceled and I can't find a hotel room for the night what should I do?*

A: The tourist information counter (098-857-6884) at Naha Airport will be able to recommend a list of hotels to contact and will be more than happy to help. If something happens and they are not available contact the Okinawa Convention Bureau (098-589-6123) who will be able to point you towards an available room for the night.

### **Traveling to Okinawa during a Typhoon**

*Q: I'm preparing to fly to Okinawa tomorrow and I heard there is a Typhoon about to hit the island, what should I do?*

A: It's a good idea to contact your travel agent as they might know what is going on before the airline website posts it. During a typhoon if you cancel your ticket with a Japanese travel agent you will receive a 100% refund if the flight has been canceled.

*Q: The agent said the flight is not canceled but the news says there is a typhoon coming, Should I go to the airport?*

A: Yes, go to the counter at the airport ask and them there. If the flight is delayed they will give you a number for a waiting list. If you don't go to the airport and the flight departs your ticket will be void and you will not get a refund.

*Q: If I cancel my ticket because I heard a typhoon is coming but the agent said the flight is not canceled will I get a refund?*

A: That depends on the policy of the agent you bought your ticket from, please ask them. If you hear a typhoon might delay your flight to or from Naha Airport

## Accommodation

### Deigo Hotel デイゴホテル

Address: 3-4-2 Chuo, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-0004 Japan

〒904-0004 沖縄県沖縄市中央3丁目4-2

Phone: 098-937-1212

Fax: 098-939-5393

URL: <http://www.deigo.jp/en/>

### History of Deigo Hotel

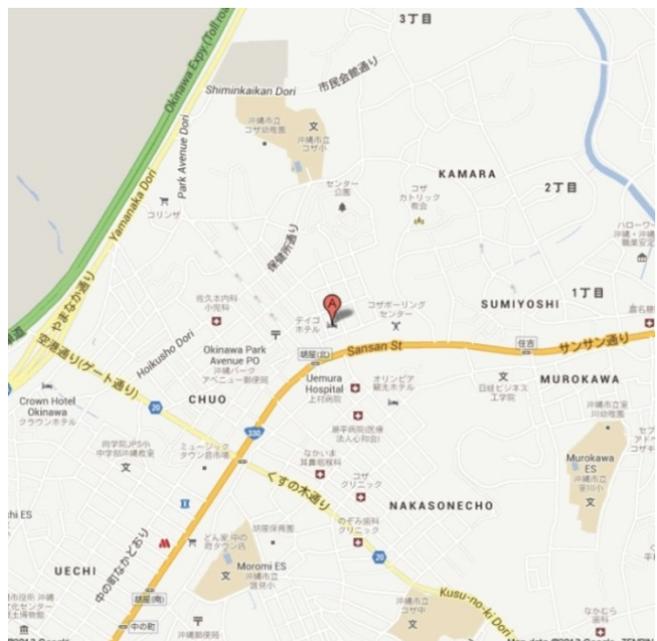
Source: <http://www.deigo.jp/about/history/> (in Japanese)

“Deigo” is the Japanese name of Indian coral tree and the flower of Okinawa Prefecture.

A small hotel with only 18 single rooms was established in 1966 by the founder late Sei Miyagi. At that time, the Vietnam War was at its most intense and a large number of U.S. military personnel were sent to battle fields by way of Kadena Air Base. Like other hotels in Okinawa City (formerly Koza City), the hotel was used as a transit accommodation by many personnel. After the founder passed away, his wife Takako Miyagi (current Chairperson) became President. Even after the Vietnam War, the hotel added new rooms for families, and its management seemed to become stable and successful through the continuing patronage of military personnel and their families.

However, according to the national policies in the 1980s, large-size hotels continued to be built *within* U.S. bases, resulting in a drastic decrease in the patronage of hotels outside the bases (inside the city) and making hotel management difficult for the following years. This made the hotel fundamentally change its management policy from depending on U.S. forces to not renewing contracts with them, attracting more tourists and business customers, accommodating training camps, and strengthening its restaurant. Aiming at “a class B hotel with high quality,” the hotel thrived to achieve the goal by repeating marketing research and trials and errors.

Due to the recent boom of tourism in Okinawa and the location advantage of sport facilities such as Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park that was a main venue for the 1987 National Athletic Meet in Okinawa, the performance of the hotel has been improving and getting close to the level of prosperity



in the past. The use for training camp in the winter by sport organizations such as the Japan Association of Athletics Federations has remarkably increased and improved the term between January and March from the bottom to the top season in the year. As anticipated, patronage by U.S. forces is now limited to less than 1% of the total profits.

Although this may sound self-applauding, the reasons the hotel has survived are probably that it continued to look for new customers without giving up in the most difficult time, that it has retained good aspects of business practices obtained during the time of U.S. patronage, and that it has done its best to meet the demands of customers as a class B hotel that does not overstretch the business. Deigo Hotel wishes to maintain such spirits and attitudes and continue to develop as a hotel that always satisfies customers.

## History of Okinawa (Ryukyu)

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okinawa\\_Prefecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okinawa_Prefecture)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Ryukyu\\_Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Ryukyu_Islands)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Okinawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Okinawa)

### From Ryukyu to Okinawa

The oldest evidence of human existence in the Ryukyu Islands was discovered in Naha and Yaese. Some human bone fragments from the Paleolithic era were unearthed, but there is no clear evidence of Paleolithic remains. Japanese Jōmon influences are dominant in the Okinawa Islands, although clay vessels in the Sakishima Islands have a commonality with those in Taiwan.

The first mention of the word Ryukyu 琉球 was written in the Book of Sui. Okinawa 沖縄 was the Japanese word identifying the islands, first seen in the biography of Jianzhen, written in 779. Agricultural societies begun in the 8th century slowly developed until the 12th century. Since the islands are located at the eastern perimeter of the East China Sea relatively close to Japan, China and South-East Asia, the Ryūkyū Kingdom became a prosperous trading nation. Also during this period, many Gusukus 城, similar to castles, were constructed. The Ryūkyū Kingdom had a tributary relationship with the Chinese Empire beginning in the 15th century.

In 1609, the Shimazu clan, which controlled the region that is now Kagoshima Prefecture, conquered the Ryūkyū Kingdom. The Ryūkyū Kingdom was obliged to agree to form a tributary relationship with the Satsuma and the Tokugawa shogunate, while maintaining its previous tributary relationship with China; Ryukyuan sovereignty was maintained since complete annexation would have created a conflict with China. The Satsuma clan earned considerable profits from trade with China during a period in which foreign trade was heavily restricted by the shogunate.

Although Satsuma maintained strong influence over the islands, the Ryūkyū Kingdom maintained a considerable degree of domestic political freedom for over two hundred years. Four years after the 1868 Meiji Restoration, the Japanese government, through military incursions, officially annexed the kingdom and renamed it Ryukyu han. At the time, the Ta-tsing Empire asserted sovereignty over the islands of the Ryūkyū Kingdom, since the Ryūkyū Kingdom was also a tributary nation of China. Ryukyu han became Okinawa Prefecture of Japan in 1879, even though all other hans had become prefectures of Japan in 1872. In 1912, Okinawans first obtained the right to vote for representatives to the national Diet which had been established in 1890.

Hostility against mainland Japan increased in the Ryūkyūs immediately after its annexation to Japan. Japan introduced modern institutions, based on Western models, including public education using standard Japanese. This increased the number of Japanese language speakers on the islands, creating a link with the mainland. When Japan became the dominant power of the Far East, many Ryūkyūans were proud of being citizens of the Empire. However, there was always an undercurrent of dissatisfaction for being treated as second class citizens.

In the years leading up to World War II, the Japanese government sought to reinforce national solidarity in the interests of militarization. They did so by means of conscription, mobilization, and nationalistic propaganda. People of the Ryukyu Islands, having spent only a generation as full Japanese citizens, were interested in proving their value to the nation in spite of prejudice expressed by mainland Japanese people, the mainland Japanese politicians appointed to govern Okinawa, and the mainland Japanese generals commanding Okinawa military units. Japanese-language education was also promoted in the school system to render the islanders Japanese citizens.

## **The Battle of Okinawa**

The Battle of Okinawa, codenamed Operation Iceberg, was fought on the Ryukyu Islands of Okinawa and was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War of World War II. The 82-day-long battle lasted from early April until mid-June 1945. After a long campaign of island hopping, the Allies were approaching Japan, and planned to use Okinawa, a large island only 340 mi (550 km) away from mainland Japan, as a base for air operations on the planned invasion of Japanese mainland (coded Operation Downfall). Four divisions of the U.S. 10th Army (the 7th, 27th, 77th, and 96th) and two Marine Divisions (the 1st and 6th) fought on the island while the 2nd Marine Division remained as an amphibious reserve and was never brought ashore. The invasion was supported by naval, amphibious, and tactical air forces.

The battle has been referred to as the "typhoon of steel" in English, and *tetsu no ame* ("rain of steel") or *tetsu no bofu* ("violent wind of steel") in Japanese. The nicknames refer to the ferocity of the fighting, the intensity of kamikaze attacks from the Japanese defenders, and to the sheer numbers of Allied ships and armored vehicles that assaulted the island. The battle resulted in the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Japan lost over 100,000 soldiers, who were either killed, captured or committed suicide, and the Allies suffered more than 65,000 casualties of all kinds. Simultaneously, tens of thousands of local civilians were killed, wounded, or committed suicide. Japan surrendered about two months after the end of the systematic fighting at Okinawa on June 23rd.

## **Postwar Occupation and Administration by the United States**

A quarter of the civilian population died during the Battle of Okinawa. After the end of World War II in 1945, Okinawa was under United States administration for 27 years. During the administration the United States established numerous military bases on the Ryukyu Islands. During the Korean War and the Vietnam War, U.S. bombers flew bombing missions from Kadena Air Base, on Okinawa, over Korea and Vietnam.

The Treaty of San Francisco which went into effect in 1952, officially ended wartime hostilities. However, ever since the Battle of Okinawa, the presence of permanent U.S. bases has created friction between Okinawans and the U.S. military. During the occupation, U.S. military personnel were exempt from domestic jurisdiction since Okinawa was an occupied territory of the United States.

Such a colonized situation caused a series of mass protests demanding appropriate compensation for confiscated private lands in the 1950s and democratic self-governance and reversion to Japan in the 1960s. Struggles against U.S. military rule constituted the foundation of Okinawan political identities as pacifist while close interactions with Americans in every aspect of socio-economic life have deeply affected Okinawan cultural identities.

## **Post-Reversion U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa**

In 1972, the U.S. government returned the islands to Japanese administration. Under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, the United States Forces Japan (USFJ) have maintained a large military presence. 27,000 personnel, including 15,000 Marines, contingents from the Navy, Army and Air Force, and their 22,000 family members are stationed in Okinawa. Since 1960, the U.S. and Japan have maintained an agreement that allows the U.S. to secretly bring nuclear weapons into Japanese ports, and there is speculation that some nuclear weapons may be located in Okinawa. Both tactical and strategic weapons have been maintained in Okinawa. U.S. military bases occupy 18% of the main island, while 75% of the area of all USFJ bases is concentrated on Okinawa prefecture.

Reports by the local media of accidents and crimes committed by U.S. servicemen have reduced the local population's support for the U.S. military bases. A strong emotional response has emerged from certain incidents. The rape of a 12-year-old girl by U.S. servicemen in 1995 triggered large protests in Okinawa. Partially as a result, but also to deploy USFJ more efficiently, the U.S. and Japanese governments

agreed in 1996 to the relocation of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and other minor bases. The 2006 Japan-U.S. Joint Statement reconfirmed that both countries intended to locate the replacement facility for Futenma Air Station at the Camp Shwab Henoko-saki area and its adjacent waters. Such a relocation plan, however, caused further protests at the site for relocation.

A new Japanese government that came to power in 2009 froze the relocation plan, but in April 2010 indicated their interest in resolving the issue by proposing a modified plan. Okinawan feelings about the U.S. military are complex, and some of the resentment towards the U.S. bases is directed towards the government in Tokyo, perceived as being insensitive to Okinawan needs and using Okinawa to house bases not desired elsewhere in Japan. Okinawa is the poorest prefecture within Japan, and the issue of U.S. bases has become tangled with the sense of colonialist/imperialist treatment of Okinawa by Tokyo.

# U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa

Source: <http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/chijiko/kichitai/25185.html>



U.S. military bases and installations in Okinawa



Training Areas in Okinawa

## Futenma Air Station

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine\\_Corps\\_Air\\_Station\\_Futenma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Corps_Air_Station_Futenma)



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma or MCAS Futenma is a United States Marine Corps base located in Ginowan, 5 NM (9.3 km; 5.8 mi) northeast of Naha, on the island of Okinawa. It is home to approximately 4,000 Marines of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and has been a U.S. military airbase since the island was occupied following the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. Marine Corps pilots and aircrew are assigned to the base for training and providing air support to other land-based Marines in Okinawa. The base includes a 2,740 by 45 m (8,990 by 148 ft) runway as well as extensive barracks, administrative and logistical facilities. The air station is tasked with operating a variety of fixed and rotary-wing aircraft in support of the III Marine Expeditionary Force. The base is also used as a United Nations air facility.

Due to its urban location, concerns surrounding training flights over residential areas causing noise, air pollution and endangering public safety have become controversial issues in Ginowan City. Safety concerns were intensified after the August 2004 crash of a Marine Corps CH-53D transport helicopter into Okinawa International University. Three crew members were injured, but there were no injuries on the ground. Public concern with crime related to the presence of U.S. military on Okinawa rose in 1995 when three American servicemembers raped a 12-year-old Okinawan girl.

In December 1996, the Japanese and U.S. governments decided that the Futenma base should be relocated to an off-shore location in Henoko Bay in Nago, northern Okinawa. This was and remains a controversial decision, since the projected site involved construction on a coral reef and seagrass beds which are the habitat of the dugong, an endangered marine mammal protected under Japanese and U.S. law.

The relocation plan has had a complex history. On 26 October 2005, the governments of the United States and Japan agreed to move the relocation site for Futenma from the reef area off Henoko to the interior and coastal portions of the existing Marine infantry base at Camp Schwab, just a few hundred meters away from the offshore facility. The cited reason for the change is to reduce the engineering challenge associated with building a runway on reefs in deep water: experts estimate that rather than the 15-plus years required to construct a new airbase at the previous reef location, the new Camp Schwab plan will enable Futenma to be relocated within 6–8 years. These plans were also accelerated when a CH-53D Sea Stallion transport helicopter attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit lost tail rotor authority and spiraled into the main administrative building of Okinawa International University.

As of April 2012, the fate of Futenma remains unresolved with the U.S. insisting that Futenma be moved to a location within Okinawa while, Okinawans "fiercely oppose Futenma and believe the base should simply be closed and moved overseas or elsewhere in Japan," according to *Time Magazine*. The U.S. and Japan have meanwhile delinked the relocation of Futenma from plans to decrease the number of Marines stationed on Okinawa, reaching a troop redeployment agreement in April 2012, which might make room for a new Futenma agreement according to Al Jazeera's Asia-Pacific correspondent Harry Fawcett. Under the terms of the new U.S.-Japan agreement 5,000 U.S. Marines will be relocated to Guam and 4,000 U.S. Marines to other Pacific locations such as Hawaii or Australia, while some 10,000 Marines will remain on Okinawa. No timetable for the Marines redeployment has been announced, but the Washington Post reported that U.S. Marines would leave Futenma as soon as suitable facilities on Guam and elsewhere are ready. The relocation move is expected to cost 8.6 billion U.S. Dollars and includes a \$3.1bn cash commitment from Japan for the move to Guam as well as for developing joint training ranges on Guam and on Tinian and Pagan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Reaction to the new plan for Futenma's relocation has been widespread in Okinawa. However, the 2006 mayor of Nago (which hosts Camp Schwab) formally agreed to accept the relocation when he signed an agreement with Defense Minister Nukaga on 8 April 2006. Mayor Shimabukuro was later joined by all five of the major mayors of northern Okinawa. Although some all-Okinawa public opinion polls indicate that many Okinawans have reservations about the latest plan, residents of northern Okinawa have recently elected and re-elected leaders who have publicly accepted it. In fact, all 12 mayors of northern Okinawa have publicly accepted the new relocation plan. In this respect, the Futenma issue exposes a range of conflicting opinions among Okinawans: from those who maintain that military facilities and associated public works infrastructure benefit the island's economy; environmentalists, and those who either object or are critical to the U.S. military presence on ideological grounds or on rooted sentiments. Susumu Inamine the new mayor of Nago city as of 24 January 2010 is against the relocation plan and agrees to move Futenma outside of Okinawa. Besides the local assembly of Nago voting against the relocation plan, the prefectural assembly of Okinawa also formally asked the prime minister to move the base out of the prefecture. On May 17, 2010 (May 15 is the date when Okinawa reverted to Japan) people from Okinawa formed a "human chain" around the whole base with estimated 17,000 people taking part. This was the fifth time such an action took place.

## Kadena Air Base

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kadena\\_Air\\_Base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kadena_Air_Base)

<http://www.kadena.af.mil/index.asp>



Kadena Air Base is a United States Air Force base in the towns of Kadena 嘉手納 and Chatan and the city of Okinawa, in Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. Kadena Air Base is the hub of U.S. airpower in the Pacific, and home to the USAF's 18th Wing and a variety of associate units. Kadena Air Base's history dates back to just before the 1 April 1945, Battle of Okinawa, when a local construction firm completed a small airfield named Yara Hikojo near the island's village of Kadena. The airfield, used by Imperial Japanese warplanes, was one of the first targets of the Tenth United States Army 7th Infantry Division. The United States seized it from the Japanese.

The size and function of Kadena Air Base have been so substantial that it has had a tremendous transformative impact on neighboring areas. Kadena Air Base is one of the largest air force bases in the Far East with two 4 km-long runways and more than 14,000 U.S. military personnel and 4,000 Japanese (Okinawan) employees. Kadena Air Base was constructed at the site of a Japanese military airport after the 1945 Battle of Okinawa. One of the outcomes from the construction of Kadena Air Base was the formation of Koza City (currently Okinawa City).

The official website of the base states, "Kadena Air Base is the hub of airpower in the Pacific, and home to the Air Force's largest combat wing -- the 18th Wing -- and a variety of associate units. Together they form "Team Kadena" -- a world-class combat team ready to fight and win from the Keystone of the Pacific. Nearly 18,000 Americans and more than 4,000 Japanese employees and contractors make up Team Kadena. The base's estimated economic impact upon Okinawa's economy is more than \$700 million annually."

## Camp Schwab

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp\\_Schwab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Schwab)



Camp Schwab, nicknamed Man Camp, is a United States Marine Corps camp located in northeastern Okinawa, Japan, that is currently home to the 4th Marine Regiment and other elements of the 28,000 American servicemen based on the island in fulfillment of the 1952 commitment of the United States to defend Japan. The Camp was dedicated in 1959, in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Albert E. Schwab, who was killed in action during the Battle of Okinawa. Camp Schwab primarily located in the city of Nago (99%); a small part of the base is located in the village of Ginoza (1%). The unit conducts live-fire training and coordination with other units to provide a forward defense of Japan.

The governments of the United States and Japan agreed (in the Special Actions Committee on Okinawa) on 26 October 2005 to move the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma base from its location in the densely populated Ginowan City section of the island to the more northerly and remote Camp Schwab. Thousands of Marines will relocate, affecting the retail economy near both bases. The move is partly an attempt to relieve tensions between Okinawans and the U.S. Marine Corps. Protests from environmental groups and residents over the construction of part of a runway at Camp Schwab, and from businessmen and politicians around Futenma and Henoko, have occurred.

The legality of the proposed heliport relocation has been questioned as being a violation of International Law, including the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is also questioned whether the current use of Camp Schwab for amphibious training violates these three conventions. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama announced in May 2010 the MCAS would move to Camp Schwab after all, and not off the island as he promised during the election campaign.

## Camp Hansen

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp\\_Hansen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Hansen)

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/camp-hansen.htm>



Camp Hansen is a United States Marine Corps base located in Okinawa, Japan. The camp is situated in the town of Kin, near the northern shore of Kin Bay, and is the second-northernmost major installation on Okinawa, with Camp Schwab to the north. It is part of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, which itself is not a physical base and encompasses all Marine Corps installations on Okinawa.

Camp Hansen is named for Medal of Honor recipient Dale M. Hansen, a Marine Corps private who was honored for his heroism in the fight for Hill 60 during the Battle of Okinawa. Hansen was killed by a Japanese sniper's bullet three days after his actions on Hill 60.

The base is home to the Central Training Area, which includes several firing ranges, a pair of shooting houses which support live fire training, and other training areas, being one of the few locations on the island where weapons firing is permitted. Also located at Camp Hansen is a brig, a confinement facility that houses U.S. military members from around the Far East for short term sentences.

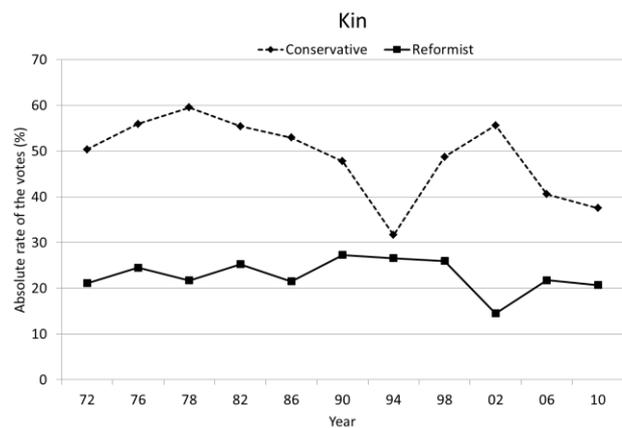
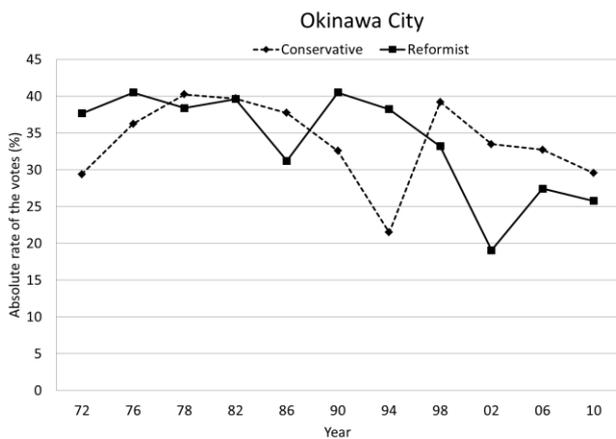
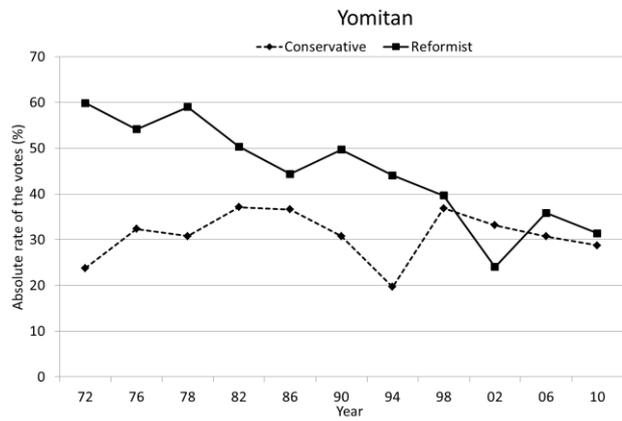
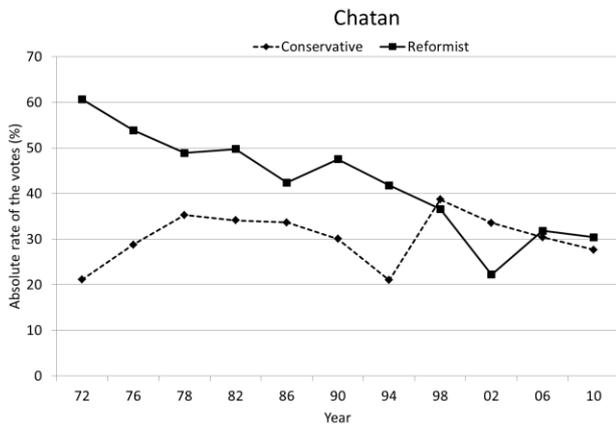
Facilities include a Post Exchange, a theater, a convenience store, two gyms, and a "consolidated entertainment facility" known as The Palms, which has two restaurants, as well as enlisted, SNCO (staff non-commissioned officer), and officer clubs. As of March 2008, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force has started to train at Camp Hansen, as part of the reorganization of U.S. forces in Japan and the move towards sharing facilities between U.S. forces in Japan and the Self-Defense Force.

## Military Base Towns in Okinawa

### Political Economic Profile of Selected Base Towns

Source: Yamazaki, T. in print. *Space, Place, and Politics: Towards a Geography of Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Nakanishiya (in Japanese).

Base town	Land occupied by bases (2011)	Income/Revenue related to bases (2010)	Population (2005)	Population increase (2005-10)	Private residential land (2011)	Employees for the tertiary (2010)	Annual average of economic growth rate (2004-09)	Election of reformist mayors (1972-2007)
	%	%		%	%	%		Mayors/Terms
Chatan Town	52.9	12.2	27,264	1.5	25.3	75.6	4.0	11/11
Yomitan Village	35.8	12.0	38,200	2.3	18.9	70.2	2.0	11/11
Okinawa City	34.5	6.8	130,249	3.0	38.2	72.2	1.6	6/11
Kin Town	59.3	29.0	11,066	4.0	10.2	69.2	1.2	0/11
Average among base towns	18.1	3.8						
Prefecture average	10.2			2.2	13.0	72.3	1.0	



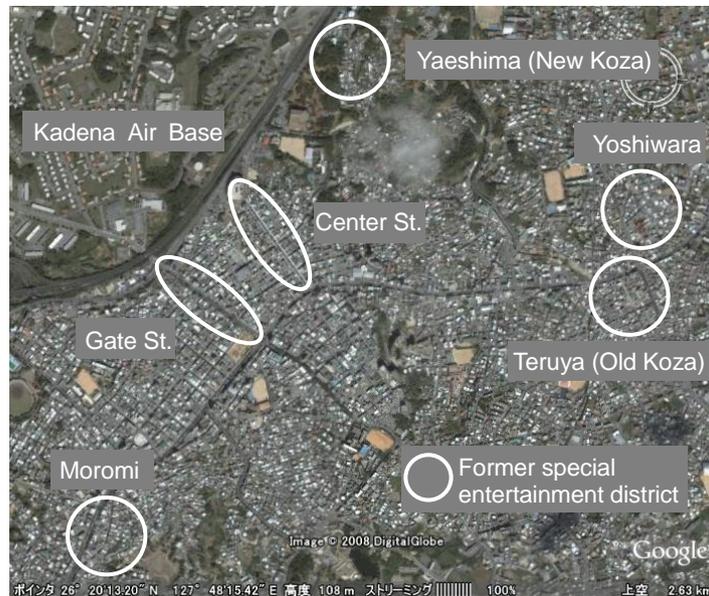
Gubernatorial Elections, 1972-2010

## Okinawa City (formerly Koza City)

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okinawa,\\_Okinawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okinawa,_Okinawa)

Yamazaki, T. 2011. The US militarization of a 'host' civilian society: the case of post-war Okinawa, Japan. In S. Kirsch and C. Flint eds. *Reconstructing Conflict: Integrating War and Post-War Geographies*. Ashgate, Surrey, UK, pp. 253-272.



Okinawa City 沖縄市 is the second-largest city in Okinawa Prefecture, following Naha, the capital city. It is located in the central part of the island of Okinawa, about 20 kilometres (12 mi) north of Naha. As of December 2012, the city has an estimated population of 138,431 and a density of 2625.12 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The total area is 49.00 km<sup>2</sup>.

Under the Ryukyu Kingdom the present-day area of Okinawa City was occupied by two magiri, a type of administrative district. The Goeku magiri occupied the south of the city, and the north of the city was part of the Misato magiri. In 1908, Okinawa Prefecture ended the magiri system and established the villages of Goeku and Misato. Both villages were agricultural and lacked urbanized area prior to World War II.

After the Battle of Okinawa the United States established the first refugee camp in Okinawa in the area south of present-day Kadena Air Base. The population of the former villages swelled rapidly. During the occupation of Japan, the U.S. military government established the city of Koza 胡差市 in Goeku. Misato merged into a neighboring community, and in 1946, again became separate, as did Goeku. Both municipalities, which were formerly largely agricultural, became heavily urbanized as a result of the construction of refugee camps and the establishment of large-scale military bases. The area became a "base town" catering to United States military personnel. On June 13, 1956, Goeku changed its name to the village of Koza; on July 1 of the same year it became a city. Koza was the first city in Japan to use katakana syllabary for its name (コザ市). The city of Okinawa was founded on April 1, 1974 with the merger of Koza and Misato.

The city of Okinawa was the site of the Koza riot on the night of December 20, 1970. Roughly 5,000 Okinawans came into violent contact with roughly 700 American MPs. Approximately 60 Americans were injured and 82 cars were burned. Additionally, several buildings on Kadena Air Base were destroyed or heavily damaged. The Koza riot was considered a symbol of Okinawan anger after 25 years of US military occupation. The riot was unexpected, and strained the ongoing negotiations on the end of the United States administration of Okinawa.

After the reversion and merger with Misato, Okinawa City attempted to promote its urban economy through commercial development in order to cope with a constant decline in the off-base consumption of military personnel due to the rise of yen value and a decrease in the number of personnel. However, as Okinawa's economy was improved from the 1980s to the early 1990s, many new shopping centers were opened in neighboring areas, which made businesses at the city center difficult to sustain. Many shops on the streets are now closed, and both the city government and local business owners attempt to promote Koza's unique history and cultures to attract visitors and reinforce place-based identities of the locals.

#### *Historical Processes of Militarization and the Formation of Koza*

Processes of militarization in Okinawa were actually begun prior to the Battle of Okinawa, or Operation Iceberg, in 1945 and the subsequent U.S. occupation. Near the end of World War II, the war situation for Japan was deteriorating in the West Pacific. The Japanese Imperial Army had already militarized the Okinawa Island by building military airports and stationing Japanese garrison troops so as to prevent the Allied Powers from approaching mainland Japan. The Allied Powers, mainly U.S. troops, aimed to seize Okinawa as a base for air campaigns over the mainland. The consequence was the tragic ground Battle with more than 200,000 casualties, including civilians, and the physical devastation of the islands. The postwar reconstruction or militarization of Okinawa by U.S. military forces was built on this devastation. Postwar processes of militarization, however, were much more comprehensive and of much greater magnitude. Such postwar processes can be conceptually categorized into four subsets: physical, economic, social, and political processes.

With regard to physical militarization, as soon as the Battle of Okinawa ended in 1945 U.S. military forces confiscated Japanese military bases and Okinawan private lands and built new military bases, including Kadena Air Base. The beginning of the Cold War in 1949 promoted this process, and Okinawa was physically transformed into a fortress with vast military bases and military road networks connecting them. Okinawans who had been incarcerated in concentration camps were released without access to their land. However, they were soon absorbed as workers and service providers into newly built military bases and the commercial and service industries serving the bases. As a result, they began to be settled and form sprawled residential and commercial districts adjacent to the bases.

Economic militarization followed such physical processes. The formation of Koza and other military base towns was a spatial manifestation of militarization. Roads leading to the gates of military bases began to be filled with small businesses catering to U.S. military personnel, such as bars, restaurants, souvenir shops, hotels, and apartments. Hence, patron-client relationships between U.S. personnel and Okinawans were established. The land rent paid by military bases also supported the lives of Okinawan landlords. Through such economic processes of militarization, the subsistence of Okinawan society became deeply dependent on the military. According to the statistics of the Okinawa Prefecture in 1972, there were 87 military bases and installations (27,892.5 ha or 68,923.9 acres in area), 42,229 military personnel and their families, and 19,980 military base workers in Okinawa. Kadena Air Base and adjacent Marine Corps Camp Zukeran employed 2,742 and 3,237 workers respectively.

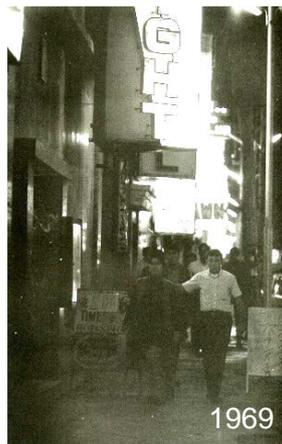
The share of the military base economy accounted for 15.5% of the prefecture economy in 1972 when Okinawa reverted to Japan, approximately three times higher than today. The military base economy was not at all negligible compared to other industries based on local resources. Thus it is not difficult to imagine how much the economy of Koza was dependent on military bases. Since more than 60% of the city's land was occupied by Kadena Air Base and other military bases, Koza received \$601,197 from the rent of military land in 1965, which exceeded the year's total city revenue (\$552,677). However, the largest component of the income from the U.S. military bases was obtained by the provision of goods and services for the military. The pre-reversion economy of Koza was best characterized by the concentration

of more than 200 bars, restaurants, and other shops for U.S. military personnel.

Social militarization refers to human interactions between military personnel and civilians. Given that U.S. military forces were stationed in an occupied, non-American civilian society, processes of militarization manifested themselves in uneven and socially complex ways. In Okinawa the military base economy established through economic militarization promoted human interactions between civilians and U.S. military personnel. Such interactions were highly unequal and gendered. The growth of Koza, for instance, was brought about by an increase in the male and female population. The latter was absorbed mainly into the eating, drinking, and entertainment businesses, including prostitution. The ratio of young females to the total population in the Central District of Okinawa Island (54.5% for 20-24 years old and 53.1% for 25-29 years old in 1965) was higher than that of Okinawa Prefecture (53.0% and 51.6% respectively), reflecting the concentration of young female population in the area where many military bases were located. The gender imbalance (i.e. high female ratio) of residents in their twenties was further striking in Koza (62.9% and 58.4% respectively). In other words, the formation of Koza was in part based on uneven and gendered power relations between the occupying male and the occupied female. Feminist scholars pay particular attention to this aspect of militarization (i.e. the militarization of women's lives). But economic and social militarization cannot be separated from each other and together contribute to the formation of particular landscapes, or the physical processes of militarization. For example, Center Street, one of the so-called "special entertainment districts" (*tokuningai*), became a local landscape feature. The existence of U.S. military bases promoted the formation of red-light districts consisting of bars and restaurants and women working for U.S. military personnel.



Early 1950s



1969



2008

Gate Street

### *The A-Sign Program*

As social militarization led to an increase in human interactions between Okinawans and U.S. personnel in the special entertainment districts, sanitary conditions of Okinawan establishments became a serious problem. In the context of the existing power relations, "problem" meant harm to the health of U.S. personnel, not Okinawans. It became an urgent matter in the early 1960s for U.S. forces to control the spread of venereal disease and to improve the hygiene conditions of local establishments outside military bases. In order to protect U.S. personnel and their families from such problems, U.S. military forces established a licensing system to issue an A-sign to the local establishments that passed sanitary inspections. The "A" of an A-sign stands for "approved for U.S. forces." U.S. personnel and their families were not allowed to use establishments without an A-sign.

The A-sign program was a means to not directly control prostitutes but the establishments that provided prostitution. However, not all the A-sign establishments provided prostitution. At the institutional level, U.S. military forces prohibited selling prostitution to U.S. personnel and carrying out sexual slavery, which made the nature of the program highly ambivalent about prostitution. In order to

maintain their businesses, owners of the establishments required hostesses/prostitutes to have a regular health check. After 1962 when the A-sign program was resumed after several years' suspension, prostitution within A-sign establishments was strictly prohibited. But it was still possible for U.S. personnel to find prostitutes at A-sign establishments.

The stricter New Criteria was introduced into the A-sign program in 1962. It required of local business owners a significant sanitary improvement or 'modernization as Americanization' of their establishments such as installations of modern cooking equipment, toilets, furniture, floor layouts, and construction materials. Thus, to meet the Criteria the owners needed a large amount of investment money, which first contributed to a drastic decrease in the number of A-sign establishments. It soon turned out, however, that obtaining an A-sign meant increased profits and the ability to pay off the initial investment quickly. The program finally contributed to a significant alteration of local business customs and urban landscapes in the special entertainment districts.

A-sign certificates can still be seen in the center of the city. This is because some restaurant and bar owners put up A-sign certificates issued before 1972 in their establishments to be proud of their (fathers and mothers) passing strict sanitary inspections and running their business under harsh foreign military rule. The sign not only signifies U.S. control over human bodies but also plays a role to invoke place-based identities in Koza.



### *Histreet 1&2*

Okinawa City runs two small street museums located side by side near Chuo Park Avenue (former Center Street). They exhibit various materials and photos representing the old days of city residents under the U.S. military administration. Walking tours for visitors usually start from here to various spots within Koza. By mistake, the website of Kadena Air Base shows the museums as permanent off-limits establishments dealing drugs. But what they exhibit is actually critical of war and militarism while contributing to the reconstruction of local identities and cultures.



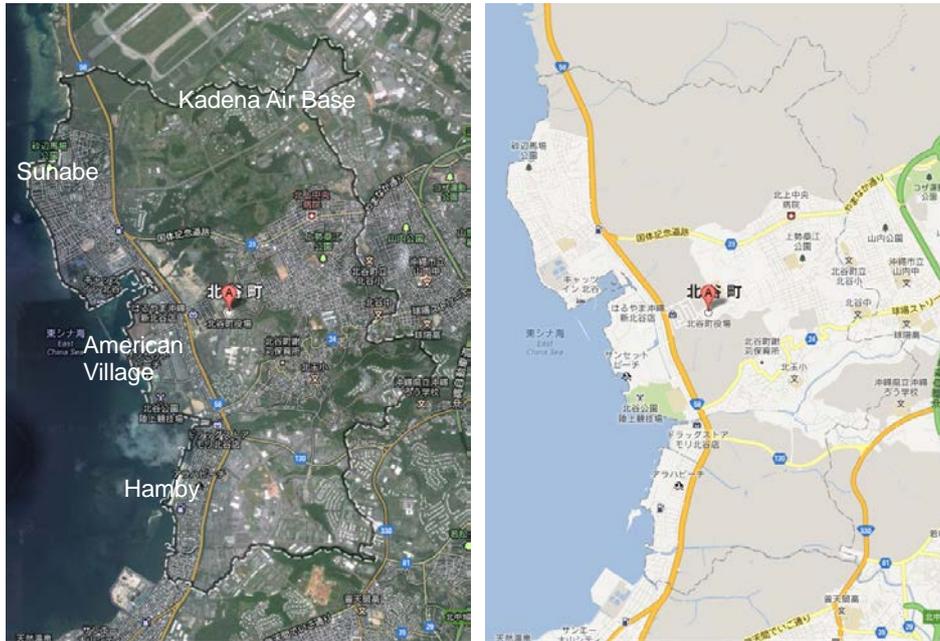
### *Okinawan Rock*

Source: <http://www.okinawaindex.com/index/?tid=2&cid=225&id=2>

Okinawa has a long history of rock, whose roots stem from the influence of the largest American military presence in Asia. This presence, during times of change for Okinawa, led to the making of a vibrant rock 'n' roll scene in the heart of Okinawa City, a scene that is still visible even today. Okinawa was the home of the rock revolution in Japan, with bands such as Murasaki, Condition Green, Cannabis, Kotobuki and Medusa at the forefront. A number of live houses owned by these musicians as well as those that appeared in the '90s in Okinawa City have enabled rock 'n' roll lovers to see their favorite artists, new and old. A few of the venues where you can listen to live music are 7th Heaven Koza, owned by Ray from Murasaki; Jet, owned by Kotobuki's leader, Jimmy Ginoza; Jack Nasty, owned by Kachan of Jack Nasty; Fujiyama; and Hideaway. If you are still hungry for more, visit the Peaceful Love Rock Festival held every July.

## Chatan Town

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatan,\\_Okinawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatan,_Okinawa)



Chatan Town or Chatan-cho 北谷町 is a town located in Nakagami District, Okinawa. As of March 2013 the town had an estimated population of 28,299 and the density of 2,077.75 per km<sup>2</sup>. The total area of Chatan is 13.62 square kilometres (5.26 sq mi). 53.5% of the land area of the town is covered by United States military bases. Kadena Air Base is located on and forms the northern boundary of Chatan which is further demarcated by Route 23 -- also known locally as Kokutai Road. The U.S. air base also encompasses much land which was once part of Chatan's area including most of the ward once named Shimoseido. Hamby Airfield as part of Marine Corps Camp Zukeran (currently Camp Foster) used to be located at the seashore of Chatan.

Much of the Hamby area is home to the "Hamby Free Zone". Though the name is misleading due to romanization errors, it is a large flea market that is scattered over an area of several blocks, though much of the land it is on is constantly relocated or bought for expansion of businesses. With the expansion of shopping/recreational businesses in the Mihama area, Chatan has become one of the most popular destinations for recreation. It is home to a large Ferris wheel (which has become a sort of landmark), a small convention center, several shopping plazas, arcades, karaoke parlors, a 25-story hotel named "The Beach Tower" and several beaches. Sunabe is famous for a large sea wall which attracts many scuba divers and surfers.

### *Mihama American Village*

The area of Hamby Airfield and its adjacent shooting range was returned in 1981, and the seashore on its northern side was reclaimed in 1988. The town then made the integrated development plan for both areas. Chatan Park and American Village were constructed on the reclaimed land. Making use of regional characters related to the concentration of U.S. military installations, American Village as a shopping and resort complex attempted to represent the atmosphere of American shopping



malls as seen in California. The Village began to be constructed in 1997 and incrementally opened its facilities from 1998 to 2004 when the whole area was completed. The annual number of customers amounted to 8.3 million in 2003. Thus it had been regarded as a successful example of the commercial redevelopment of the lands returned from U.S. bases. However, as commercial competition becomes intense on the island through exogenous investments, the overall profits of the Village is declining.

*Noise Pollution and Gaijin-jyutaku at Sunabe*

Source: <http://www.sensorystudies.org/sound-gallery/noise-in-okinawa-japan/>

Aircraft noise in Japan, as elsewhere, relates to economic and population growth and to the mechanics of aircraft design. It is also connected to the specific characteristics of hearing as a sense that cannot be closed down or separated from other bodily functions. These factors can act together to produce detrimental health outcomes and forms of social protest and resistance for those exposed to the long-term effects of aircraft noise. The conflict between concerns for the public sphere and the forces of economic progress, population expansion and mobility is based on the promise of controlling aircraft sound through certain measurements of scale and by the spatial character of interventions.

The case of U.S. military airbases located mostly on the island of Okinawa and built in the aftermath of the massive losses inflicted on Okinawa's civilian population during the last land battle of the Pacific War reveal how aircraft noise may be constitutive of what has been called a 'politics of frequency'. For the residents of the village of Sunabe 砂辺 in Okinawa, who live under the flight paths of Kadena Air Base, the sounds of U.S. military aircraft constitute their sense of place in historical time; that is, since the U.S. airbase was built on land appropriated or forcibly leased by the Japanese government and the sense of time as a confluence of physical memories that are embedded in pathologies of the body. As the Kadena base is a centre for U.S. military operations in East Asia and the Middle East, there is a sense in which the history of U.S. foreign policy in the postwar period is literally written into the constitution of the bodies of those who live in its audible domain.

Another serious issue at Sunabe is the "*gaijin-jyutaku*" (houses rented by foreigners) problem. As local residents move out of the district, real estate companies begin to build very expensive apartments and houses (USD 1,500 to 3,500 per month) for leasing to U.S. military personnel and their families. Because the national government subsidizes their monthly rents, rents and land values in the district tend to increase, creating another factor to push the locals out of the district. This demographic shift further weakens the bond of the local community.

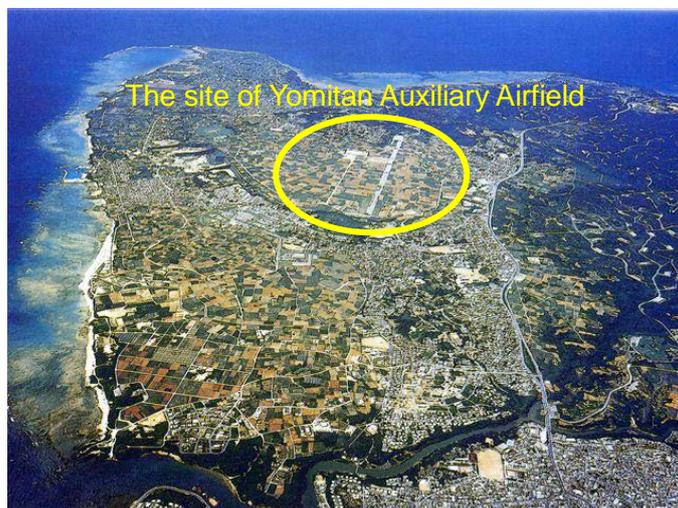


## Yomitan Village

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yomitan,\\_Okinawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yomitan,_Okinawa)

[http://www.ogb.go.jp/soumu/40kinenkouen/04yasuda\\_siryu-2.pdf](http://www.ogb.go.jp/soumu/40kinenkouen/04yasuda_siryu-2.pdf) (in Japanese)



Yomitan Village or Yomitan-son 読谷村 is a village located in Nakagami District, Okinawa, Japan. As of December 2012, the village had an estimated population of 40,517 and a population density of 1,200 per km<sup>2</sup>. The total area of the village is 35.17 square kilometres (13.58 sq mi). Yomitan is located on the western coast of the central part of Okinawa Island. The village is bound to the north by Onna, to the east by Okinawa City, to the south by Kadena, and to the west by the East China Sea. 31.5% of the land area is zoned for agriculture, 35.7% is zoned as forest, 12.3% is zoned for housing, and the remaining 20.6% is zoned for other uses. 6% of the working population of Yomitan is engaged in so-called "primary" industries, including agriculture and fishing. 25% is engaged in the "secondary" industries, i.e. food processing and manufacturing, and 69% is engaged in the "tertiary" industries: services and trade.

Yomitan was the site of fierce fighting during World War II. Zakimi Castle was used as a gun emplacement by the Japanese military. The Hijagawa River in Yomitan was the site of the initial landing of the Allied Forces in the Battle of Okinawa. The village is known for one of the most devastating examples of mass suicide during World War II. Villagers at took refuge in Chibichiri Cave during the Battle of Okinawa. Faced with Allied Forces fierce fighting outside the cave, and Japanese forces to the rear, approximately 140 men, women, and children were convinced or ordered by the Japanese military committed mass suicide (*shūdan jiketsu* or *shūdan shi*) on April 2, 1945. The memory of the Battle of Okinawa has constituted the collective identity of village people and sustained their anti-war and pacifist sentiment, partially explaining the consecutive election of leftist mayors after the war.

Approximately 36% (1,261 ha) of the village is leased from the village and local landowners to the Ministry of Defense of Japan and used as the United States military bases under the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement. Two Facilities: Torii Communication Station (Army; 194 ha) and a part of Kadena Ammunition Storage Area (Air Force and Marine; 1066 ha) are located in the village. Senaha Communication Site (Air Force; 61 ha), Sobe Communication Site (aka Elephant Cage, decommissioned in 2006, Navy; 54 ha), and Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield (Marine; 191 ha) were returned in 2007 and are now under local development.

### *Agriculture and Tourism*

The chief cash crop of Yomitan is the chrysanthemum, which, unlike in mainland Japan, can be grown in Okinawa during the winter months with the aid of artificial light at night. Chrysanthemums are followed in value by sugarcane and pigs, in that order.

Sugarcane is particularly suited to cultivation in Okinawa, as it does not require significant infrastructure (such as irrigation), grows well in Okinawa's soil, and can be left unattended for 18 months until harvest. The harvesting, refining, and butchering of commercial agricultural products are coordinated by the National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA), and the growers receive a share of the profits.

Another important crop in Yomitan is the purple sweet potato or *beni imo* 紅いも, if not for its value as a cash crop then as part of the local culture and tourist industry; the town promotes itself as the "beni imo hometown", and holds a Miss Beni Imo contest each year. Sweet potato cultivation first reached Japan via Okinawa from present-day Taiwan, predating rice cultivation, and either Yomitan or neighboring Kadena can lay claim as the first cultivators of sweet potato in Japan.

In addition to beautiful and largely unspoiled beaches, Yomitan attracts tourists for its folk crafts, including pottery (*yachimun*, or やちむん in the local dialect), glassblowing (Okinawan glass being a famed product), sugar making, and salt making. There are several facilities where tourists can try their hand at these crafts, and take their handiwork home as souvenirs. Also of interest are the Zakimi Castle (座喜味城 *Zakimi Gusuku*) ruins.

### *Redevelopment Plan for the Returned Land*

Source: [http://www.mof.go.jp/about\\_mof/zaimu/60years/3-4.htm#10\\_01](http://www.mof.go.jp/about_mof/zaimu/60years/3-4.htm#10_01) (in Japanese)

The Operational Redevelopment Plan for the Site of Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield was formulated in 2005. In the Plan, the returned land formally owned by the national government is categorized into two types: land for public use and one for agricultural use. On the land for public use, a health promotion center, an athletic field, and parks, etc. are to be constructed or renewed. Land for agricultural use is to be leased to the agricultural production cooperation organized by landowners so that an advanced agricultural region aiming at high-profit agriculture may be formed. The land equivalent exchange system was employed between the national and the village governments to make an effective use of the returned land, which had long been a pending matter as one of the misdeeds of the last war. The system also respected the autonomy of the Village and contributed to the development of Okinawa through close collaboration among the Village, Okinawa Bureau of Defense Policy, Okinawa Prefecture, and other pertinent agencies.

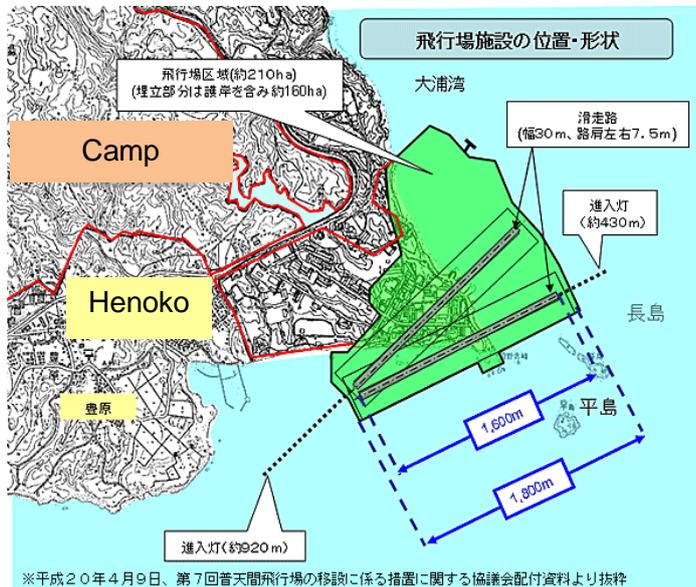


## Henoko, Nago City

Sources

<http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E8%BE%BA%E9%87%8E%E5%8F%A4> (in Japanese)

<http://www.mod.go.jp/j/approach/zaibeigun/saihen/okinawa1.html> (in Japanese)



Relocation plan as of 2008 (left), Sit-in site (top right), and Okinawa Technical College (bottom right)

Henoko 辺野古 is a district or *ku* (a 'village') located in the Kushi area in the east of Nago City. Its substantial part is occupied by Camp Schwab that is a planned relocation site for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. There is Okinawa National Technical College in the district. It was built in 2004 as the only technical college in the prefecture to promote the local economy. The district population was 1,928 in 2012 which was much larger than other nearby districts because the data included hundreds of students and faculty members of the College who newly came to live in the district. Because of its closeness to Camp Schwab, there used to be an amusement district heavily patronized by U.S. military personnel. Most of the bars and restaurants are now closed or transferred to other businesses, but the district retains a remnant of its former prosperity.

Since the mid-1990s protest movements such as sit-ins and intercept actions against the relocation have been deployed on the seashore near the Henoko fishery port. Henoko is thus well-known as a frontier site for protest against U.S. bases in Okinawa. Its coastal waters are seaweed beds and the habitat of Dugongs known as an endangered species. Even limiting to crustaceans, 36 new species and 25 species that had not been found in Japan before were found in the sea. A large community of endangered blue coral was also found. Henoko is a biologically precious place.

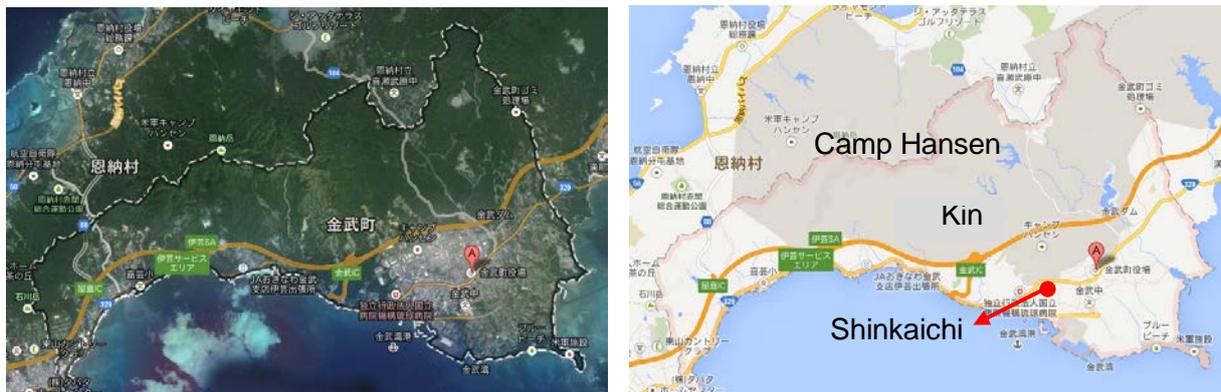
Despite this, the relocation plan of Air Station Futenma has been a highly controversial political matter that continues to split the community over the acceptance of this plan. Due to the economic and population decline of the district, many residents actually wish to accept the plan in order to secure the future development of the area with support from the national government.

### *Council for Opposing the Planned Helicopters Base (berikichi hantaikyō)*

This protest group was organized in 1997 to oppose the construction of a new heliport, promote peace and democracy in the City, and protect the natural environment of Henoko and its surrounding areas. As one of the major opposition groups, this council continues to organize sit-ins and intercept actions against the relocation.

## Kin Town

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kin,\\_Okinawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kin,_Okinawa)



Kin Town or Kin-chō 金武町 is a town located in Kunigami District, Okinawa. In 2012, the town had an estimated population of 11,390 and a density of 300 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The total area of Kin is 37.57 square kilometres (14.51 sq mi). 59% of the land area of Kin remains under control of the United States military, the highest percentage of any municipality in Okinawa Prefecture. The population of the town is concentrated on a strip of land on the coast of Kin Bay. Kin is home to Camp Hansen, a military base of the United States Marines, as well as other smaller military installations.

Historically, Kin is known as an entertainment location for the U.S. Marines stationed there. Although there have been recent military backlashes in Okinawa, Kin is welcoming to the military, as they receive income from sources such as military reservation fees, service businesses for military personnel, and national subsidies related to military bases. A large amount of military reservation fees has been paid by the national government to local landowners, the town, and districts (villages). The town and districts have used such revenues to construct public facilities, hire office clerks, and maintain cultural activities. Although the town's production capacity is very limited, the lives of town people have been directly and indirectly sustained by U.S. military bases, which have also constituted their political attitudes towards the bases.

### *Shinkaichi*

Shinkaichi 新開地 literally means “a newly opened area.” As Camp Hansen was built in 1951, this area was planned for an entertainment district just in front of a gate of Camp Hansen to provide U.S. military personnel with food, drinks, and entertainment including prostitution and became one of the special entertainment districts (*tokuingai*) in Okinawa. Unlike other villages in Kin, this district was newly developed as a solely commercial area by people migrated from other parts of Okinawa (*kiryumin*).



Currently most of the shops are closed due to a continuing decrease in the consumption of military personnel outside bases. Business owners now attempt to promote the district as a unique (exotic) place for tourists to maintain the local economy.

## What to do in Naha

Naha was a port town of the Ryukyu Kingdom and is the capital and the largest city of Okinawa Prefecture with a population of approximately 300,000. Shuri 首里 which is part of the city was the seat of the Ryukyu Kingdom until 1897 when Japan annexed Ryukyu and established Okinawa Prefecture.

If you have plenty of time before departure, you can check in your baggage in Naha Airport. One way is to do so at the departure counter on the third floor; the other is at the baggage room on the first floor (JPY 250 for the first six hours).

The second floor of the Airport is directly connected to the monorail station from which you can go to major tourist destinations in Naha within 30 minutes (JPY 220 to 320 for one ride). The Kencho-mae Station 県庁前駅 is the closest to the major shopping street (*Kokusai-dori* 国際通り or International Street). You can walk through the street (approximately one mile or 1.6km long) to the Makishi Station 牧志駅 from which you can take a monorail to go to the Shuri Station 首里駅 to visit the Shurijo Castle Park 首里城公園 which is part of the World Heritage. Altogether it will take about 3-4 hours.

You need to check in at the departure counter of Naha Airport by 30 minutes or be at the boarding gate by 10 minutes before departure.