

**Petition in Opposition to the Use of Yokota Air
Base as a Joint Civilian-Military Airport**

Mizuho Town

Mizuho Town Assembly

Petition in Opposition to the Use of the Yokota Air Base as a Joint Civilian-Military Airport

Yokota Air Base was established in 1940 as the Tama Air Base of the former Japanese Army. It became a U.S. Air Force base after World War II and has undergone several expansion programs since then. Today, its runway almost seems to stretch and cut deep into the heart of Mizuho Town.

For this reason, the residents of Mizuho Town continue to suffer from incessant aircraft noise and, at the same time, are living their day-to-day lives anxious about the possibility of an airplane accident that could happen anytime. Furthermore, various restrictions on land utilization including building height limits, etc. impair the town's development, as it is located right beneath flight paths. Nevertheless, Mizuho Town and its residents have endured these disadvantages, recognizing the base as facilities necessary for world peace and Japan's security.

Under such circumstances, in the final report on the "Japan - US Road Map for the Implementation of the Reorganization of the US Armed Forces in Japan" released on May 1, 2006, the study on the specific conditions and form of the possible use of Yokota Air Base as a joint civilian-military airport is scheduled to be conducted and completed within 12 months of its start. Since the first meeting of the "Study Group" to conduct such study was held on Oct. 12, 2006, 8 meetings have been held to date, though we harbor intense resentment as the study is advancing without any explanation provided to Mizuho Town.

In addition, the fact that Japan has, while the result of this study was never made public, requested the US for cooperation aimed at the use of Yokota Air Base as a joint civilian-military airport in Japan-U.S. foreign ministerial and summit meetings held on September 7 and 8, 2007 respectively shows that no consideration whatsoever was given to the sentiment of the residents of Mizuho Town. If the idea of the use of Yokota Air Base as a joint civilian-military airport in pursuit only of economic efficiency and convenience should be promoted continuously in this way, it may be anticipated that the opposition movement against the base itself would be spurred.

We wish to submit this petition, requesting that your Excellency kindly understands the unbearable actual conditions in which this town finds itself, and give special consideration to this matter.

His Excellency,
John Thomas Schieffer,
The United States Ambassador to Japan

October 10, 2007

Kouemon Ishizuka,
Mayor, Mizuho Town, Nishitama County,
Tokyo

Takeo Ozaku,
Chairman, Mizuho Town Assembly

Masaru Ueno,
Chairman, Special Committee of the Mizuho
Town Assembly for the Countermeasure
against the Base Problem