

US Military Bases in Okinawa A Different Perspective

Regional Security and Okinawa in the U.S.-Japan Alliance
March 9, 2010
At Cosmos Club

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Why should the United States consider Okinawa's perspective?

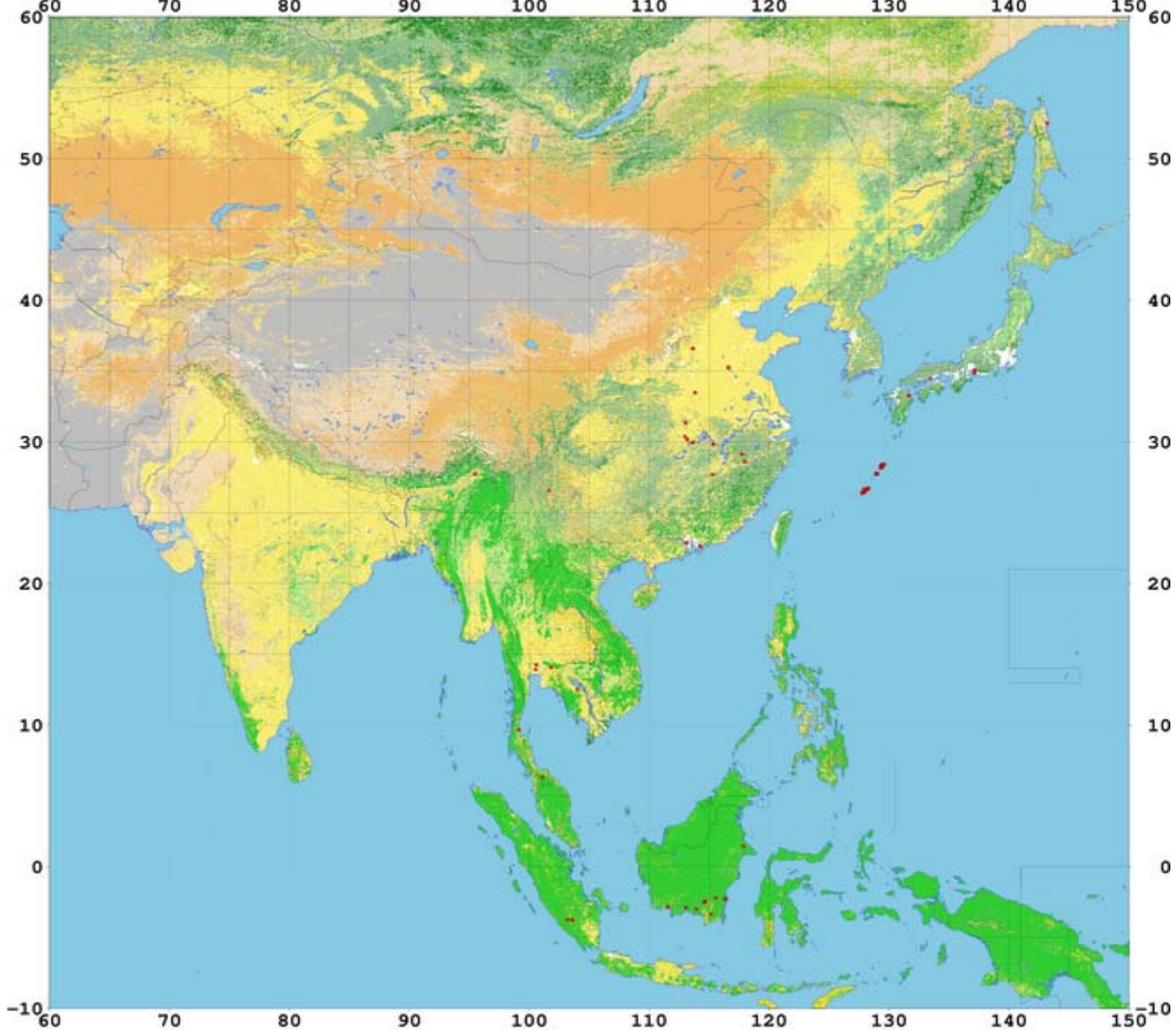
The Futenma issue is a domestic matter between Tokyo and Okinawa.

However, the United States have been involved in the Okinawa policies for more than sixty years.

The way the U.S. treats Okinawa may damage the dignity of Okinawa people, as well as the dignity of the U.S. government. The U.S. should not benefit from the unfair treatment of Okinawa by Tokyo.

This presentation is a sincere proposal for more reasonable handling of the Futenma issue and beyond. Simply, Okinawa deserves fairer policy.





Aqua/Terra MODIS active fire map as of 2007/09/26

(C) Institute of Industrial Science, U-Tokyo

- (1) Recent development of Okinawa politics
Broken Bargain between Tokyo and
Okinawa: Base \Leftrightarrow Money
- (2) The Futenma Issue blow up
- (3) "Current" stage of the Issue
- (4) Futenma as a Deterrent?
- (5) Go back to the Basics

Futenma Issue Timeline-1

1995

September Rape incident

October Prefecture rally

November SACO(Special Action Committee on Okinawa) established

1996

December SACO Final Report

1997

December Nago city Referendum (Anti-Henoko Base)

1998

February Nago mayoral election (Pro-Henoko Base)

November Okinawa gubernatorial election (Pro)

1999

November Okinawa governor agreed to the Henoko base construction

2002

February Nago mayoral election (Pro)

July Offshore 2000m runway/dual use/15 year limit plan agreed

November Okinawa gubernatorial election (Pro)

Timeline-2

2004

- April Henoko environmental assessment/sit-in protest began
- August CH53-D helicopter crashed in the Okinawa International University campus
- September Work on Henoko suspended

2005

- October SACO plan was scrapped/New L-shape runway-port plan/no dual purpose/no 15-year limit

2006

- January Nago mayoral election (Pro)
- May V-shape “current” plan
- November Okinawa gubernatorial election (Pro)

2007

- May JMSDF mine-sweeper “Bungo” was dispatched to Henoko for apparent political purpose

Timeline-3

2008

June Okinawa prefectural assembly
election (Con 26 – Pro 22)

July Prefectural assembly resolution to call for cancellation of
Henoko

2009

May “Guam Agreement”

August General election (DPJ take over/all 4 Okinawa seats won by
anti-base candidates)

November Prefectural rally

2010

January LPD Okinawa branch turned to anti-new base position

January Nago mayoral election (Con)

February Okinawa prefectural assembly unanimously passed anti-new base
resolution

May Hatoyama administration’s self-imposed deadline

November Okinawa gubernatorial election

Timeline-summary

- 1995-1997 Return of Futenma as a compensation
- 1998-2006
 - *Henoko new base construction as political tool to mobilize conservative interests in Okinawa
 - *Civic movement against Henoko base continued
- 2007- Tidal change in Okinawa politics
The "Bargain" is broken.

Current Plans on Table

- Offshore V-shape plan
- USMC Futenma integration to USAF Kadena
- Camp Schwab land plan
- Guam Relocation plus training relocation to various sites in Japan

Futenma Issue in a proper perspective

- Futenma was deemed obsolete and dangerous in 1995
 - ⇒ East Asian political situation since 1995
- Is Futenma more important than Kadena?
- Should/Could Okinawa's opinion be completely ignored?

Okinawa's Burden

- 18% of the land area of the Okinawa Island, and 12% of the prefecture is occupied by the US military bases and facilities.
- More than 85% of the Marines in Japan are stationed in Okinawa.
- Municipalities with large % of area taken by the US bases:
 - Kadena 82.5; Chatan 52.9; Yomitan 35.8;
 - Okinawa 34.1; Ginowan 32.4

Hatoyama's Predicament

New administration-same bureaucracy:

Who really make policies?

Japanese media as a propaganda machine
for US?

Japanese society's attitude toward Okinawa

USMC as a Deterrent?

- Against North Korea?: Missiles?
- Against China?: Senkak?; Taiwan?
- (Map from a public domain page)



Okinawa's Perspective

- Immediate Closure and Return of USMC Futenma
- No New Replacement Base in Okinawa
- Remove the Marines out of Okinawa (In the words of former conservative Okinawa Governor Inamine.)

⇒ Acknowledgment of Kadena's value

This will lead to a more stable US-Japan alliance.

Back to the Basics

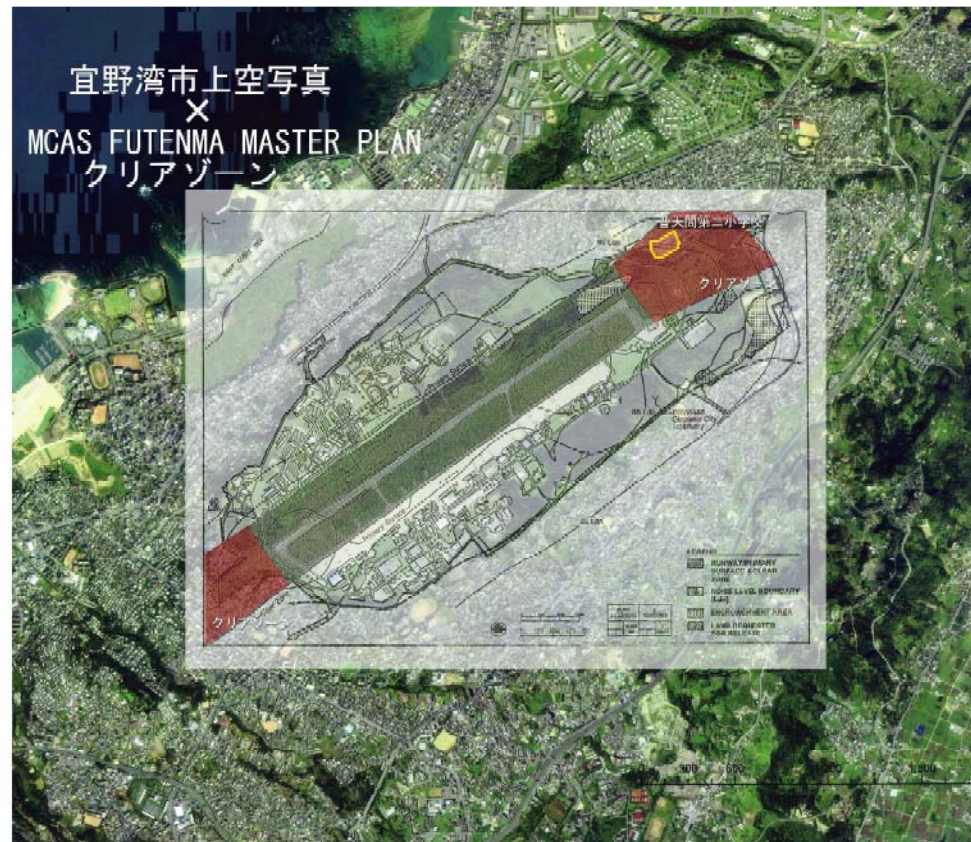
- Think about USMC Futenma again:
 - Should it be shut down and returned immediately?
 - The Futenma issue has become the “Henoko” and transformation/new base construction issue, because of (1) Turf war within the US military, and (2) The Okinawa’s appetite for more construction projects.
- ⇒ Both are obstruction to more reasonable discussion, and the condition (2) has changed.

(The next four panels from the Ginowan City site)

The Futenma “ISSUE”

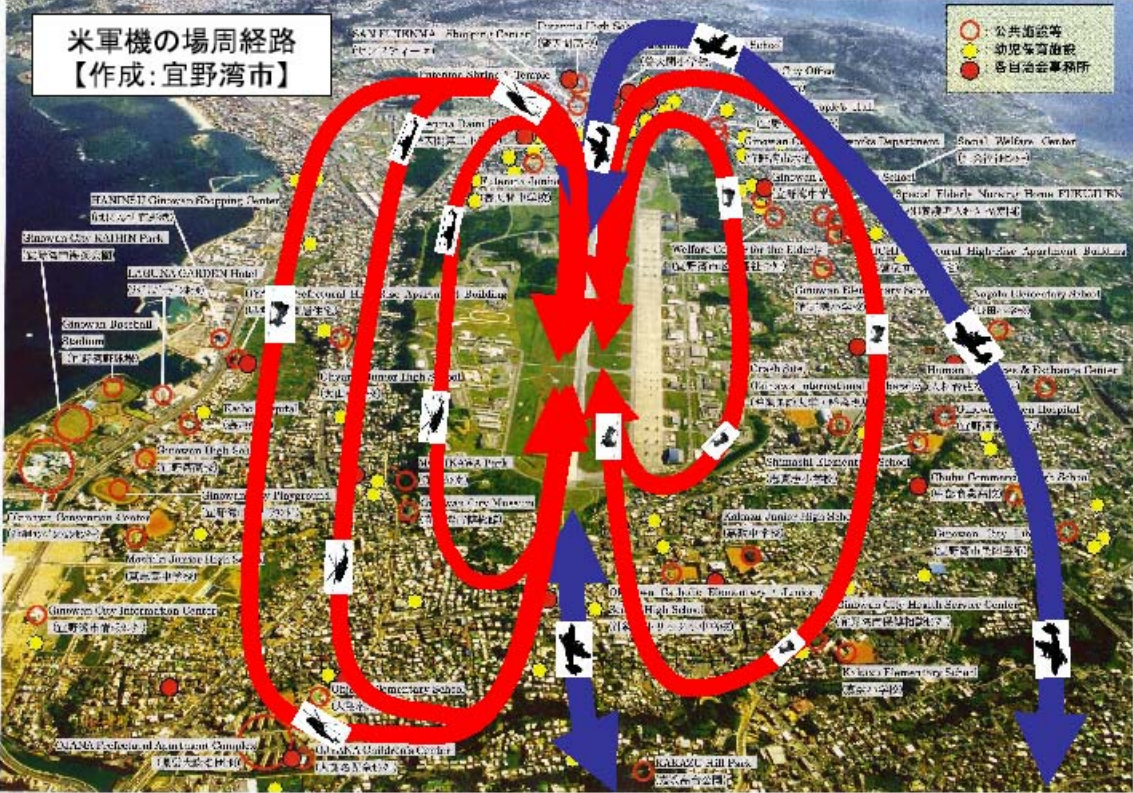


“Clear Zone” in the Ginowan city



米軍機の場周経路 【作成: 宜野湾市】

- 公共施設等
- 幼児保育施設
- 自治会事務所



August 13, 2004

- CH53D Helicopter crashed on Okinawa International University campus.
- The crash and the handling of the incident after it have become the symbol of Okinawa's status: Double subjugation.
- (Next four panels are from Okinawa International University archives.)







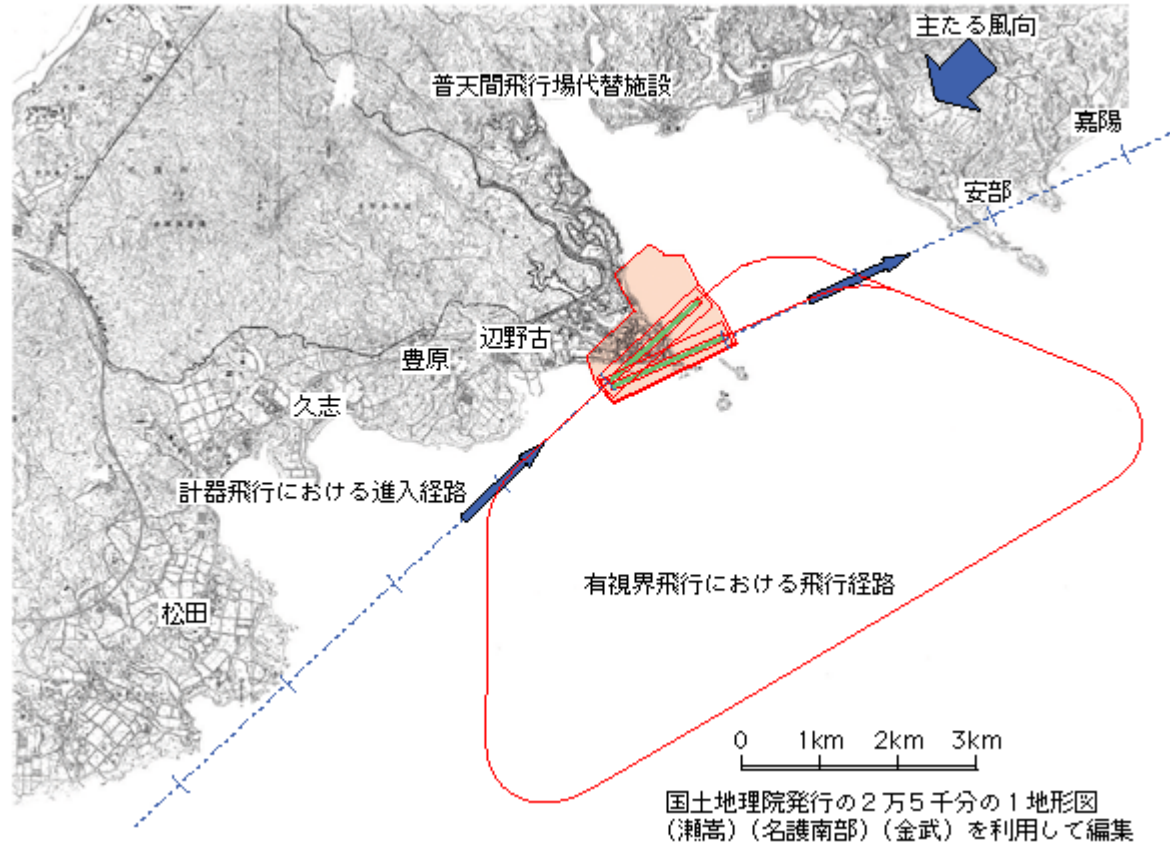


Environment

- Do not forget about the environmental destruction a new base construction in Okinawa would bring in.
- (Next three panels are from Okinawa prefecture and other published governmental sources.)

Henoko New USMC Base Plan

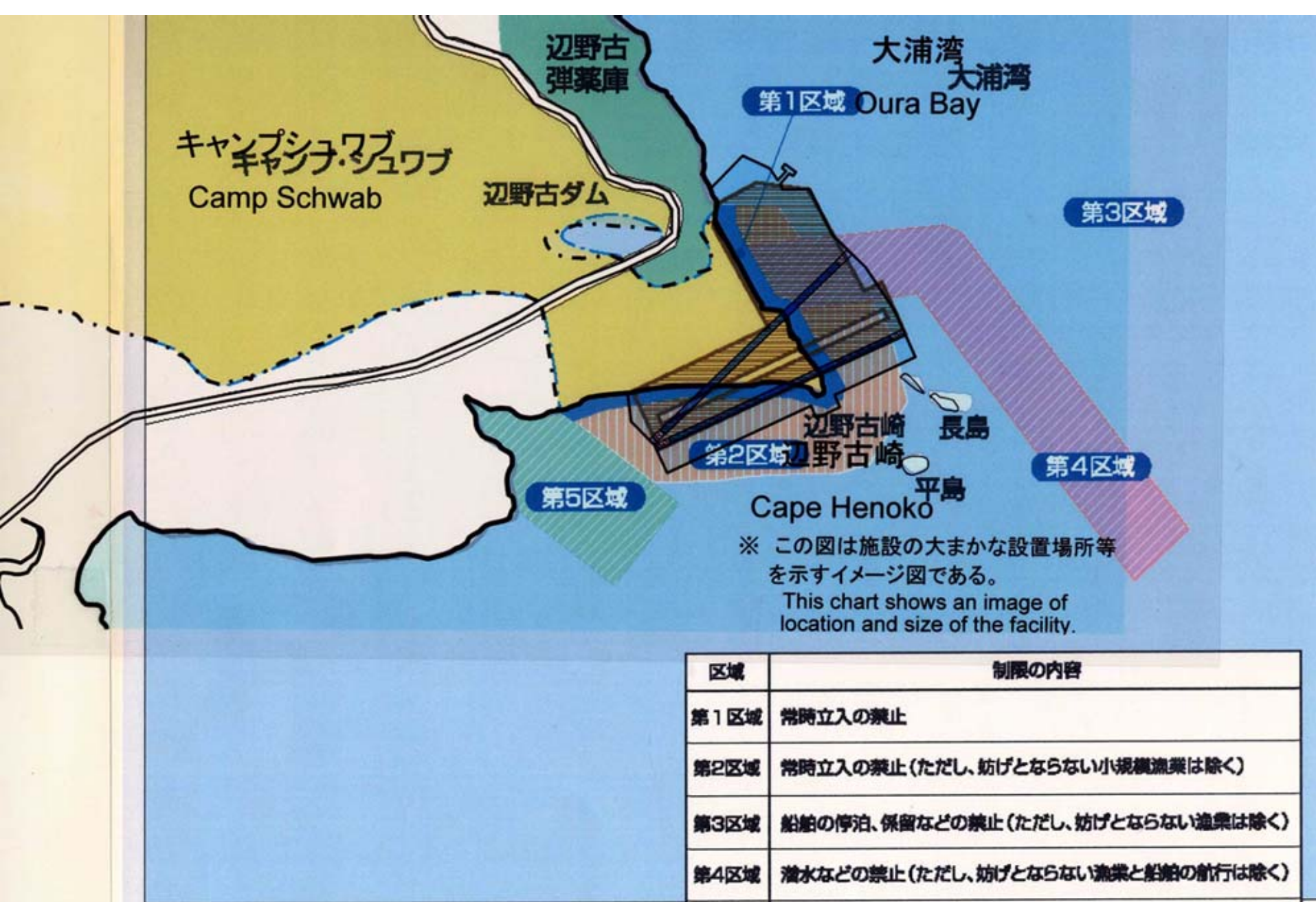
図表4-2-11 普天間代替施設のイメージ



(説明用資料)



※ この図は施設の大まかな設置場所等を示すイメージ図であり、「2+2」共同文書とは別のものである。



区域	制限の内容
第1区域	常時立入の禁止
第2区域	常時立入の禁止(ただし、妨げとならない小規模漁業は除く)
第3区域	船舶の停泊、係留などの禁止(ただし、妨げとならない漁業は除く)
第4区域	潜水などの禁止(ただし、妨げとならない漁業と船舶の航行は除く)
第5区域	妨げとならない漁業と船舶の航行に制限無し

