

According to a 1996 report by SACO, the US military Northern Training Centre covered 7500 hectares, of those 3987 hectares were designated to be returned to Okinawa. The remaining area is proposed to be converted into helipads. In the Okinawan prefectural environmental department's 'red data book' of endangered species, there are listed 204 species to be protected by law. Amongst these 204 species there are 20 which are indigenous to Yanbaru and are found nowhere else in the world.

Defense Facilities Administration Agency report

The US military are currently using the CH46 helicopter in Takae, compared to this the new Osprey helicopter (which is put forward to be used on the new helipads) can fly 5 times as far, carry 3 times as much, go twice as fast and create who knows how many times as much noise disturbance???

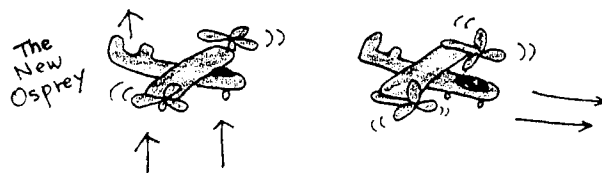
The US are currently increasing the production of the new Osprey helicopters and hope to replace all of the Ch46's as soon as possible. (Ryukyu Shinpo March 1st)

Takae is a small village with a population of 140 people. There are 14 Elementary and Junior High school students, and 13 pre-school children growing up amongst the resplendent abundance of nature, that exists in and around Takae.

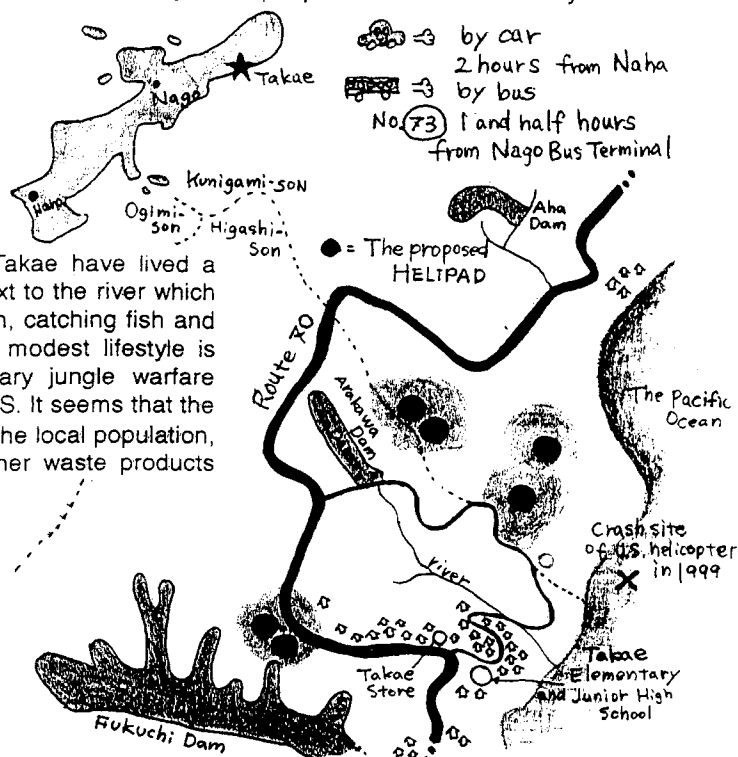
What will happen if they construct helipads in such a beautiful place as Takae?

On March 3rd there was a meeting to explain the findings of the environmental assessment. Such things as the reduction of base land by minimizing the size of helipads, and the environmental impact on the local flora and fauna were discussed. The issue of the protection of local species such as Okinawa Woodpecker and Okinawa Rail, was raised and given precedence, but there was nothing mentioned about the people who live in the area of the proposed helipads; the effect that it would have on their living environment; or the noise pollution that such a helipad would create for them. This was a totally disappointing discussion for us.

The people of this community are united in protesting against the proposed helipads. Takae ward chief.



Please come to Takae to see the river teeming with shrimp, eels and other such wildlife, and the waterfall where children can play in total safety. Sit on the riverbank and listen to the power of nature in all its iridescent beauty, here you are witnessing something important. This does not only belong to the people of Takae but to everyone.



From olden times the people of Takae have lived a modest lifestyle in tune with nature, next to the river which connects the mountains with the ocean, catching fish and exchanging vegetables. However this modest lifestyle is under threat from the only US military jungle warfare training centre existent outside of the US. It seems that the US military are completely unaware of the local population, leaving empty cartridge shells and other waste products lying around outside of the base.

No more Helipads!!  
No more War!!



Since Takae's reservoir provides water all across the prefecture, prefectural water is at stake, and may become contaminated. The flight training is carried out during the day, but also until 10 o'clock at night. This is a daily problem for us destroying our peace of mind.

On 2006.2.23 we decided to protest the proposed building of the helipads. If you are in agreement please share your thoughts and ideas with us. This is not only Takae's problem so we await your opinions eagerly. All donations will be gratefully received.

TEL 090-9789-6396

Email umikawamori.takae2007@ezweb.ne.jp

Donation Postoffice 01780-1-65612 「7000の森を守る会」

Takae information homepage please take a look !!

<http://takae.ti-da.net/> やんばる東村 高江の現状

We are waiting for your opinions.