

Even without an accident, jet noise pollution from the training brings us unbearable pains. Atsugi Naval Air Base neighboring Yokosuka is in a most densely populated area as is also the case with Yokosuka. When Midway is in Yokosuka, its airplanes repeat landing and take-off training day and night in Atsugi. Two planes take turns to practice touch-and-go and the noise from the training is all over the populace with a short 1.5 and 2 minute interval. An example. In the 35-day long NLP(night landing practice) from July to September, 1987, unbearable jet noise was recorded 9119 times, average 261 times a day. School classes are interrupted; Telephone conversation is impossible; People are robbed of a good night's sleep; And physical and mental disorders are on the increase among the elders and the children.

Housing is also a problem. Yokosuka accommodates at least 5000 crew of Midway. Under the pretext of the chronic shortage of the housing for those crew and their families, a housing project is underway in Ikego Forest in Zushi, a city neighboring Yokosuka, cutting down trees and levelling the hill. The forest is the only remaining substantial natural forest in the Tokyo metro area and is a sancturay of precious wild birds, and archaeological ruins were discovered from the ancient times. The Mayor, the City Council and the citizens in Zushi are in unison to oppose this atrocity, but neither the US Navy nor the Japanese government won't listen to their plea.

There is also a danger of a nuclear accident. Mathematically, the port of Yokosuka houses nuclear reactors on nuclear vessels every other day. Most likely, Midway has over 50 nuclear weapons on board. And there are nuclear Tomahawks on the Tomahawk vessels. There is no guarantee whatsoever that they will not cause an accident.

In 1988, Dr. Jackson Davis of the University of California visited Japan and made a shocking revelation of his analysis. He said, if there is a fire on a nuclear-armed vessel or an accident with a nuclear reactor on board nuclear-powered submarines in Yokosuka, under certain conditions, tens of thousands people are killed and part of Tokyo and Yokohama will be inhabitable due to the radioactive fallouts carried by the wind. And this, he said, is a conservative estimate.

The likelihood of such an accident in Yokosuka is higher than anywhere else in the world. The entrance to Tokyo Bay, where Yokosuka is situated, is a notoriously narrow and hyper-congested waterways. It is only 700 meters wide, and 900 giant oil tankers and other ships make passage every day. An expert says, "no-accident is a miracle in Tokyo Bay". There was indeed a collision two years ago between a Japanese submarine and a large fishing boat, killing 30 people.

These are the hazards and dangers we are living, and they will be even more unbearable if Midway is replaced by Independence.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO SUE THE US GOVERNMENT.

Last summer, we started "NEPA Coalition". We came to know the existence of NEPA - the National Environmental Policy Act in the United States. This was an inspiring revelation to us. NEPA requires the US government to prepare an EIS - Environmental Impact Statement whenever the US government and its agencies "