

Stop the building of the new US base in Ukawa, Kyotango-city, Kyoto! No to expansion of the US Missile Defense (MD) network in East Asia!

The Kyoto Coalition against the US X-band Radar Base
April 1, 2014

During the US-Japan summit meeting on February 22, 2013, the US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed on the additional deployment of the US X-band radar in Japan. It is a part of the US Missile Defense (MD) system. In order to deploy the radar and its-related facilities, the US and Japanese governments try to build a new US base in Ukawa district, Kyotango-city, where is located northern part of Kyoto prefecture. It promotes the US-Japan military integration, and raise military tension and threat of war in East Asia. Therefore, we are working hard to stop building of the new US base now.

What is the X-band radar base?

The X-band radar is composed of a part of the US Missile Defense (MD) network. It is the radar for the newest anti-ballistic missile or the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile.

The first deployment of the US X-band radar in Japan was at the Japanese Self Defense Forces (JSDF) Syariki sub-base in Tsugaru-city, Aomori prefecture, northern part of Japan. It was a part of the comprehensive realignment project of the US forces in Japan. The planned deployment of the radar in Ukawa, where is located nearly top of Tango Peninsula, follow it. According to the 'Quadrennial Defense Review 2014' that was issued by the US Department of Defense on March 4, 2014, the aim of the second deployment of the X-band radar is to 'provide early warning and tracking of any missile launched by North Korea'. In summary, it is a part of building of war posture against North Korea. It is said that the radar in Syariki is for catching the possible missile launching directed to Hawaii, and one in Ukawa is to Guam. The US keep huge military base in both islands in Pacific. JSDF also share the information that the US X-band radar catch, and intercept missiles if it need.

By the way, the radar and the information that it catch have a decisive importance in modern war. The radar, therefore, would become first target of attacks in war. For example, the US forces attacked and destroyed the radar network of Iraq at first when it launched the war of aggression there.

160 US servicemen and 'civilian employee' would be deployed in the new US base

According to the Japanese Defense Ministry, the radar itself will deployed in present JSDF Kyogamisaki sub-base. But, at the same time, the related facilities including one for operation space, electric supply and cooling-down, etc, was required if they would operate the radar. Therefore, the US forces plan to secure the land of around 3.5 hectare and build the new US base there. The Japanese Defense Ministry also plan to expand the present JSDF base.

They also said that around 160 person including both of US servicemen and 'civilian

employee' would be stationed at the new US base. The Japanese Defense Ministry explain that most of persons who will stationed there are 'civilian employee' such like engineers and private guards. But the explanation is almost false. In reality, so-called 'guards' will be dispatched from private military contractors. We remember the civilian massacres committed by guards from an US private military contractor or the notorious Blackwater USA during the US-led war of aggression on Iraq. It is also the Blackwater-related company that undertake the guard of the US X-band radar base in Syariki, Aomori.

Brief about Ukawa district

The Ukawa district is in Kyotango-city, Kyoto prefecture and located nearly top of Tango Peninsula. Around 650 families or 1,700 people live at 14 small rural communities in the district. 2 of the 14 communities, or Sodeshi and Owa, are closest to the planned construction site of the new US base. In Ukawa, most of people are gaining the livelihood by agriculture or fishery. The district is facing depopulation and the elderly population is high. But the people had lived in peace, surrounded by beautiful nature.

Ukawa has very beautiful coastline, which is also precious site for geology. There are famous terraced rice fields near planned construction site of the new US base. Scare living beings including falcons as endangered species are also live there.

During the US occupation era just after Japan's defeat at the Second World War, the US occupation forces had stationed also in Ukawa. Elderly villagers know the brutality committed by the US soldiers at the time.

Why we oppose the construction plan of the new US base in Ukawa?

1. The building of this new US base as a part of the US Missile Defense (MD) network inevitably raise military tension in East Asia.
2. It exposed residence near the base to threat of possible war and destruction that would brought about by the war. At the same time, it would transform Tango Peninsula into the frontline of war in East Asia.
3. It is a part of the maneuvers for consolidation of the US-Japanese military alliance. It will further promote the US-Japanese military integration and their invasive war posture, supporting Japan's recent maneuver for allowance of using of right to collective defense.
4. The existence of the US bases inevitably cause crimes and accidents committed by the US servicemen and civilian employee.
5. The building of the new US base would destroy precious natural environment and ecosystem in Ukawa.
6. It would open the way for escalation of militarization in whole Kansai (or Kinki) region.

The US forces and Japanese Defense Ministry go hand in hand

Despite of people's large concern, both of Kyoto prefectural governor and Kyotango-city mayor expressed their acceptance of the construction plan of the new US base in Ukawa on last September 2013.

After that, since last November 2013, officials of the Japanese Defense Ministry, as the proxy of the US forces, had worked hard for securing the land for construction of the US base. They had promoted the high-pressure negotiation for taking of the land on lease with small land owners. And in conclusion, unfortunately, all the land owners except one accepted the land lease contract until the end of last December 2013. The contract is renewed every year. Soon after conclusion of the contract, the Japanese Defense Ministry provided the land to the US forces.

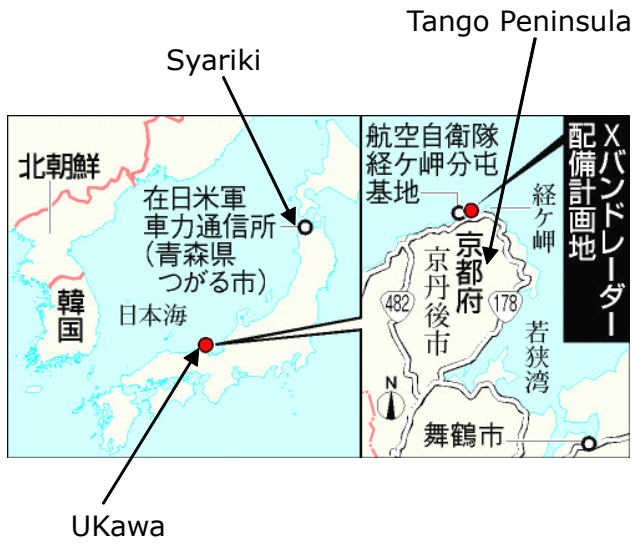
According to press, the US forces try to start construction of the base even on this April 2014.

Rising the voice of opposition in Ukawa

In Ukawa, no one welcome the US base. People are concern about possible crimes and accidents committed by the US troops, impact to electromagnetic waves to their health conditions, farm products and fishery, etc. Most of the villagers, however, had not opened their mind because they are afraid of destruction of human relationship in small rural communities. Only a few villagers formed a small group 'Ukawa People Concerned about Construction of the US Base' (or simply saying 'Concerned People in Ukawa'), and opposed the construction plan of the base.

But the situation in Ukawa is dramatically changing now. More than half voters in Ukawa signed the petition to demand withdrawal of the construction plan of the US base when the signature collecting campaign was held in Ukawa on last February and March 2014. This is a significant figure.

In Kyoto-city, the 'Kyoto Coalition against the US X-band radar base' was formed by concerned individuals and organizations on last July 2013. It have actively promoted campaigns including the signature collecting, protests to the Defense Ministry's office in Osaka and Kyoto prefectural authority, and holding of rallies and marches. Members of the Kyoto coalition have also visited Ukawa regularly for delivering of anti-base flyers and the door-to-door conversation with local people in Ukawa. In addition, the 'Kinki Coalition against the US X-band radar base' was also established. Kinki (or Kansai) region covered 5 prefecture including Kyoto, Osaka, Shiga, Nara and Hyogo. The voice of opposition against building of the new US base in Ukawa is gradually expanding nation-wide now. ###



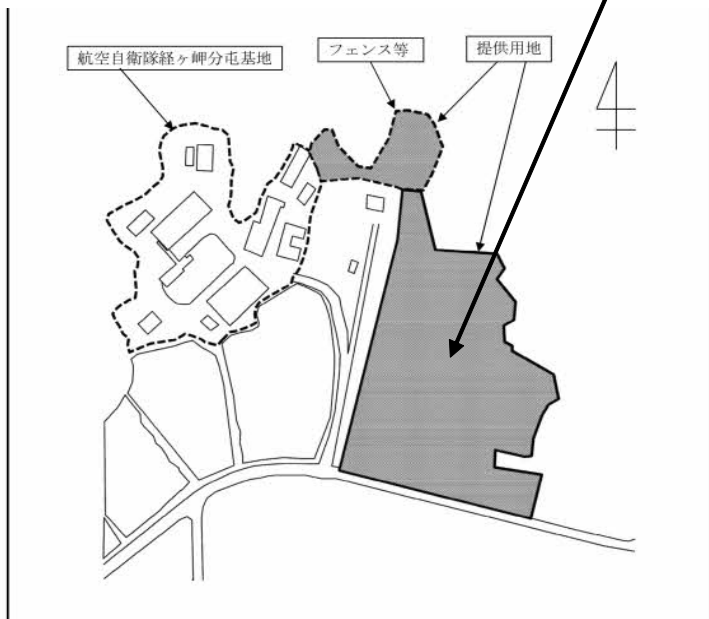
Range of the X-band radar

施設等の展開計画(案)

別 4



Planned construction site of the new US base



Landscape in Ukawa