

Matters Concerning U.S. Military Facilities

Handling Issues Associated With U.S. Military Facilities

There are seven U.S. military installations in Tokyo. Because their presence has a range of impact on the daily lives of Tokyo residents as well as community development, the TMG is working toward the consolidation, downscaling, and reversion of these installations, and, in cooperation with relevant local governments, urging the central government and the U.S. Forces Japan to resolve various problems caused by the facilities, such as aircraft noise and concerns about incidents and accidents. The TMG also works with the U.S. forces to cooperate in times of disasters and other emergencies.

U.S. Military Installations in Tokyo

In Tokyo, there are seven U.S. military installations (facilities and areas provided to the U.S. forces), including Yokota Air Base, where the headquarters of the U.S. Forces in Japan are located. Combined, they occupy approximately 1,600 hectares.



Yokota Air Base

U.S. military installations in Tokyo (as of January 1, 2023)

Name of installation	Location	Purpose	Area(ha)
Akasaka Press Center	Minato-ku	Office, quarters, heliport	2.7
Yokota Air Base	Tachikawa City, Akishima City, Fussa City, Musashimurayama City, Hamura City, Mizuho Town	Airfield, housing, schools, offices	713.6
Tama Service Annex	Tama City, Inagi City	Golf course, recreation facilities, etc.	194.8
Owada Communication Site	Kiyose City	Communications (communication facilities)	24.7
Iwo Jima Communication Site	Ogasawara Village	Communications (training)	663.0
New Sanno U.S. Forces Center	Minato-ku	Accommodation facility	0.7
Haneda Air Mail Control Activity Office	Ota-ku	Office	Building only

Petitioning the Central Government and U.S. Forces

The TMG is urging the central government to promote the consolidation, downscaling, and reversion of U.S. military facilities in Tokyo through efforts such as making requests to the central government regarding policies and budget measures, as well as the activities of the Base-Hosting Governors' Association.

To solve various problems arising from military facilities, the TMG is calling on the central government and the U.S. Forces to reduce aircraft noise in the areas around Yokota Air Base and prevent the recurrence of aircraft accidents and incidents caused by members of the U.S. Forces, through the Liaison Council of Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Municipalities Surrounding Yokota Air Base for Measures Concerning Yokota Air Base (made up of the TMG, five cities, and one town) and other efforts. Specifically, based on noise monitoring results, the TMG has been demanding that measures be taken to curb aircraft noise in the areas surrounding Yokota Air Base and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, and that landing practice by carrier-based aircraft not be conducted at those facilities.

In addition, on October 1, 2018, five CV-22 Osprey aircraft were deployed to Yokota Air Base, which increased to six in July 2021. The TMG is calling on the central government and U.S. Forces to ensure the safety of the residents living in areas around the base and preserve the living environment.

Collaboration With the U.S. Forces in Japan

In an effort to improve coordination with U.S. Forces when a disaster strikes, as part of its Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill, since fiscal 2006, the TMG has been simulating the transport of relief supplies with the participation of helicopters operated by various branches of U.S. Forces stationed in Japan.

Between the TMG and the U.S. Army in Japan, there is an agreement that allows the TMG to use the heliport of the Akasaka Press Center to transport relief supplies in the event of a disaster and to transfer emergency patients from Tokyo's islands to hospitals in the city center.

Promotion of Civil-Military Dual-Use of Yokota Air Base

“Civil-military dual-use of Yokota Air Base,” which would enable commercial aircraft to use the runway and other facilities also used by military aircraft, will supplement airport functions in the National Capital Region and improve air access in the western part of the region.

Following agreement between Japan and the United States to study the feasibility of civil-military dual-use of Yokota Air Base at the 2003 Japan-U.S. Summit, the TMG has been working closely with the central government for early realization of dual-use of the base.

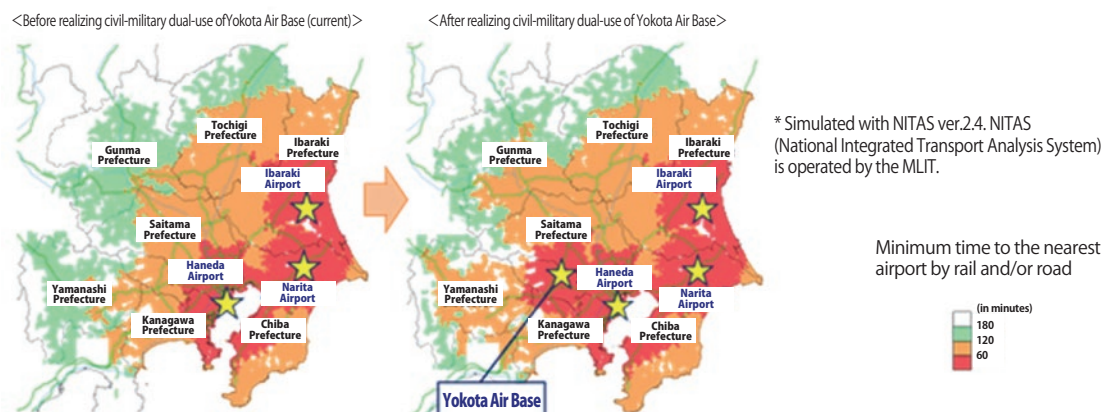
Significance of Civil-Military Dual-Use

Supplementing Airport Functions in the National Capital Region

Airport capacity in the National Capital Region is being gradually increased at Haneda Airport and Narita Airport. According to air travel demand projections, airports in the National Capital Region will reach their capacity limits by the early 2020s. In order to address increased air travel demand over the long term, measures are needed to strengthen airport functionality in the National Capital Region, including the civil-military dual-use of Yokota Air Base.

Improved Air Access in the Western Part of the National Capital Region

The western part of the National Capital Region, including the Tama area as well as neighboring Saitama, Kanagawa, and Yamanashi prefectures, has a large population and a high concentration of businesses. Civil-military dual-use of Yokota Air Base would dramatically improve air access in the west by reducing traveling time to the airport.



Accommodating Diversified Aviation Demand

At a time when cities around the world are fiercely competing against each other in the area of international business, it is necessary to further promote the accommodation of business jets in the National Capital Region to enhance the international competitiveness of Tokyo, as well as that of Japan. Civil-military dual-use of Yokota Air Base will strengthen the region’s capacity of accommodating diversified aviation demand, including business jets.

Measures Aimed at Promoting Civil-Military Dual-Use of Yokota Air Base

In 2003, the TMG and relevant government ministries and agencies set up a task force for discussion of practical matters concerning the civil-military dual-use of the base. To promote negotiations between the Japanese and U.S. governments, task force members have shared information and opinions.

In requests to the central government related to policies and budget measures, the TMG has demanded early realization of dual-use of Yokota Air Base, which will contribute to the promotion of the Tama area and the development of the economy of the National Capital Region. In addition, the Central Government-Tokyo Metropolitan Government Working Level Council is deliberating the use of Yokota Air Base by civil aviation.

Furthermore, the National Capital Region Nine Government Summit Council, the Kanto Region Governors Association, and other bodies have independently agreed to submit requests to the central government, while the Council to Promote Development of the National Capital Region has submitted proposals and requests to the central government.