



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES**

11 February 2015

Dear Men and Women of the Kadena Air Base community

We take the concerns of our Kadena community seriously, especially those pertaining to our children. As previously promised, I would like to provide you with an update on the ongoing excavation of the Okinawa City soccer field between the Okinawa Expressway and Prefectural Highway 23.

The Okinawa Defense Bureau (ODB) has released an interim report on their excavation of the Okinawa City soccer field. Their excavation has found two more crushed containers buried beneath the soccer field. ODB plans to remove the contaminated soil and stagnant water from the site and properly dispose of them. Kadena health and environmental experts are in continued coordination with ODB and the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) to discuss these results to ensure mutual understanding of each report. Chemical analysis results from around and below the immediate area continue to be within Japanese standards (Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act). Kadena, ODB and OPG experts continue to agree there is no health risk to the local population from the excavation site; our children are safe.

Our bioenvironmental experts have been collecting air samples during the excavation and the samples shown that there is no migration of substances from the soccer field excavation site through the air.

Test results indicate the substances from the excavation area have not migrated off site. Last year, our bioenvironmental shop collected soil samples from the Bob Hope Primary School and Amelia Earhart Intermediate School grounds on two separate occasions to ensure Kadena was not impacted in any way by the substances found at the excavation site. These samples were measured against samples taken from the Stearley Heights Elementary School and Boy Scout Hut as a baseline comparison. The results, confirmed by an independent lab, found the substances in the soccer field are not on school grounds.

In this interim report, ODB verified the soccer field storm water discharge, which is not used as a drinking water source, is subject to and meets industrial wastewater standards. OPG made the same verification previously. Additionally, Kadena's drinking water is drawn from commercial sources unrelated to the site and is tested monthly throughout the distribution system and quarterly to evaluate contaminate levels. The reports have consistently been compliant with Japanese and American standards. We will continue to regularly monitor the water and post the annual Kadena Air Base Consumer Confidence Report on the base webpage.

We will continue to monitor the environment for hazards on Kadena during future excavation phases and will take appropriate measures should we become aware of any substantial impacts to health or safety.

We remain engaged with the responsible host nation organizations conducting this investigation and will continue to do so. For detailed information on sample results, please visit our reading room on the Kadena webpage at:

<http://www.kadena.af.mil/library/okinawacitysoccerfieldexcavation.asp>.

Any new pertinent information will be brought to your attention.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Hecker", written in a cursive style.

JAMES B. HECKER
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander, 18th Wing