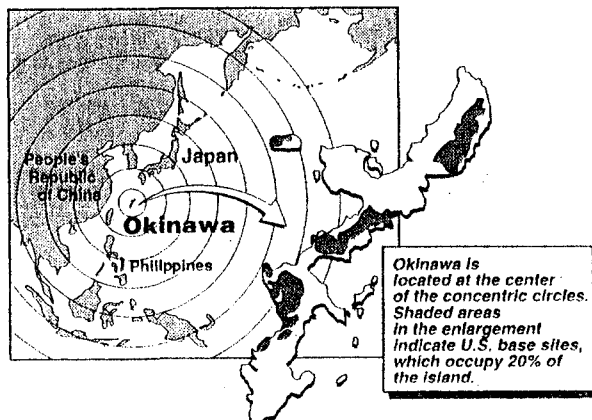


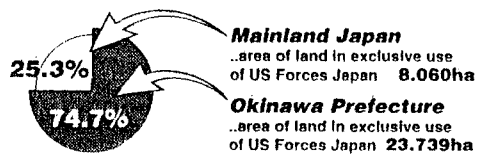
These U.S. military bases in Okinawa...



A park surging with 85,000 protesters during the Okinawan People's Rally.



[Percentage of military installations in the exclusive use of the United States Forces Japan]

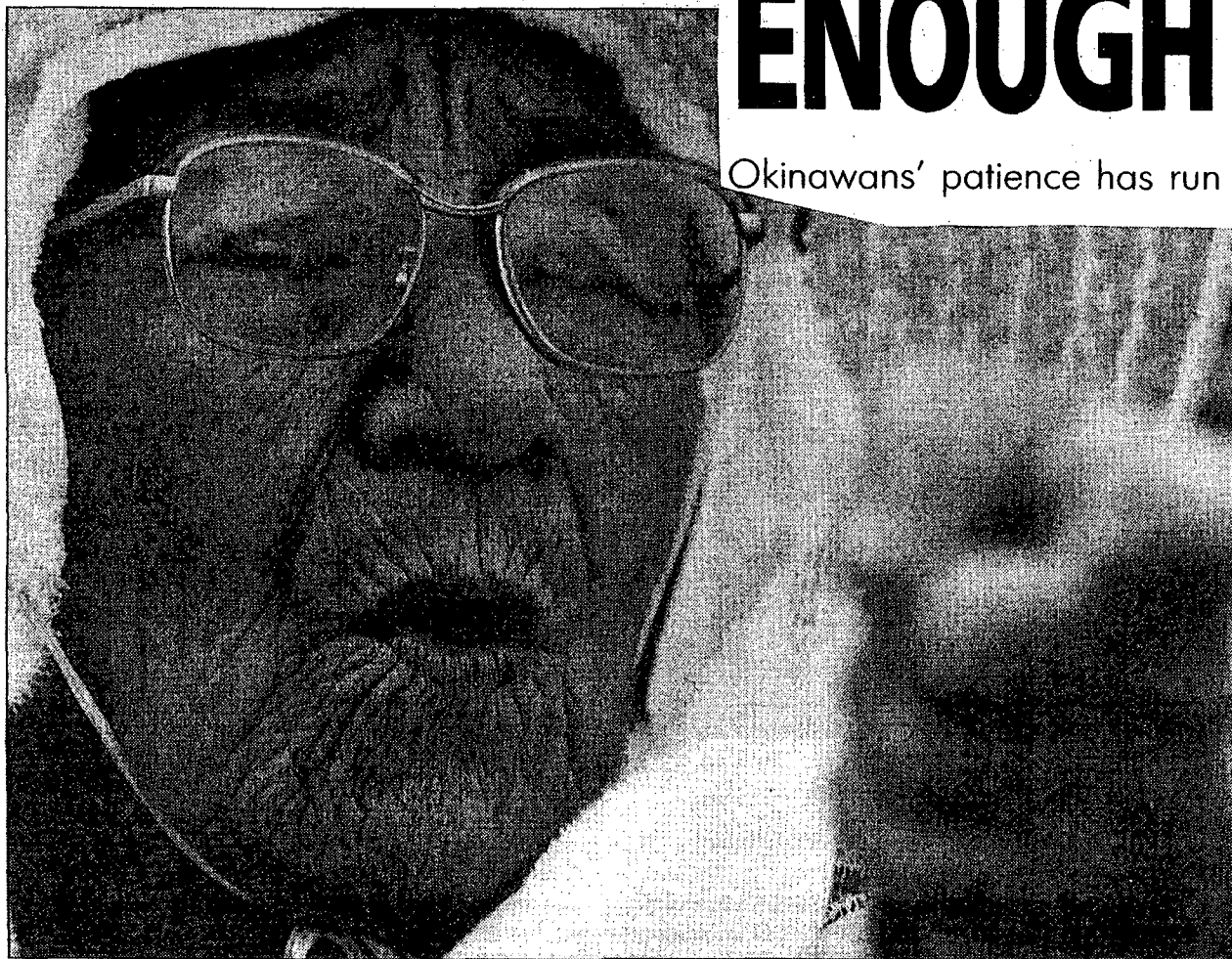


From an "island of military bases"
to a "green, peaceful island" --
the Okinawan people's long-cherished dream

Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence
America Peace Caravan
沖縄「基地・軍隊を許さない行動する女たちの会」
〒900 日本国沖縄県那覇市牧志3-9-1
3-9-1 Makishi, Naha, Okinawa, Japan
☎/FAX 098-864-1539

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Okinawans' patience has run out. The American military should get out.



The governor is too busy to meet with you," Chiken Kakazu, the speaker of the Okinawa prefectural assembly told visiting official Noboru Hoboru.

When is a governor too busy to meet with the chief of the Defense Ministry Facilities Agency? On Sept. 29, soon after a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three U.S. soldiers, and after the Japanese government quietly re-signed a bilateral security treaty that allows for more violent crimes against the Okinawan people.

The defense bureaucrat had traveled to Naha to change Gov. Masahide Ota's mind about refusing to sign the leases of local land-owners who have been ordered to surrender their land to the U.S. military.

By terminating cooperation with the central government, the governor is conveying a simple and strong message: Enough is enough.

His attitude reflects the local people's anger toward the United States for the unrelenting violence committed by American troops against Okinawans, and the general frustration toward the government in Tokyo for its complete lack of understanding of the Okinawan situation.

The violence and sex crimes are nothing new to Okinawans, but the gang rape of a minor was the catalyst for all the suppressed resentment that Okinawans have felt for much too long against the United States and the central government in Tokyo.

Enough is enough is enough.

The issue goes beyond the Status of Forces Agreement, which has harbored American criminals in uniform from justice, law and the bounds of morality. The bigger question is the presence of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa and elsewhere across Japan.

The roots of resentment lie deep in modern Japanese history, when the Meiji government annexed the Okinawan chain as a colonial possession in the 19th century. The crimes of the colonial past were bad enough, but they pale against the atrocities committed by the military forces of Japan and the United States since the 1940s.

Okinawa is the only place in Japan where ground

battles were fought. Some 90,000 civilians lost their lives, and the islands were devastated. At war's end, vast tracts of land were forcibly confiscated by the United States military, which ran the islands as a garrison-colony until reversion in 1972.

But reversion did not bring peace. The U.S. military occupation continued under the U.S.-Japan security treaty. About 75 percent of the 45,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan are based in Okinawa. More than 20 percent of the land is occupied by American forces.

There are clear drawbacks to living near military bases of such magnitude.

With one-fifth of their land out of production, Okinawa's agricultural economy has been crippled by the U.S. military presence. The loss of a self-sustaining

economy has led to increasing dependency on Japanese financial interests, especially in the resort-development industry. This trend, in turn, has led to further losses of precious land to hotel development by corporations based in Tokyo and Osaka.

Accidents involving the U.S. military are too numerous for local police to keep track of. U.S. Air Force planes have destroyed houses and schools, often resulting in death and serious injury to local residents. One of the worst incidents occurred in the 1950s, when a jet fighter crashed into an elementary school compound, killing 17 children and injuring 121. Just a few months ago, another U.S. warplane crashed near Kumeji Island.

The overflights have also caused ceaseless noise pollution on the densely populated islands. Local citizens' groups have been battling the U.S. authorities for compensation, with no positive results so far.

There is another pervasive fear among Okinawans, which is never mentioned by the Japanese media: nuclear weapons. Most Okinawans, many of whom are base workers, believe that nuclear weapons have been routinely stored at the U.S. military facilities.

On Iejima Island, which is used as a U.S. gunnery and bombing range, Shoko Ahago has an unusual hobby. He collects and displays the scrap metal casually left behind by the bombers. The objects with four sharp fins, he explains to visitors at his homemade museum

(see photo), are the casings for nuclear bombs.

Just what does the U.S. government think it is doing when its Air Force and Navy jets drop dummy nuclear bombs on Okinawan soil? What sort of message does that send to its supposed allies?

If a major war actually breaks out — between the United States and China, for example — the Okinawan people know that their islands would be the first target of a nuclear strike because of the U.S. military's offensive capabilities there.

"During the Gulf War, our family seriously discussed the idea of escaping to Australia," says one housewife living in Naha. There is palpable fear among those who live next to a base full of trigger-happy jet jockeys. Most of the rest of Japan, fortunately, does not have to put up with these anxieties every day of their lives.

The big problem, however, is crime.

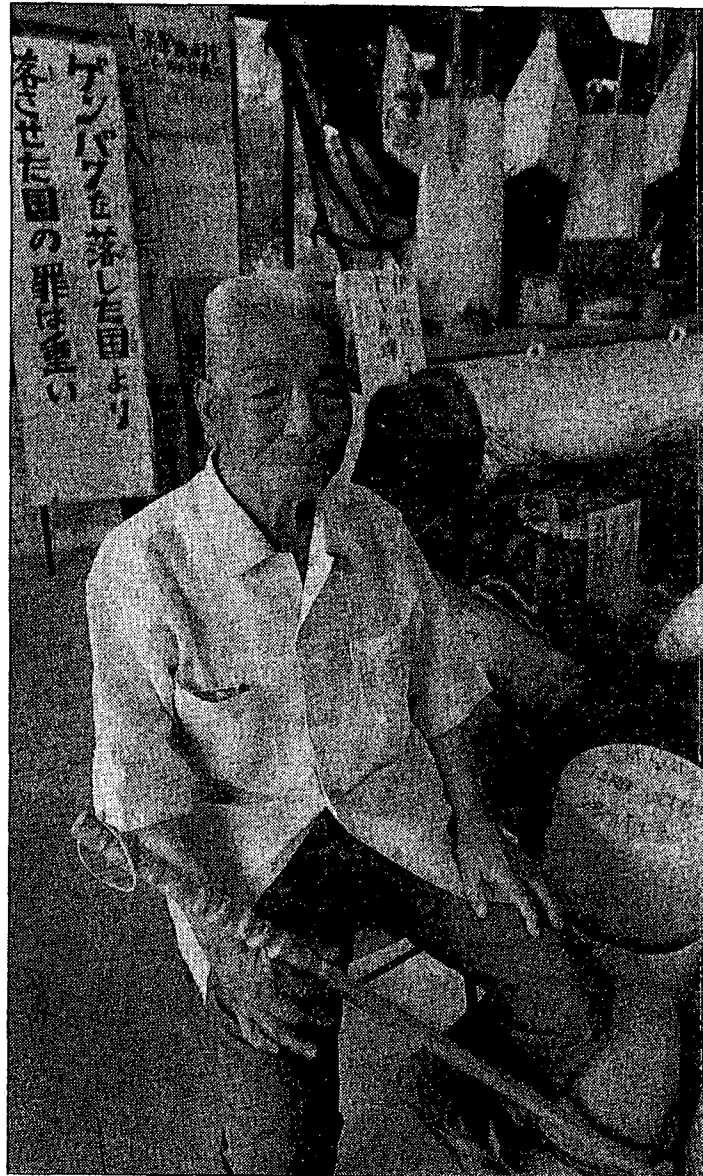
Sure, most of the American soldiers are good guys, the kind of people one wouldn't mind having as neighbors. But not all of them. The bad elements are committing so many atrocious crimes that it could be called a guerrilla war against the locals.

According to the statistics supplied by the Okinawan police, Americans represent just 4.2 percent of the prefecture's population yet comprise 11.5 percent of suspects in serious felonies, including murder, rape, robbery and arson.

What's wrong with these statistics? They're too conservative.

Because of the SOFA, a vast number of crimes are never followed up by the Japanese police. Local people know that legal action will not be taken against the felons, so there is a tendency not to report crimes. And that is exactly what the national government in Tokyo wants — to ignore the crime problem and sweep

Just two months earlier, an American soldier smashed a 24-year-old woman on the head with a concrete block, killing her. The Okinawan government asked the U.S. forces for tighter security. Nothing was done.



everything under the rug.

But not after September 1995. One night in the middle of last month, a U.S. Marine and two sailors abducted a 12-year-old girl from a local beach. They sealed her mouth with tape to muffle her screams, and brutally beat her. Then, they repeatedly raped her — not the sort of thing Americans would want done to their daughters and sisters.

While U.S. military officers and diplomats offered apologies after hearing news of the incident, a review of the facts will show that the American side is not being at all sincere or candid.

Just two months ago, a 24-year-old local woman was killed when her head was smashed with a concrete block by an American soldier. The Okinawan prefectural government asked the U.S. Forces to tighten control over its servicemen. Nothing was done — so how can the Americans say they are sorry about the rape when they did absolutely nothing after the earlier murder?

Sex crimes by American servicemen have been all too common. In 1993, a 19-year-old Okinawan woman was even raped inside a U.S. military base. What were the MPs doing? Clearly, the American authorities cannot control their own troops.

The American refusal to hand over the three rape suspects to the Japanese police using the provisions in SOFA infuriated the local people. By the time the Americans agreed to turn over the suspects, it was too late to repair the damage.

"The present social atmosphere in Okinawa is similar to that of the '60's when the anti-Ampo (U.S.-Japan security pact) and reversion (to Japan) movements were going on," says Tomokazu Takamine, chief of the political and economic section of the *Ryukyu Shimpo*, a

Top left: An elderly Okinawan woman has witnessed far too many outrages committed by American soldiers, and before them Japanese troops.

Left: On Iejima Island, part of the Okinawa chain, Shoko Ahago has saved remnants from a U.S. bombing range. Among his collection are sharp-finned casings for nuclear bombs, which U.S. fighter-bombers have often practiced dropping on Okinawan soil. Below: Even without the U.S. military bases, Okinawa would be crowded.

PHOTOS BY TAKASHI MORIZUMI



local newspaper. "The sense of pride, the national pride, so to speak, of the Okinawans was badly hurt by this incident. Fifty years after the end of war, and 23 years after the reversion to Japan, Okinawans are still looked down on by the U.S. forces as a colonized people."

This feeling of insult and humiliation refueled the anti-U.S. base movement. Ordinary housewives, salarymen, even school children are on the streets demanding the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces — NOW!

Of course, there is a range of opinion within the anti-U.S. military base movement, from those demanding the immediate withdrawal to others calling for phased reduction. One thing in common, though, is the bitter resentment of being forced to bear the brunt of the burden of the security pact.

The anger and frustration of the locals are also addressed against the Japanese central government for its lack of sensitivity and reluctance to negotiate with the United States for a thorough revision of SOFA to ensure that American criminals are prosecuted under the Japanese legal system and that U.S. troops obey the laws of this land.

"Okinawans are deeply hurt and outraged. The respect they thought they had established after the reversion, and whatever human rights that they thought were protected by the Japanese national government, were, in fact, just an illusion," says Tomoko Shinjo, a university English instructor in Okinawa.



All of these ill feelings are compounded by the SOFA, which many perceive to be unjustly advantageous to the American troops. Under the present provisions of SOFA, U.S. authorities have the custody over military personnel suspected of crimes, until they are formally indicted the Japanese police. Even though the Japanese police can question the suspects, it requires cooperation of the American military authorities and, in some cases, the interrogation request itself can be refused.

The SOFA procedures not only slow down the process of investigation but also give the suspects a chance to escape.

In a recent case, an American soldier who was under investigation by the Japanese police managed to return to the United States after obtaining an air ticket at a travel agency inside a U.S. military base.

The SOFA also removes the financial compensation responsibilities of both U.S. and the Japanese governments toward the victims of crimes committed by American soldiers.

Since most of the soldiers are young and underpaid, they do not have the financial ability to pay the compensation ordered by the courts.

"So most of the victims end up accepting whatever they can get," said attorney Tsutomu Arakaki, in an interview in a recent NHK special report.

In one shocking legal decision, when a man whose father was clubbed to death by an American soldier appealed the case to the Supreme Court when the criminal couldn't pay the penalty. The court's ruling was that neither the U.S. nor Japanese government has the obligation to pay the victims.

The plaintiff reportedly said, "It just doesn't make sense to me that either side can get away with this. They (soldiers) are employed by the U.S. government, and if America doesn't pay, then it's the responsibility of the Japanese government to pay because they (U.S. military forces) are here because Japan signed the security treaty."

Gov. Ota wisely demonstrated strong leadership by refusing to turn over more Okinawan land to the ungrateful and indecent U.S. military.

Japanese government officials should now launch a serious review of the entire U.S.-Japan security treaty and initiate the withdrawal of U.S. troops. If the Tokyo government fails to exercise strong leadership over these simmering grievances, the Japanese and U.S. governments could soon face much, much greater international embarrassment and domestic opposition to the bilateral treaty — when Okinawans decide to take the law into their own hands.

To understand the consequences of continuing historical injustices, Tokyo and Washington should consider what has recently been happening on another group of long-oppressed Pacific islands — Tahiti.

Asako Takaesu, a native of Okinawa

Okinawans fed up with GIs escaping justice

The Sept. 4 rape of an elementary schoolgirl, which was allegedly committed by three American servicemen, has aroused anger and incited protests among the people of Okinawa and other areas of Japan. Fifty years after the end of World War II and 24 years after Okinawa's return to Japanese control, the issue is now giving the country an opportunity to seriously rethink America's military presence here and the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement.

Shunji Nozawa
Mainichi Shimbun

At a protest rally organized by the Okinawa Peace Campaign Center on Sept. 26 at Futemma Elementary School in the city of Ginowan, a woman said, "I told my daughter, a fifth grader, to be careful of American servicemen because they may kill her."

During the meeting of 3,000 citizens, some voiced their opinions on the atrocity of the alleged rape. They not only criticized the suspects, but also said they no longer need the U.S. bases and the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement. It was a voice symbolizing the citizens' anger over the American military presence. The Okinawans are requesting that the status agreement be revised, because it was under this agreement that the three suspects were detained by U.S. authorities and not by their Japanese counterparts before being indicted by prosecutors

on Sept. 29.

In Okinawa Prefecture, where 75 percent of Japan's U.S. military facilities are concentrated, the prefectural and municipal governments, since the rape, have one after the other adopted resolutions demanding the revision of the status agreement.

As of Oct. 3, all local assemblies in Okinawa have passed resolutions which reflect their anger over the incident.

An official of the prefecture's local assembly speaker's association said, "The issue aroused local assemblies to adopt the resolutions. It's exceptional that all the assemblies (of Okinawa) joined to protest the incident through the passage of the resolutions."

Seigen Nagayoshi, lawyer and head of the Okinawa Human Rights Association, said, "Because there are more U.S. military facilities located in Okinawa than on the mainland, we have been the ones suffering everyday from the problems endemic to the presence of U.S. military bases," said Nagayoshi. "In some cases (when a U.S. serviceman committed a crime) they escaped to the U.S. (without being detained and tried in Japan). So people have become discontented, and naturally they are demanding the revision of the status agreement and removal of U.S. military facilities, which they believe are a main cause of the problems."

In 1993, a serviceman escaped to the U.S. while he was being detained by U.S. authorities after allegedly molesting a woman in Kadena Base.

Two months ago, an Army soldier skipped

out on paying for the services of the taxi owned by Morimichi Inamine, 68, of Chatan. After driving him from the city of Okinawa to the Makimato supply base in Urasoe, the soldier ran into the base without paying the taxi fee. Inamine managed to receive the fee after asking military police to apprehend the soldier.

"There were many other cases where the soldiers took me for a free ride," the taxi driver said.

Difficult investigation

Chosaburo Shimada, 65, worked for the Okinawa Prefectural Police until three years ago. As a special liaison official unique to the Okinawa police, he served as an interpreter in incidents involving American servicemen, and negotiated with investigators from the U.S.

Shimada has handled more than 2,000 cases involving American servicemen over a period of 10 years at the Okinawa Police Station. They included robberies, rapes, murders, scuffles and hit-and-run accidents.

"Once a crime was committed (by servicemen), I immediately asked U.S. military authorities for their cooperation," said Shimada.

When suspects hid themselves in the bases, however, their investigation ran into difficulties.

"Sometimes I was told that nobody in charge was available because it happened to be a Saturday when I asked for the suspects to be summoned."

Some prefer cool approach

Some citizens say sexual crimes and the problem of the Japan-U.S. status agreement should be treated separately.

A reporter for the local "This Week on Okinawa" English magazine, Hisashi Ashimine, 27, has covered both Okinawa residents and American servicemen.

When he heard about the alleged rape, Ashimine thought, "Again, an American serviceman." Ashimine, however, now has some doubts about the opinions of the Japanese public.

"Regardless of nationality, everyone feels anger when sexual crimes are committed against girls. American servicemen also believe such crimes are unforgivable," says Ashimine. "The status agreement has long existed and besides we have had troubles involving American servicemen for years. So, for the sake of the girl, we have to consider the agreement separately from the rape."

Since the rape, the U.S. forces have been enforcing discipline such as cutting back on the sale of alcohol on the base and holding meetings among high-ranking officials.

Local residents say crimes would be committed by American servicemen as long as their bases are here. But any crime, especially one as horrifying as this one, is shocking to the American servicemen and their families.

Ramona Aganon's husband is a Marine. "Because we have a 14-year-old daughter, the case was naturally shocking," said

Aganon, "I think the suspects are morbid."

Status agreements of forces

The Okinawa Automobile Road, which runs from Naha to Nago, is the only road in the prefecture that has a toll. A ticket is handed over to an official of a tollgate from a U.S. military truck. The slip is the certificate for the servicemen to use the road, which is issued by the U.S. forces. The Japan Highway Public Corporation receives the road tolls from the Naha Regional Defense Facilities Administration Bureau.

A total of 23,000 U.S. military-registered vehicles used the road in June.

The Japan-U.S. status agreement states that the U.S. forces can use all public services in Japan and have privileges in using them.

According to an Okinawa prefectural office that studies status agreements of forces in other countries, the agreement for NATO servicemen in Germany is the same as in Japan with regard to servicemen's status in case of a crime. The status agreement between the U.S. and South Korea provides that American servicemen who commit a crime are detained by U.S. forces until all legal procedure's are concluded.

These status agreements can be revised in as the situation changes. So, the Japanese public now has to examine whether or not the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement is fit for the current relationship between the two countries.

Rape victims often wind up accused

SEPT. 28, 1995

★ In the military, women who file rape claims often face psychiatric treatment and criminal charges.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third of an occasional series based on an eight-month investigation by the Dayton Daily News. The women identified as sexual assault victims agreed to allow their names to be used. Where women did not agree to be identified, their names are withheld to protect their privacy. Where juveniles are identified, permission was granted by parents or guardians.

BY CAROL HERNANDEZ

Cox News Service

Sailor Andrea Staggs agreed to have a few drinks with her Navy shipmates in a San Diego hotel in August 1994. The 20-year-old even agreed to go to a room and have sex with one of them.

But she said she never agreed to what followed: sex with a second sailor who grabbed her in the darkness. That sailor raped her, she said.

So Staggs turned to Navy officials, believing that they would do something.

And they did.

They locked her in a mental ward for a week. They charged her with adultery, fraternization and underage drinking. They fined her \$800 and labeled her "unsuitable for the Navy."

The Navy punished the man she accused, but not for rape. He was discharged from the service and fined for having oral sex with Staggs and several other unrelated offenses.

Women who report sexual assaults in the military frequently are branded as liars, forced to take polygraph tests, or-

MILITARY JUSTICE

dered to undergo counseling, dismissed from the military and even charged with crimes, the Dayton Daily News found.

The practice is shunned by civilian prosecutors and law officers, who said the public would be outraged if they prosecuted women who came to them to report sexual assaults.

"I've heard 10 stories like this," said Wendy Davis, a Denver trial lawyer and founder of Women Active in our Nation's Defense, a support group for military women who are victims of sexual assault.

"It's the 'nuts and sluts' defense. ... They get sent over to mental health to get evaluated by the shrink. ... Not only do they get no action, they get drummed

Please see VICTIMS, Page 4

Rape furor grows in Okinawa

Sept. 28, 1995

Rape: Okinawa plans huge anti-U.S. rally

Continued from Page 1

28,200, almost 63 percent, are stationed on Okinawa.

The U.S. presence on Okinawa is something Nonuko Karimata, a senior member of the Okinawa High School Teacher's Union, remembers as a constant hazard in her youth.

"The situation on Okinawa has not changed since I was a little girl," she said. "At the end of the war, I was only 6 or 7 years old, yet I remember our village people rang a bell to warn the community that U.S. soldiers were around and looking for women. That bell still rings in my ears."

After the rally, protesters shouted slogans as they marched to the base gate. There, Marine Col. Stuart W. Wagner, public affairs officer for the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, accepted a protest letter on behalf of Maj. Gen. Wayne E. Rollings.

"I apologize to the victim, her family and the Okinawan people for this tragic incident," Wagner told demonstrators.

Reflecting the importance the United States places on its military presence on Okinawa, top U.S. officials in Japan and even President Clinton have also denounced the attack and offered

their apologies.

But words have not placated Okinawa's people or government, which next month plans to stage a rally of as many as 40,000 people. That would be the largest anti-military protest since the U.S. occupation of Okinawa ended in 1972.

Public clamor also may affect talks Wednesday between Sei-shiro Eto, Japan's defense minister, and Defense Secretary William Perry.

Japan is expected at the talks to sign an agreement to pay a larger share of the cost of supporting U.S. troops. Both countries have stressed they have no intention of reviewing their basic security pact because of the current uproar. To do so, they fear, would be to open up potentially divisive issues such as how much Japan's military should be doing for its own defense. Some of Japan's neighbors do not want to see Japan's armed forces become too strong.

The furor began Sept. 9, with press reports of the apprehension of two Marines and a Navy seaman for the alleged rape of an elementary schoolgirl Sept. 4.

Being held in the brig at Camp Hansen are Marine Pfc. Kendrick M. Ledet, 20, and

Navy Seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, both assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, of Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Group 31, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force.

They face accusations they abducted the girl as she walked home from shopping. They allegedly tied her with packing tape, drove her to an isolated beach and raped her.

Okinawa police turned over the case to the prefectural prosecutor's office, which is expected to indict the three by mid-to-late October.

At first, the public outcry over the case focused on the Status of Forces Agreement between the U.S. and Japan, which allows the suspects to be held in military custody until they are indicted. Okinawa officials demanded the suspects be immediately turned over to Japanese authorities.

That quickly grew to demands that the U.S. military presence on Okinawa be reduced — even eliminated.

"If Americans need to conduct military exercises, let them do it in America!" shouted one leader as the crowd gathered across the street from the main gate to Camp Foster.

The demonstration was orga-

nized by the Okinawa Peace Center and included representatives from student, teachers, women's and labor groups. Before speeches began, several people at the rally talked about their feelings.

"It may seem difficult to move the national government to revise the SOFA, but each one of us must stand and work together so that the unfair treaty will be revised," said Kishiko Kedamori, 26, a Naha teacher.

"I don't know how to describe my feelings," said Onaga Haeko, 49, a member of the Japan Women's Council. "Human rights are important in the United States, while here, on Okinawa, the U.S. pays no respect to our human rights."

"... The victim was a little girl, on her way to growing into a mature woman and a human being full of dreams and hopes for the future," she said. "It is regretful that her humanity was trampled in such form."

"The United States accuses other countries, such as China, of human rights violations. But don't they think about what their own citizens are doing in another country?"

Chiyomi Sumida and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

CAMP FOSTER — Chanting "Turn over the suspects" and "U.S. Forces Out," about 3,000 people marched on the main gate to U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters here in the latest outcry over the alleged rape of a 12-year-old girl by three American servicemen.

It was one of the largest anti-U.S. military protests here in years, and even larger ones loom in the future. The outcry also casts a shadow over high-level talks set to begin Wednesday in New York over Japan's costs to support U.S. bases.

The protest began with a peaceful, emotional rally at a nearby elementary school. Women sitting on the floor of the crowded school gym cried as they heard the few details police have released on the crime. Men angrily denounced the U.S. military, particularly Marines.

"This was unforgivable conduct," said Zenshun Arakaki, one of the rally organizers. "This incident reveals the na-

Sept. 28, 1995

MORE ON PAGE 8

Japan to pay more to support U.S. military

ture of the military, which trains troops to become beasts."

Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota has said the presence of U.S. bases on Okinawa burdens the island, which has less than 1 percent of the total land area of the nation, yet has a disproportionate number of U.S. bases and troops.

According to U.S. Forces Japan, of 94 American military facilities in Japan — from the largest air base to the smallest radar site — 40 are in Okinawa Prefecture, occupying 20 percent of the island's land.

"But 75 percent of that land is controlled watershed and protected areas, not available for development by anyone," said Air Force Col. Tom Boyd, USFJ public affairs officer.

He said that of 44,800 military personnel in Japan, about

Please see RAPE, Page 4

Victims: Many women face harassment and dismissal

Continued from Page 8 X A

out of the military," Davis said.

What happened to Staggs was partly the result of a tradition that dates back to the earliest days of the republic. The military has its own criminal justice system and that system is as much concerned with maintaining discipline as with enforcing justice, military historians say.

No one, not even a victim of sexual assault, is immune from punishment or prosecution for violating military rules and laws.

"If ... she's saying, 'I've been raped by this soldier, but I've got to tell you that I've used drugs,' man, we'll jump on it in a minute," Gene Cromartie said in describing what happens when military investigators uncover information that demeans a rape victim.

Cromartie, who retired as head of the Army's Criminal Investigation Command, added, "We'll still investigate the rape aspect of that, (but) she'll have to be held accountable for her actions, because what she's

done is in violation of our system — the military system."

Not all military investigators agree with the practice. Some are especially reluctant to file criminal charges against women who report sexual assaults.

Veteran civilian prosecutors don't see a point in charging victims.

In civilian life, an attempt to bring charges against a rape victim would be greeted with outrage, said Debra Armanini of Dayton, who is first assistant prosecutor for Montgomery County, Ohio.

But then, nearly every facet of the civilian justice system is open to public scrutiny, and many of the people overseeing it are either elected or work for someone who's elected.

In contrast, much of the military's criminal justice system operates behind closed doors, and the public has no role in choosing those who run it.

The Dayton Daily News was granted access to investigative files from one Army base on condition that the newspaper not disclose the source of the

information or the name of the base. At the base, five of 37 people reporting sexual assaults were charged or threatened with charges. Three were civilians, including a 17-year-old high school girl who reported that a soldier raped her.

Among the hundreds of pages the newspaper reviewed was a document officially notifying the 17-year-old that she faced a federal charge of lying, or "false swearing," related to her rape allegation.

The girl told investigators that in 1990, an Army soldier drove her behind a building at a military base and raped her.

If the military suspects that a woman is lying about something as serious as a sexual assault, it could judge her unfit for military service.

"It was the quickest way to end your career, to make such a report," said Susan Angell, who helped the Department of Veterans Affairs start a counseling program in California for female veterans victimized during their service.

Prosecutions and firings are

enough to discourage most reporting of sexual assaults. But in the military, victims have other reasons to keep quiet.

One is a lack of privacy. In the military, the rape victim, rapist, police, prosecutor, rape counselor, judge, jury and jailor may all work at the same base.

"If you got a rape exam in a military hospital, there may be people there who know you," said Connie Best, an assistant professor at the Medical University of South Carolina's Crime Victim Research and Treatment Center. "That fear is sometimes a barrier for women to report."

In 1990, after Pamela Sue Varner accused a Navy officer of sexual assault in Washington state, Varner walked into the courtroom and recognized two members of the jury. She said both had asked her for dates before.

In the mind of the jury, Varner said, "I was the little whore who slept with him. ... He got off scot-free."

Varner, like Staggs, agreed to be identified in this story.

In 1992, during a remote assignment on a Micronesian island east of the Philippines, a former Air Force staff sergeant and medical technician, Laura Webster, reported that her colleagues were smuggling native women into the camp, getting them pregnant and contracting venereal diseases.

Webster and her 12 male team members were taken to Guam, where an investigation was launched. The men wanted to know why they were being investigated. Webster said a supervisor showed them a letter that outlined her complaints.

For the six weeks the group was in Guam, Webster said, the men harassed her at every turn.

Webster quit about a year later, saying the harassment left her feeling betrayed by the military.

The effects of sexual assault are so traumatic that the pain can linger for a lifetime. But experts say the impact on military victims can be worse, because they feel betrayed by the system they thought would protect them.

10 years urged in Oki rape

★ Verdict in Okinawa rape trial is set for March 7.

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

NAHA — Prison sentences of 10 years were recommended for the three servicemen accused of the Sept. 4 abduction and rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl.

In a six-hour hearing Monday in Naha District Court, prosecutor Masayuki Nomura called Navy Seaman Marcus Gill, 22, the ringleader, but argued that Marine Pfc. Kendrick Ledet, 20, and Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, were equally culpable in the attack.

The verdict is set for March 7.

Harp's lawyer, Mitsunobu Matsunaga, said he expected sentences for all three defendants of six or seven years if convicted. No Japanese court has ever imposed a sentence of more than 10 years for similar charges, according to The Associated Press.

"The nature of this crime is exceptionally vicious," Nomura said. He detailed how the three men planned the crime while riding around Okinawa on Labor Day, then cruised the village of Kin looking for a victim.

"There was a conspiracy," Nomura said. "They carefully selected the girl, a sixth-grader, and then carefully waited their chance to abduct her, bind her with duct tape and then rape her."

Gill, a Navy corpsman from Woodville, Texas, pleaded guilty to both the abduction and rape and claimed that the Marines were willing accomplices.

During previous hearings Harp, of Griffin, Ga., and Ledet, of Waycross, Ga., admitted to abducting the 12-year-old girl, but said they faked having sex with her after they realized how young she was. They also claimed that they

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Japanese court sentences Marine to 11 years for slaying.

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Lawyer for Marine says seaman was out to rape

From wire reports

TOKYO — Three U.S. servicemen went looking for prostitutes, but one was broke and persuaded the others to help him rape a 12-year-old schoolgirl, the Japanese lawyer for one of the men told the Los Angeles Times.

The lawyer, Mitsunobu Matsunaga, claimed that neither his client, Marine Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, of Griffin, Ga., nor Marine Pfc. Kendrick M. Ledet, 20, of Waycross, Ga., raped the girl, the Times reported in Saturday's editions.

Under Japanese law, however, all three men could be found guilty of the Sept. 4 rape even if only one actually committed it, Matsunaga said. They would face sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonment.

Matsunaga, who based his account on

Please see RAPE, Page 4

Rape: Prosecutor calls attack 'vicious'

Continued from Page 1

were bullied by Gill into participating in the crime.

But Nomura said the evidence showed that both Marines also beat and raped the girl.

"The victim's blood and his own semen were found inside Harp's underwear," Nomura said. And he said that even if he believed Ledet's original statement to investigators, that he tried to rape the girl but couldn't complete the act, that "was enough to show intent."

"It was a vicious and mean attack," he said. "She was beaten until she was nearly unconscious. Then the three men raped her to fulfill their sexual desires."

"Her pain and agony are substantial," he said. "It is worse than being robbed. It is equal or worse than death. She was a sixth-grader, filled with dreams and future plans. Now she is full of fear, humiliation and disgrace."

Nomura said the victim was so shaken that she is now depressed and spends most of her time in her room, fearful of strangers and afraid to walk the

familiar streets of her hometown at night.

He said the \$9,000 paid so far by the defendants in compensation and the additional \$6,000 they promised to pay soon, can in "no way make up for the damage to the victim."

He read a statement from the girl's father asking for the harshest possible punishment.

"Please keep these criminals in prison until they die — please," the father wrote. "I wish I could kill them."

The defense attorneys tried to soften Nomura's harsh picture of the servicemen. They stressed that compensation is being made and all three have apologized for the crime. Each asked the three judges to "be generous" in passing sentence.

In their final statements to the court, Gill and Ledet, who were best friends before the crime, continued the bickering that had marked their testimony. They each accused the other of lying throughout the trial.

Gill claimed that his willingness to plead guilty to both the rape and abduction proved that he was the only one telling the truth.

"I have the deepest sorrow

and compassion for the family and hope she will forgive me,"

Gill said in a written statement. "I made a mistake in my life in which I hurt many people. It cost me my career, my family and my life as I had known it. I put trust in Jehovah that you will show me mercy."

Ledet and Harp did not have pre-written statements. Ledet made a special point to apologize for the delay in the trial caused by his mother's motion for a change of venue.

"If I had known then what I know now, I would not have made that decision (to approve of the motion)," Ledet said. "I was confused at the time."

He asked for mercy. "All I want to do is go home and raise my family," he said. "I will never do nothing like this again."

Harp made the briefest statement. "Every night I get down on my knees and ask God for forgiveness for what I have done," he said.

The mothers of Harp and Ledet, who attended hearings and visited their sons daily for two months, were not at Monday's hearing. They had run out of money and had to fly home on Jan. 20.

Rape victim's father rejects compensation

NAHA — Three U.S. servicemen accused of raping an Okinawan schoolgirl have offered to pay the rest of 1.5 million yen in compensation they promised to the victim's family, but her father has refused to accept it, a lawyer for one of the accused servicemen said.

Mitsunobu Matsunaga, lawyer for Marine Pfc. Rodrico Harp, said he phoned the father of the rape victim on Friday to tell him that the accused are ready to pay 600,000 yen.

But the father said he had decided not to accept the money after consulting the people around him, Matsunaga said.

On Dec. 29, Harp, 21, Pfc. Kendrick Ledet, 20, and Navy Seaman Marcus Gill, 22, paid 900,000 yen to the victim's family in the first batch of compensation and promised to pay an additional 600,000 yen as soon as they received the money in remittances from their families in the United States.

Prosecutors are scheduled to announce

their demands for punishment for the three U.S. servicemen during a hearing to be held Monday at the Naha District Court.

The defense lawyers had planned to submit a receipt for the 1.5 million yen at the beginning of the trial and to call on the judges for leniency, Matsunaga said.

He said the father may have been criticized for accepting the 900,000 yen, and that he will consult other lawyers on what they should do.

Rape: Marine's lawyer says Gill didn't want to pay to have sex

Continued from Page 1

interviews with Harp and statements the three men made to police, said the two Marines went along with their friend, Navy Seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, of Woodville, Texas.

Matsunaga said that Gill, driving a rented white car, picked up Harp, Ledet and another serviceman at about noon at the Camp Hansen Marine base for lunch, Matsunaga says. They drove around all afternoon, and when Gill began talking about rape, the fourth man asked to be dropped off because he did not want to participate. Matsunaga said Harp and Ledet had about \$30 and wanted to pay for sex but Gill vetoed the plan because he was broke. He said paid sex was "no fun" and proposed rape instead, Matsunaga said.

When Gill proposed rape, Matsunaga said, the Marines

"didn't take it seriously, and they didn't agree to it." But they later realized that he was serious when he showed them duct tape and condoms.

The men spotted a Japanese girl in a school uniform, and Ledet pulled her inside their car, Matsunaga said. Harp taped her mouth and eyes and hit her, while Gill bound her hands and legs.

The three men drove to a secluded field 20 minutes away, parked the car and got out.

Gill, Matsunaga said, went into the car, told the struggling girl to "let me do what I want to do," beat her and raped her.

Ledet and Harp each went into the car but did not rape her when they saw how young she was, the lawyer said.

The three men dumped her in the field and fled. They were arrested two days later by U.S. military police.

"I asked (Harp) why he

didn't stop it or get away, but he cannot explain," Matsunaga told the Times. "He was very scared. Maybe he didn't think it would be so serious because he didn't participate in the act itself."

Lawyers for the other two men declined to comment on the case to the Times. Ledet's lawyer, Yutaka Arakawa, told the Times that his client is physically fine but depressed about his confinement.

None of the lawyers could be reached Saturday night.

Okinawans have long been angry — both at Japan and the United States — over the heavy U.S. military presence on the island. But the anger has become more acute — and spread across Japan — since the rape came to light.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama recently called for a scaling-back of the U.S. military presence.

Pacific Stars and Stripes 95.10.30

Marine silent at hearing on Okinawa killing

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

NAHA — Joshua Hill, sometimes smiling, sometimes paying little attention to the proceedings, declined to testify in his own behalf Monday during the final day of hearings in his trial for the killing of a 24-year-old Japanese woman.

When his defense attorney asked questions about his family background, Hill, a Marine private first class, declined to comment. A character witness, a former co-worker, failed to show up for the hearing.

Hill, 20, a computer programmer formerly assigned to Headquarters and Services Battalion G-6, Marine Corps Base at Camp Foster, pleaded guilty

Sept. 5 to bludgeoning Kanako Kinjo, an insurance saleswoman, with a hammer outside her Ginowan apartment May 10.

"It just happened," he said at an October hearing. "... I'm not sure what was going on in my mind."

Hill is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 29.

His decision Monday to not make any statements to the court clearly surprised his defense attorney, Koshin Matsunaga, whose task it was to present mitigating evidence and to solicit a statement of remorse from his client.

During an earlier hearing, the three-judge panel rejected his attempt to introduce a psychiatric evaluation of the Marine.

Forced to rely only on his closing statement, Matsunaga argued that Hill was not in his right mind when he attacked the woman.

"The prosecution has shown no clear motive," he said, noting the woman was not a girlfriend. "And there's no evidence he carefully considered what he was doing. Hitting a woman more than 20 times with a hammer is not a normal state of mind."

He painted a picture of the victim as an unstable woman who had once attempted suicide and was prone to outbreaks of violence. Hill told police he was afraid she would attack him.

Prosecutor Masayuki Nomura asked that Hill receive 13 years in prison at hard labor.

"It's obvious that at the time (of the assault) he had the ability to recognize right from wrong," he said. Previous testimony from a key witness, one of two Marines who were with Hill the night of the slaying, said Hill had grabbed the hammer from the floorboard of his car and ran toward the woman, shouting, "I'm not going to take any more s...!"

"Hill had the ability to judge good from bad," Nomura said. "His actions showed a maliciousness that was persistent and cruel. He repeatedly hit the victim, she had more than 70 wounds on her face and head from him hitting her from up and down and left to right. Even after she fell to the ground, he continued to hit her."

Later, Hill warned his friends, who did not witness the actual attack, not to tell anyone about what he had done.

Nomura read a statement from the victim's mother, Kimiko Muramatsu, that told of how the woman had planned to leave Okinawa and return to her mother's home and her young son.

"This (crime) is not what some human being can do to another human being," the statement read. "My daughter's face was totally disfigured, I could not recognize her. ... I would like to kill him in the same manner to show that to his parents."

Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report.

Marine gets 11 years in slaying

STARS and STRIPES 12.31.96

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

NAHA — Joshua Hill didn't say a word Monday when he was sentenced to 11 years in a Japanese prison for the bludgeoning death of a 24-year-old Japanese woman.

Wearing only a pair of gray sweat pants and a green T-shirt, Hill showed no emotion as Naha District Court Senior Judge Shinei Nagamine pronounced the sentence. As he was led from the courtroom, his lips formed the same strange smile, almost a bemused look, that he wore throughout the trial.

Hill, 20, a Marine private first class, had pleaded guilty to the May 10 killing of Kanako Kinjo, an insurance sales-

woman, outside her Ginowan apartment. He offered no apology nor explanation for striking her in the face and head more than 20 times with a hammer.

The woman, her skull crushed, bled to death. Her mother, Kimiko Muramatsu, said the beating was so intense that she later could not recognize her daughter.

She sat in the courtroom holding Kinjo's 2-year-old son, Zennosuke, and was stunned by the sentence.

"He did not even shed tears," she said in the hallway outside the courtroom after the hearing, her grandson clutched to her breast. "Did you see? There is no sign of remorse. This is what I can't take. He seems to think nothing of it."

Eleven years at hard labor was "a joke" to the victim's former husband,

who also attended the hearing.

"He is an animal," he swore. "He kills a human being and only gets 11 years? He deserved death."

According to testimony given in earlier hearing by a fellow Marine who accompanied Hill the night of the murder, Hill had gone to the woman's house to retrieve a sweater he had lent her. He brought along the hammer in case she wasn't home and he would have to break into her apartment.

But Kinjo was home and readily gave back the sweater. All seemed well until later that night, when the woman drove Hill back toward his barracks at Camp Foster. Halfway there, she made a U-turn and drove back to her home.

In October, Hill told the court that he

just snapped when she left the car. He ran to his friend's car, took out the hammer and attacked her with it.

"It just happened," he said. "I'm not sure what was going through my mind."

The judge said the reason for the attack will remain a mystery as long as Hill remains silent.

What was worse, Nagamine said, was Hill's lack of remorse.

"It is very questionable if the accused is seriously repentant for what he did," Nagamine said. However, he said the judges took into consideration Hill's age and lack of prior criminal record in determining the sentence.

(Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report)

Indictments reveal details in alleged rape

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

CAMP FOSTER — Japanese indictments filed against three U.S. servicemen Friday revealed details of the brutal abduction and rape of the 12-year-old victim.

The U.S. military turned the suspects over to Japanese authorities Friday morning after the Okinawa prosecutor filed the indictments in Naha District Court.

The three, Navy Seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, of Woodville, Texas; Marine Pfc. Rodrigo Harp, 21, of Griffin, Ga.; and Pfc. Kendrick M. Ledet, 20, of Waycross, Ga., will be jailed in a Japanese detention center in Naha, Okinawa's capital.

The indictments charged the three suspects with illegal de-

tention and rape resulting in injuries.

The rape charge carries a penalty of three years to life in a Japanese prison and the confinement charge brings punishment of three months to five years in prison.

No date has been set for an initial court hearing.

The trial, to be held at the Naha District Court, is expected to open within a few months, possibly sooner. Its length will depend in large part on the defendants' pleas.

Three judges will hear the trial. Japan does not have a jury system.

If convicted, the three would serve time in a Japanese prison. They can appeal to a higher court.

According to the indictments,

Please see RAPE, Page 4

Rape: No date set yet for

Continued from Page 1

The three men allegedly forced the girl into a car about 8 p.m., Sept. 4, as they were driving through a northern Okinawa village. The men allegedly beat the girl with their fists and forced her into the rear seat of the car, which sped "at full speed" from the scene.

On the way to an unnamed location, the men allegedly "taped the girl's eyes and mouth with duct tape and then tied both of her wrists and ankles with the tape," the indictment stated in Japanese.

When they stopped the car, the men allegedly "beat the girl's face and abdomen with fists to stop her resistance and then raped her by turns." The alleged assault lasted about 20 minutes, according to the indictment.

"During that time, she received bruises on her right face, left abdomen ... which required two week's treatment," the indictment read.

The crime has shocked Japan, sparking protest demonstrations and eliciting apologies from high-ranking U.S. officials, including President Clinton and U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale.

It has also caused the U.S.

Marine Corps to tighten discipline of its troops on Okinawa and call for a "day of reflection."

About 18,000 Marines on Okinawa will spend the working day in training sessions and discussions "focusing on standards of conduct, host nation sensitivities and the requirement to be good neighbors."

The servicemen had been in U.S. military custody since Sept. 8.

Several sections of the indictment were whited-out for the girl's privacy, said Fumio Sakai, a deputy chief prosecutor. He would not release the location of the village where the girl was abducted or the site of the rape. When he was asked why the location of an injury was censored, he replied, "You can imagine where that was."

Previously, police reported that they traced the suspects through a car they rented and the report of a fourth serviceman who refused to join them in the abduction plan.

Police would not confirm reports in Okinawa newspapers that two of the suspects confessed to the crimes.

Their arrest by military police caused a furor among Okinawans, who objected to the suspects remaining in military custody pending indictment, as stipulated in the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

There are about 28,200 military personnel on Okinawa, 18,000 of them Marines, according to U.S. Forces Japan.

There are also 5,075 civilian employees and 23,500 dependents on Okinawa under SOFA status.

Meanwhile in Tokyo on Friday, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in a policy speech opening Parliament's fall session said, "The painful case involving a primary-school girl is extremely regrettable." He said he is "strongly asking the U.S. side" to ensure that similar crimes don't happen again.

The prime minister did not discuss calls by many Japanese for a revision of the U.S.-Japan agreement that allows American servicemen who are suspects in Japanese criminal cases to remain on base until they are formally indicted.

(Chiyomi Sumida and The Associated Press contributed to this report)

Pacific Stars & Stripes 10.1.95

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Okinawa woman says American raped her

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Two months after the rape of a girl by an American serviceman set off a string of protests against the U.S. military, police said Monday they are investigating allegations of another rape by an American.

U.S. military officials and police on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa said a woman reported that she was attacked Saturday. But they said details were scarce and police had not decided whether to seek charges.

Col. Stuart Wagner, spokesman for the U.S. Marines on Okinawa, said the woman initially reported the rape to military police at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The case was turned over to Japanese authorities because the alleged incident occurred off base, he said.

29.11.75
A senior police official in nearby Ginowan said police were questioning the woman and also looking for possible corroborating witnesses. He refused to comment further.

Wagner said that although the woman claimed that her assailant was an American, there was no evidence that he was in the military.

The rape of the 12-year-old girl in September, in which two Marines and a sailor have been charged, has touched off emotional protests against the heavy presence of U.S. troops on Okinawa.

In their first court session this month, Seaman Marcus Gill, of Woodville, Texas, confessed to raping the girl. Marine Pfc. Kendrick Ledet, of Waycross, Ga., and Pfc. Rodrico Harp, of Griffin, Ga., admitted that they helped abduct her.

Victim tells police she won't press rape charge

Stripes Okinawa Bureau

30.11.75
CAMP FOSTER — Ginowan police say a woman who claims she was raped by an American has no intention of pressing charges if a suspect is found.

Police said they will "proceed very carefully" in investigating the reported rape. The victim, police say, believes her attacker was a U.S. serviceman.

She told police that a caucasian male "who was speaking English," threatened her and two other employees on Saturday night at a nightclub located just outside of MCAS Futenma Gate 1.

The man was described as being in his late 20s and about 5-foot-8-inches tall, the police said.

According to her report, he forced her at knifepoint into a bathroom and raped her.

She reported the attack to a Marine guard across the street from the nightclub. The Marines turned the case over to Okinawa police because it occurred off base.

"Although the suspect is believed to be an American, we have not confirmed that he is a U.S. serviceman," a Ginowan police headquarters spokesman said. "Even if we are able to identify the suspect, we can't proceed with the case unless the woman decides to press charges."

Marine's car jumps curb, killing three on Okinawa

BY DAVID ALLEN 1.9.76
Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

CAMP FOSTER — A car driven by a U.S. Marine struck a mother and her two children Sunday, killing all three.

Okinawa police said the accident occurred about 1 p.m. on Route 58, the island's main north-south road that connects several major U.S. bases on the island. They said the driver of the car, Lance Cpl. Lori A. Padilla, 20, lost control of a red sports car when she abruptly changed lanes to turn in at Camp Foster.

Okinawa police said excessive speed was the suspected cause of the accident.

The car apparently jumped onto the sidewalk and struck Rojita Kinjo, 36, and her two children, Mitsuko, 10, and Mariko, 1. The mother and older child were taken to Chubu Tokushukai Hospital, where they were pronounced dead an hour later. The baby was taken to Naval Hospital, where she was declared dead shortly after arrival. All three had severe head injuries, police said.

According to local news accounts, the mother was from the Philippines and was married to Edward Kinjo. The couple moved to Okinawa about 12 years ago. The mother and two daughters were heading home from church in Kadena and had gotten off a bus moments before the accident.

The father and a third daughter were at home, about 275 yards away.

Witnesses told police Padilla was southbound in the center lane on Route 58 from Kadena when she suddenly changed lanes to make the left turn onto the base.

After hitting the three victims, the car continued for about 44 more yards before striking a footbridge.

Padilla and a passenger, Marine Pfc. Carrie Smith, 23, were taken to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Lester. Smith, identified as the owner of the car, sustained a broken finger. Padilla's condition was unknown.

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Fatal Okinawa accident draws Marines' apology

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

CAMP FOSTER — Major Gen. Wayne E. Rollings, commander of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan, expressed "sincere condolences" Tuesday to family and friends of a housewife and her two children killed in a traffic accident.

"The accident last Sunday was a terrible tragedy," Gen. Rollings said in a statement. "I offer my deepest condolences to the family. My words cannot adequately describe the sorrow I feel for the Kinjo family."

"I know I speak for all Marines as we grieve with them and offer our sincere prayers for all those involved," he said. "We, in the Marine Corps com-

munity, share their loss and will continue to remember them in our hearts and our prayers."

The accident occurred about 1 p.m. on Route 58 at the Kitamae gate to Camp Foster. Okinawa police say a Marine abruptly changed lanes and lost

Please see FATAL, Page 4

Fatal: Driver free pending charges

Continued from Page 1

control of her car, which jumped onto a sidewalk and hit the three victims. Police say she was driving too fast.

Rojita Kinjo, 36, and her children, Mitsuko, 10, and Mariko, 1, who were on their way home from church, died of massive head injuries.

Okinawa police say the driver of the car, Marine Lance Cpl. Lori A. Padilla, 20, faces a charge of professional negli-

gence resulting in a death.

She remains free pending formal charges, police say. In such cases, drivers involved in a fatal accident are usually allowed to remain free on their own recognizance even after indictment.

Padilla and a passenger, Marine Pfc. Carrie Smith, 23, were treated for minor injuries at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Camp Lester and were released. Both are assigned to Marine Air Support Squadron 2 at Marine

Corps Air Station Futenma. Okinawa and Marine Corps police are investigating the accident. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident, a press release from Marine Corps Public Affairs stated.

"The driver of the vehicle has expressed deep remorse over the accident and is cooperating fully with accident investigators," the release stated. "The Marine Corps will continue to cooperate fully with Japanese officials on this matter."

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US Navy releases sketch in new rape case

2, 12, 75

At the request of local police, the U.S. military on Okinawa released a composite sketch Thursday of a man, believed to be American, who is suspected of raping a woman at knifepoint near a Marine Corps base last week.

The sketch of a young Caucasian man with short hair was compiled by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and distributed at U.S. bases on Okinawa.

The new rape allegations come amid extremely high tensions on Okinawa, where less than three months ago police arrested three American servicemen for allegedly abducting, beating and raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl.

Relations between the U.S. military and their Okinawan hosts have since plummeted to one of their lowest levels ever. Support nationwide for the overall U.S.-Japan security alliance, under

which 45,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan, has also dropped.

In the latest case, military officials say the woman claimed she was raped late last Friday at a bar near Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. She said she was threatened at knifepoint and then raped in the bar's bathroom by a man who spoke English and appeared to be an American.

She initially reported the rape to military police at Futenma. The case was then turned over to local police in neighboring city of Ginowan — where more than 60,000 people rallied against the U.S. military last month — because it occurred off base.

Ginowan police say the woman has decided not to press charges, but add that they are continuing their investigation. Unless the victim changes her mind, however, prosecution would be

unlikely. U.S. officials, meanwhile, say military police are on the lookout for the suspect and have offered to cooperate and exchange information with the local authorities.

Though there is no conclusive evidence that the attacker was a serviceman, the new allegations could not have come at a worse time for the more than 27,000 U.S. troops on Okinawa.

On Monday, the two Marines and sailor accused of the September rape are to go before the Naha District Court in Okinawa's prefectural capital.

That same morning, the Naha court is to hear closing arguments in the case against Marine Pfc. Joshua Hill, 20, of Youngstown, Ohio, who has confessed to murdering an Okinawan woman last May.

Eric Ross, an Atlanta, Ga., lawyer

hired by the families of two of the Sept. 4 rape defendants, arrived from the United States in Naha Thursday. He was to meet with the defendants' Japanese lawyers Friday and observe Monday's court proceedings.

The mother and wife of Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, of Griffin, Georgia, were expected to come to Okinawa Friday. Barbara Cannon, mother of Pfc. Kendrick Ledet, 20, of Waycross, Georgia, had planned on coming with them but her departure was delayed because her passport was apparently lost in the mail.

The third defendant is Navy Seaman Marcus Gill, 22, of Woodville, Texas.

Col. Stuart Wagner, spokesman for the Marines on Okinawa, said the families would be provided with lodging, transportation to the detention center and courthouse, and a military escort. (AP)

Japanese who target kids get little notice

31, 10, 95

★ Press makes little mention of incidents involving Japanese in sex crimes.

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

CAMP FOSTER — Even before three American servicemen allegedly abducted and raped a primary school student in northern Okinawa, schoolgirls on this island have been a common target of molesters.

And the perpetrators more often than not are Japanese.

The Labor Day beating and rape of a 12-year-old girl, allegedly by two Marines and a sailor, drew howls of outrage from the Okinawan community that grew into a series of anti-base demonstrations. The protests climaxed with a massive rally Oct. 21 with almost 60,000 people calling for a reduction of U.S. forces on the island.

The bases, the protests leaders said, spawn crime. Yet, similar crimes by Japanese have drawn little notice in the local press.

For example, in the weeks

since the Labor Day incident:

• On Sept. 9, a 22-year-old Japanese man from Ginowan abducted a ninth-grade girl in the Maehara district of Ginowan, near MCAS Futenma and took her to a "love hotel." Toru Nakasone, pleaded guilty to charges of abduction and rape during his first court appearance Oct. 19. The prosecutor recommended that he be sentenced to six years in prison.

• On Sept. 21, Nago police arrested Kenko Higa, 41, of Higashi village on suspicion of kidnapping. Higa, a part-time

employee of a nursery, allegedly stopped his car about 4:50 p.m. in Kunigami village and attempted to lure two fifth-grade girls who were walking by into his car.

Police said Higa offered the girls money to get into his car. The girls ran away and reported the incident. Higa allegedly told police that he meant to molest the girls.

• On Oct. 24, Okinawa prefectural police arrested Tsuneaki Nakaima, 21, of Gushikawa, and charged him with rape resulting in injuries,

which, like the Labor Day rape involving the Americans, can bring a sentence of life in prison.

Police say Nakaima entered a central Okinawa apartment through a balcony at 11 p.m. Oct. 20 and attacked a junior high school girl, who was home alone, with a knife. The girl was later treated for head injuries, police said.

• Three Japanese men charged with the rape of a junior high school girl in June

Please see RAPE, Page 4

Rape: U.S. case ignited pent-up hostilities

Continued from Page 1

1994 were found guilty Oct. 24 in Naha District Court. The case was similar to the Labor Day rape in that the three men allegedly plotted the crime together and the crime was described by police as being "extremely malicious," resulting in severe mental and physical pain for the victim.

The prosecutor asked for sentences of four years in prison. Hiroshi Uema, 21, of Nakijin was sentenced to three years in prison, Tsutomu Kohama, 25, and his brother, Susumu, 23, were each sentenced to two years in prison.

Each case received little attention in the Okinawa news media. Local Japanese language newspapers devoted a few paragraphs to each incident. There was no public outcry.

"That's because the Labor Day incident triggered years of pent-up hostility toward the bases," said an Okinawan historian who asked not to be identified. "It was more than the rape that people were angry about."

"You won't hear this in public because the speaker would be attacked unmercifully," he said. "But Okinawa has no strong leader to rally around,

no one the Americans or Japanese will listen to when it comes to base issues. Governor (Masahide) Ota made annual pilgrimages to the U.S. to plead for the reduction of the U.S. base here, and his words fell on deaf ears.

"But the rape case gave the anti-base feelings some focus," he said. "People are listening to us now."

Japanese school principals interviewed by Pacific Stars and Stripes said schoolgirls are a frequent target of molesters.

Molesters often target schoolgirls, the principals said. "Perverts hang around school neigh-

borhoods at the time children come or leave school," said the principal of an elementary school near Kadena Air Base.

Men exposing themselves to children is common, the principal said. About twice a year there are reports of men who "try to lure children into their cars."

"Each time we get a report, we have the teachers talk to the children and send letters home to the parents," the principal said. "We try to teach the children to be sure to tell any adults nearby when a pervert exposes himself and to tell their parents and teachers."

29, 11, '95

Another rape case reported in Okinawa

Okinawa police are investigating a report made by a local woman that she was raped Friday by a man who appeared to be an American, police officials said Tuesday.

The revelation comes as the southernmost prefecture is still in a state of outrage prompted by the September abduction and rape of a local schoolgirl, for which three U.S. servicemen are now on trial.

U.S. Marine Corps officials in Okinawa said there was no evidence that the assailant in the latest case is a member of the U.S. military. The woman, whose identity is being withheld, first filed the report via a U.S. serviceman with the marine corps' Futenma base,

which is located near the bar where she works, said corps officials. The case was referred to the Ginowan Police Station because the alleged incident occurred off the base, they added.

According to Okinawa police, the woman has no intention of filing a criminal complaint in the case, which is necessary for police to seek charges.

"She does not want to speak about the incident in public," a police spokesman said.

According to the marine corps, the woman said in her report that on Friday night, a man who looked like an American entered her bar with a knife and locked her two female colleagues in toilet stalls. The man

then raped her. The assailant had been drinking at the bar earlier that night, according to the report.

Okinawans have staged a series of protests over the September rape case, in which the U.S. military held the three suspects in custody until their formal indictment, as stipulated in the bilateral Status of Forces Agreement.

Of the three suspects in the September case, Seaman Marcus Gill confessed to raping the 12-year-old girl, while Marine Pfc. Kendrick Ledet and Pfc. Rodrico Harp admitted to abducting her.

On Monday, Michael Griffith, a New York attorney, said he and two other American

lawyers will cooperate with the Japanese defense attorneys in the servicemen's trial.

Griffith said they are doing so "to make sure the men get a fair trial and find out the exact facts about what occurred."

The three U.S. lawyers, who are not licensed to practice law in Japan, were hired by the families of the defendants.

Griffith said that a Nov. 15 advertisement run by Okinawa Prefecture illustrates the sort of bias held by some people in Okinawa. The Japanese lawyers, he noted, may be pressured to "do the right thing" and allow the men to be found guilty, rather than working hard for a fair trial.

(Compiled from wire reports)

US airman accused of raping 14-yr-old girl

NAHA — A U.S. airman is being investigated by the U.S. military over the alleged rape of a 14-year-old American girl at Kadena air base in Okinawa, according to the U.S. military newspaper Pacific Stars and Stripes.

The daily said in a front-page story Wednesday that the girl was raped at a party Dec. 9 by a man who came into a room

where she had gone to rest.

An agent in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) told her mother a few days later that the rapist was an airman who admitted having sex with the girl but denied knowing she was only 14, the newspaper said.

It quoted the mother as saying that she and her husband received calls from her hus-

band's commander and a base legal affairs officer in which they tried to discourage her from talking to the press.

"He said this could blow up bigger than the O.J. Simpson case," the mother was quoted as saying.

According to the daily, her husband declined to be interviewed, fearing that the issue could affect his career.

Nov. 23 - 29, 1995

COVER STORY

Confusion clouds new rape allegation

Burden of proof, perception of guilt explored

By Daniel L. Smith
& Kaoru Komachi Farmer

Confusion swirls around an accusation by an Okinawan woman that she was forcibly raped by a foreigner Saturday in a club near MCAS Futenma.

Ginowan Police said the woman, and two of her friends, first reported the incident to military police at Futenma and was then referred to their office where she was questioned about the allegation.

Police said the woman later decided against pressing charges but gave no reason for her about face.

Details of the allegation were sketchy from the beginning with several sources telling Japan Update that the woman was allegedly accosted while in a local club by a knife-wielding attacker. Japanese media reports described the possible suspect as a Caucasian whose "hair was closely cropped along the sides." The man reportedly

entered the club briefly a first time, then entered brandishing a knife the second time. The report said he then locked two women in a closet and raped the third woman in the club's bathroom.

Neither Ginowan Police nor U.S. military officials would commit on the alleged rapist's description, however, Marine Public Affairs chief, Col. Stuart Wagner, later confirmed that Ginowan police had asked the military to advise gate guards to look out for an individual possibly fitting the woman's description.

The latest incident, coming amid simmering tensions spawned by the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl by three U.S. servicemen, brought into focus several problems that are an outgrowth of that rape — the stigma of reporting the crime for victims; steps for women to take to prevent becoming a rape target; and servicemen having to deal with perceptions that an inordinate amount of rape crimes in

Japan are committed by them.

Suzuyo Takasato, who has operated the Rape Emergency Intervention Counselling Center Okinawa since the infamous rape of the school girl, said the center is trying to make it easier for women to report attacks.

She acknowledged that it's often difficult for Japanese women to report rape. "We want to help in several ways. We have a staff that includes five psychiatrists and five counsellors and we offer services that include accompanying the rape victims to the police station, hospital and introducing them to lawyers," said Takasato, whose regular job is a representative in the Naha City Assembly.

"Our message to rape victims is to not blame themselves for what has happened, and that there is someone to talk to," Takasato added. She said the volunteer staff also includes an American counselor for English speaking rape

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Rape allegation

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victims.

Takasato explained that a male-dominated Japanese society often makes it tough for rape victims to report crimes. "There needs to be more female police officers and female doctors in emergency rooms to ease the pain of victims reporting the crime," Takasato said her agency is working with police and hospital officials to improve current conditions.

The U.S. military also offers a rape crisis hotline with various family support centers and hospital staffs providing additional counselling service for Status of Forces Agreement personnel.

However, at least one woman, martial arts specialist, Katherine Loukopoulos, said that more women should take their safety in their own hands.

A member of the American National Karate Team for seven years, Loukopoulos is espousing that women get stronger and tougher.

"Instead of all the political mess and problems this rape (of the school girl) has brought to Okinawa, it would have been a hell of a lot easier if she would have been able to break his jaw," the former karate champion declared.

She's authored a book that she said would do just that for women — make them less likely to be victims.

"It's called 'Speed, Strength, Stamina' and it's not so much a martial arts guide as it is a step-by-step way for women to become stronger and faster. I really believe that women who are able to defend themselves — or at least portray that to possible attackers — are least likely to become victims," she said. The book is sold in various USOs on island.

Loukopoulos, who conducts defensive training seminars in Japan, America, Germany, Ukraine, Austria and Greece, said that many countries such as Japan put women in peril by proxy.

"It's extremely difficult for women in Japan to combat sexual abuse in the traditional sense because many of the perpetrators are bosses and co-workers. The more important the man is, the least likely the woman is to press charges," she said.

For the U.S. military forces on Okinawa, any allegation of rape, but particularly those by Japanese women claiming to have been accosted by American military personnel, commands the attention of commanders from the camp level to the Pentagon.

In the incident that was alleged to have happened Saturday, some military officials moved quickly to distance themselves from it — taking exception to everything from the description of the possible suspect as a military man because of his hairstyle to questioning whether the allegations could have been from a spurned girlfriend or simply someone wanting to make things even more difficult for troops on Okinawa.

"You think about it from the military's perspective," said one military officer who asked not to be identified. "Right now, they (military commanders) are doing everything in their power to walk a tightrope between wanting these guys to be warriors at work and choirboys at play. They've got so many nets underneath them to catch those that fall through that it's pretty hard for them not to see a problem case coming."

MONDAY, NOV. 20, 1995

New flap greets Gore in Japan



MACKE

The Associated Press

★ Vice president arrives in Osaka in the wake of Macke's rape remark.

BY PETER LANDERS
The Associated Press

OSAKA, Japan — Vice President Al Gore stepped off Air Force Two and into a hornets' nest Saturday, arriving in Japan hours after a top U.S. admiral was forced out over remarks about an Okinawan schoolgirl's rape.

Adm. Richard C. Macke, commander of all U.S. military operations in the Pacific, agreed to early retirement Fri-

day, hours after saying of the servicemen accused of abducting and raping the 12-year-old: "For the price they paid to rent the car, they could have had a girl."

In Osaka, where Japan is hosting a Pacific Rim trade summit, U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale issued a swift apology — but the damage was done. Okinawans and women's activists were outraged, and even normally circumspect Japanese government officials were incredulous.

"I absolutely cannot believe this statement," Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, in Osaka for a

Pacific trade forum, told reporters.

Chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto said Mondale had met Kono and explained that the admiral's comment "doesn't reflect the Clinton administration's position. I hope the Okinawans will understand that."

They didn't. Fumiko Maeda, head of the Okinawa chapter of a national women's group, said Macke's statement trivialized the brutality of the attack and degraded Japanese women.

"The remarks are unforgivable," she said. "Each time we have swallowed our anger and

sorrow, but we can't stand it anymore."

Suzuyo Takazato, a city assemblywoman in Naha, the Okinawan capital, said Macke's remarks show that the rape was "not just a problem caused by the three accused servicemen but a fundamental problem involving the U.S. military."

"Women in Okinawa are forced to constantly live with a threat from the American servicemen around us who see women only as objects," Takazato said.

Among those meeting Gore's

Please see COMMENT, Page 4

Comment: Anti-U.S. sentiment boils over

Continued from Page 1

plane was Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota, who has called the U.S. military "uninvited guests" and is refusing to force landowners to sign agreements renewing base leases.

Gore, in an arrival statement, called the U.S.-Japanese partnership "a cornerstone for peace and prosperity in Asia and the world."

The vice president, filling in at the summit because President Clinton was kept home by the budget standoff, will meet Sunday with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. The Japanese side said U.S. troops in Japan would be among the matters discussed.

Both the U.S. and Japanese governments had hoped that the Clinton visit would help lay the Okinawa controversy to rest. He had planned to publicly express sorrow over the girl's ordeal and stress the importance of the two nations' security relationship.

The rape, and discontent over the heavy U.S. troop presence, has set off massive protests on tiny Okinawa, where about 28,200 American soldiers are stationed. Nearly one-fifth of the island is given over to the U.S. military.

One of the three servicemen has pleaded guilty to the rape, while the other two have acknowledged helping to plan and carry it out. A ruling in their case is expected soon.

Prosecutors say the trio ambushed the girl, in her school uniform, as she stepped out of a store where she had been buying a notebook. She was bound with electrical tape and driven to a secluded sugar-cane field where she was raped and then dumped from the car.

The issue has turned into a major political headache for the Murayama government. The prime minister may be forced to override the Okinawa governor and renew base leases.

Murayama and other government leaders have drafted their own plan to ease the anger at the U.S. military, but it reportedly contains cosmetic changes

that fall far short of demands from Okinawans.

On Friday — before Macke's comments — a group of 25 Okinawan women presented a petition to the prime minister's office with 55,000 signatures demanding an end to crimes committed by U.S. servicemen and a revision of the security arrangement. The group was led by two Okinawan politicians.

Also Friday, several hundred members of a labor group held a march in the streets of Tokyo, demanding that U.S. troops be expelled from Japan.

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES SUNDAY, NOV. 19, 1995

Admiral apologizes for rape comment

From Stripes and wire reports

WASHINGTON — The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. Richard C. Macke, remarked to reporters Friday that the rape of a 12-year-old girl on Okinawa could have been avoided if the three U.S. servicemen accused of the crime had simply paid for sex.

Within hours after the remark was reported, Macke's command in Hawaii issued an apology.

Macke, commander in chief of U.S. Pacific Command, made the comment at the end of a breakfast meeting with Pentagon reporters. "I think that it (the rape) was absolutely stupid," Macke told the reporters. "For the price they paid to rent the car, they could have had a girl."

Several hours later, his command in Hawaii issued an apol-



MACKE

ogy: "I made a serious mistake this morning," Macke was quoted in the statement. "My recent comment was the result of my frustration over the stupidity of this heinous and incomprehensible crime against the young lady. I regret any misunderstanding my comment may have caused."

Two Marines and a Navy seaman are on trial in Okinawa on

charges that they abducted the girl on Sept. 4 in a rental car and drove her to a secluded sugar cane field. Seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, admitted in court that he raped the girl.

President Clinton and other U.S. officials have publicly apologized for the rape, which triggered a huge outcry in Japan against the U.S. military.

During the meeting with reporters, Macke said he thinks that the public furor on Okinawa over the continued presence

of 26,000 American servicemen there has less to do with the rape than with Okinawans' feeling that other parts of Japan should bear more of the burden of hosting U.S. troops. Thousands of Okinawans have protested publicly.

"What we're seeing now isn't tied to the rape," Macke said. "The rape was a terrible incident. It never should have happened. The court system will take care of that part of the problem."

Military crimes often escape FBI computers

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of an occasional series based on an eight-month investigation by the Dayton Daily News. The women identified as sexual assault victims agreed to allow their names to be used. Where women did not agree to be identified, their names are withheld to protect their privacy. Where juveniles are identified, permission was granted by parents or guardians.

BY RUSSELL CAROLLO AND JEFF NESMITH

Cox News Service

Gerald Lavan Courson was charged in separate investigations with rape and sexual battery. He was convicted in 1993 on federal charges of extorting sex from a woman and judged guilty another time of sexual battery.

Brian Wayne Taylor was

charged in 1993 with molesting four children from three families in Florida, where he appeared at a military criminal proceeding.

Jerry D. Webster was convicted in Virginia in 1992 on charges of rape, sexual assault and battery involving three women.

Any of those charges would have given most Americans a permanent criminal record — a

MILITARY JUSTICE

rap sheet. But there's no record Courson, Taylor and Webster even were charged with those crimes, at least none in the FBI's criminal files.

They are among hundreds of people who have no criminal record in the FBI's computer

system, despite being charged and, in some cases, convicted of crimes by the U.S. armed forces.

The FBI system, though it cannot be accessed by the public, is used thousands of times a day by civilian police to track suspects, identify repeat offenders, screen would-be gun purchasers and prevent child mo-

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lesters from working in schools. Even the U.S. Secret Service uses it to screen people with seeking access to the president.

But the Dayton Daily News found that the FBI never received hundreds of criminal files on people arrested, prosecuted and, in some cases, convicted while in the military.

"I'd say if we got 20 percent of the cards that were military arrests, that was good," said Melvin Mercer, who headed the FBI's fingerprint identification section until his retirement in May 1994. "The military was very, very lax in sending in arrest cards."

Civilian police send the FBI records on nearly everyone arrested for serious offenses, even if the arrests don't result in convictions. An arrest record for child molestation can be a valuable indicator to a police detective searching for suspects in a child-abuse case.

"The chances of them (sex offenders) getting out of the military and doing it again are excellent," said Robert Ingram of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

After Courson got out of the service in 1993, he was arrested in Florida for battery on a police officer and for throwing volleyball-size chunks of concrete through the bedroom window of a woman, narrowing missing her 14-year-old daughter, who was asleep in the bed.

Florida police checked the FBI's computers for other charges, but Courson's military criminal record was not there. Based on the results of the search, the prosecutor recom-

mended probation, and the court agreed.

"The only conviction we had for him was a reckless driving offense," said Ace Grinstead, assistant prosecutor in Okaloosa County, Fla.

In 1993 and 1994, the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force tried 5,735 people for offenses requiring FBI notification, yet the FBI received only 2,554 criminal history records.

The military actually conducted several times that number of legal proceedings, many that may have met criteria requiring that they be reported. But since the records of many of those other proceedings — primarily administrative hearings — are kept secret, it's impossible to determine how many were reported to the FBI.

At one Army base, only 12 of the 39 soldiers investigated for rape and other sexual assaults since 1988 were reported to the FBI. The Dayton Daily News obtained information from the Army base's investigative files on sexual assaults after agreeing not to disclose anything that would lead to the source of the information.

For nearly 30 years, Thomas J. McGreevy watched people such as Courson, Taylor and Webster leave the military. He watched them as an agent for what is now the Army Criminal Investigation Command and later as deputy director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

But when McGreevy had trouble getting military records on a murder suspect in Georgia, he attempted to change the system. He tried to persuade the

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heads of military investigative agencies to turn over arrest records to the FBI.

"They didn't want to do it," he recalled. "A thousand excuses: 'It will hurt recruiting. ... These people have a right to privacy. We don't have the money to train people to take fingerprints.'"

But with help from Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., then chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, McGreevy got the military to adopt Criminal Investigation Policy Memorandum No. 10 in 1987.

Military investigative agencies gave "a thousand excuses" when asked by civilian authorities to surrender case records of military sex offenders. One of the responses was, "It will hurt recruiting."

The policy required military investigators to tell the FBI about military members accused of serious offenses, so long as the offense resulted in a scheduled trial or administrative hearing.

But the policy is vague. Investigators, for example, aren't sure whether they should report hundreds of suspects allowed to resign after being charged and scheduled for trial

Many agents aren't following the policy. Some aren't even aware of it, and many aren't sure what it requires them to do.

David M. Pickering, while a security police officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton, Ohio, was charged with raping a woman at a party in a nearby town. He went before the military's version of a grand jury proceeding and was allowed to resign in lieu of court-martial. He has an FBI criminal record.

Like Pickering, Taylor was charged with a sex crime: molesting four girls — ages 8 to 10 — at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He was charged at the same time of proceeding and allowed

to resign, too. But, unlike Pickering, he has no FBI criminal record.

Besides exempting the military from reporting many crimes civilian law officers report, Memo 10 has another flaw: It doesn't cover the U.S. Coast Guard. That service is part of the Department of Transportation, yet uses the same criminal justice system used by other Department of

Defense services.

"We do not have a policy on submitting prints to the FBI," said John David Pressler, who supervises the 121 agents in the Coast Guard's Criminal Investigation Section.

A further check on Machinery Technician 2nd Class Jerry D. Webster confirmed that he has no FBI record. He was convicted in Portsmouth, Va., in May 1992 of raping one woman and assaulting two others.

Pressler blamed himself for the absence of a Coast Guard policy on reporting to the FBI and said he is writing a policy and expects it to be implemented soon.

"We're doing something about it," he said.

The military didn't consider reporting criminals very important, said retired Gen. David Brahm, former chief military attorney for the Marines and technical adviser for the movie "A Few Good Men."

"It just wasn't high on anybody's list," he said.

McGreevy said the problem is lack of incentive.

"In the military, you tend to believe the problem's gone when the individual is gone from your base," he said. "The ... solution is get the problem out of sight and out of mind."

Kennedy, who oversees the military's compliance with Memo 10, said he was not surprised the policy is sometimes ignored.

"It hasn't been something that has been followed up," he said. "You're certainly not going to get any argument from this office that a review needs to be done."

Report: US bases in Japan have most sex crime cases

■ Since 1988, 107 out of 169 Marine, Navy defendants found guilty

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Military records show that 169 U.S. Marines and sailors in Japan have been court-martialed for rape, child molestation or other sex crimes since 1988, the Dayton Daily News reported Sunday.

The newspaper's computer analysis of mili-

tary records showed that bases in Japan had more sexual assault trials of Marines and sailors than any other location in the world.

The newspaper analyzed records compiled jointly by the Navy and Marine Corps as well as Air Force records. The Army refused to release its records on courts-martial, the paper said.

At Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, 23 of 5,984 Air Force personnel were charged with sexual assaults, more than all but one other Air Force installation. The Air Force records didn't indicate how many were tried.

The No. 2 location for Marines and sailors,

San Diego, had 102 cases among 93,792 personnel. Norfolk, Virginia, ranked third with 90 courts-martial among 113,004 personnel.

In Japan, where 41,008 Navy and Marine Corps personnel served since 1988, 107 of the 169 defendants were found guilty of a sex-related crime. Nearly a third of the cases were held in the military's version of misdemeanor court, where the maximum sentence is six months in prison.

The records do not show how many of the cases involved assaults on Japanese women.

Sexual assaults by American military person-

nel have drawn large protests in Japan since two Marines and a sailor were charged in the rape of a 12-year-old girl in Okinawa on Sept. 4.

The newspaper said military officials, whom it did not identify, declined to comment on the newspaper's analysis. A message The Associated Press left at the Pentagon's media office on Sunday was not immediately returned.

Army Reserve Maj. Kathy Platoni, a clinical psychologist in suburban Centerville, said military personnel overseas often feel liberated from the social structures that controlled their behavior at home.

GIs' arrest rate is high for Okinawa

★ Americans 4.2 percent of Okinawa's population but 11.5 percent of serious felony arrests.

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

CAMP FOSTER — The number of Americans arrested for felony crimes during the last six years on Okinawa is almost three times as high as the Americans' proportion of the island's population.

Although Americans on the island under the Status of

Forces Agreement between the U.S. and Japan number about 4.2 percent of the population, Okinawa police report that they represent 11.5 percent of all persons arrested for serious felonies — murder, rape, robbery and arson.

According to statistics supplied by the Okinawa prefecture and U.S. military authorities, 1,321,602 people live on

Okinawa, about 55,690 of them U.S. military personnel, civilian SOFA-status employees and their dependents.

Of 495 people arrested for serious felonies from 1989 to 1994, 57 were Americans.

Of that number, three were arrested in homicides (2.1 percent of 140 persons arrested), 37 were charged with robbery (21.9 percent of 169) and 17 were arrested on other felonies (11.2 percent of 112).

No Americans were among

MORE ON PAGE 6

Protesters, diplomats stay busy over Okinawa rape

the 74 persons charged with arson during the period.

The impact of U.S. military bases on Okinawa on crime here has come under renewed scrutiny in light of the apprehension of a U.S. Navy sailor and two Marines in connection with the alleged abduction and

rape of 12-year-old Okinawa girl Sept. 4.

The incident has re-energized decades-old calls for the reduction or elimination of U.S. bases here by anti-military protest groups and the prefectural government.

Even though the United States has agreed to review the section of the SOFA that allows for the holding of Americans in U.S. military custody until in-

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Okinawa: Treaty worries Ota

Continued from Page 1

dictment in Japanese court, many Okinawans want the Japanese-U.S. Security Treaty to be reevaluated.

Under the treaty, about 45,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan, about 29,000 of them on Okinawa, which is home to 75 percent of U.S. military bases in the country. The military bases take up about 20 percent of Okinawa, which has just 0.6 percent of the country's land mass.

Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota has expressed concern that an expected reaffirmation of the treaty by officials when President Bill Clinton visits Japan in November will adversely affect Okinawa.

"I understand the importance of the treaty for the relationship of the two countries," Ota said when visiting with national government and U.S. officials in

Tokyo last week. "But I hope the redefinition of the treaty won't lead to an increased burden or frustration of local residents.

"Although the government may stress the importance of the security treaty, it is problematic that Okinawa has to adversely suffer from that," Ota said.

Local newspapers on Okinawa have quoted unnamed sources in the national government as saying the rape incident "could lead to the reduction and consolidation of the U.S. military on Okinawa."

Protests on Okinawa have slowly grown from the public pronouncements of Ota, other government officials and anti-military groups. About three dozen women left a much larger protest rally Friday in Naha to demonstrate before a gate to Kadena Air Force Base.

On Tuesday, about 3,000 pro-

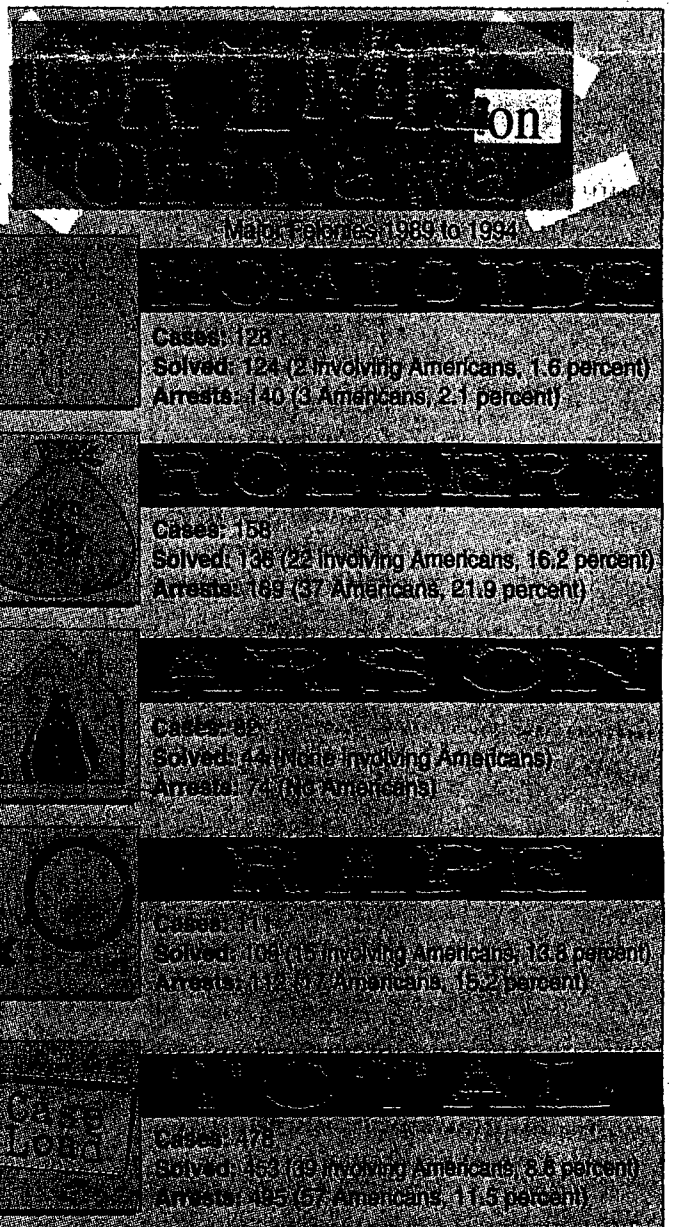
testers are expected to rally at an elementary school near Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and march to Marine Headquarters off Route 330 at Camp Foster.

In mid-October, the prefectural government plans an islandwide protest rally that will involve the participation of political parties, unions, teachers' and women's organizations and anti-military groups.

Planners of the rally said it will call for "an overall review of the SOFA." They estimate that between 30,000 and 50,000 people will attend.

"Let the world hear our anger," one organizer was quoted in a local newspaper. The committee members agreed to send a delegation of the prefectural assembly to the United States at a later date.

(Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report)



SOURCE: Okinawa Prefectural Police Dept. Adam Johnston/Stripes

Crime by U.S. troops a diplomatic thorn

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. Defense Department figures show that U.S. servicemen abroad are committing fewer violent crimes than just a few years ago. But the recent gang rape of a 12-year-old girl in Japan shows the problem persists and can cause huge diplomatic headaches.

The statistical improvement is due in part to the presence overseas of only about half as many U.S. military people today as in 1990. That's when the Pentagon began cutting troops, consolidating bases and partially withdrawing from Europe.

But even taking that into account, a review of the Pentagon's crime statistics shows U.S. troops in foreign nations are less likely to break laws but that even one case is potentially a diplomatic disaster.

The rape in early September of a 12-year-old girl in Okinawa—allegedly by two U.S. Marines and a Navy seaman—raised questions in Japan about U.S. ties. It also has added to local opposition within Okinawa to the U.S. military presence on the island, where about 30,000 U.S. service members are based. There are about 15,000 U.S. forces stationed elsewhere in Japan.

As a measure of the delicacy of such strains, President Bill Clinton expressed regrets for the Okinawa assault even though the accused Americans have not yet been formally charged. Washington and Tokyo are in the final stages of a review of the U.S.-Japan security arrangement, and hundreds of people this week have protested in Okinawa to demand that U.S. forces leave.

Lawrence Korb, an assistant secretary of defense for manpower during President Ronald Reagan's administration, said criminal activity by U.S. servicemen was more prevalent in the 1970s and '80s but got relatively little attention.

"During the Cold War, people (in Japan and Europe) were so afraid we'd leave, they were willing to overlook this" for the sake of remaining under the protective U.S. nuclear umbrella, Korb said.

"They've got more self-awareness now. They look around and say, 'The Cold War is over. Why are all these Americans still here?'" he said.

The main U.S. overseas bases are in Japan, Germany and South Korea.

Christopher Jehn, former President

George Bush's assistant secretary of defense for force management, said in an interview the decline in criminal activity reflects overall improvement in the quality of recruits. Also, since the military services are shrinking, they are more selective about who stays in.

Americans who remain at U.S. outposts are still involved in substantial numbers of crimes, but the trend is clearly improving. According to Defense Department records compiled by the Army's Judge Advocate General.

The number of violent crimes—murder, rape and manslaughter—that U.S. military personnel outside the United States were accused of fell by 64 percent, from 223 cases in 1989 to 80 last year. The population of U.S. servicemen abroad fell by 43 percent, from 510,000 to 287,000.

The incidence of rape cases alone fell from 134 in 1989 to 45 last year, a two-thirds decline. Eleven murder cases were recorded in 1989, compared with six last year. The most numerous of serious crimes is robbery: 1,095 cases in 1989, 406 last year.

In Japan, where about 10 percent fewer

U.S. servicemen reside today than six years ago, the number of crime cases has fallen by 52 percent. Seven rape cases involving U.S. military personnel in Japan were reported in 1989, six last year. Over the six-year period, 28 rape cases were tried, and 11 servicemen were convicted.

In Germany, host to the largest contingent of U.S. forces outside the United States, the number of murders, rapes and manslaughter cases involving U.S. soldiers fell by 78 percent in six years, from 138 cases in 1989 to 30 last year. The U.S. military population in Germany fell by 65 percent.

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OCT. 9, 1995

Japan leading site for sex cases

★ More Marines, sailors tried for rape, molestation in Japan than at any other U.S. military location.

BY RUSSELL CAROLLO AND JEFF NESMITH

Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — More Marines and Navy sailors were tried for rapes, child molestations and other sexual assaults at bases in Japan than at any other U.S. military site in the world.

Computer records of Navy and Marine Corps cases since 1988 show that bases in Japan, which have a total of 41,008 personnel, held 169 courts-martial for sexual assaults. That's 66 percent more cases than the No. 2 location, San Diego, which had 102 cases and has 93,792 personnel.

The No. 3 location, Norfolk, Va., had 90 courts-martial. Norfolk has 113,004 total personnel.

Sexual assaults by U.S. military personnel have become the focus of interna-

tional attention after the alleged rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl Sept. 4. The girl was heading home from a neighborhood store in northern Okinawa when she was abducted, bound and taken to a deserted beach, where she was beaten and raped, authorities said.

Two Marines and a sailor were charged in the case.

The Navy and Marines aren't the only armed services with a high rate of sexual assault cases in Japan. Among Air Force personnel, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, led all but one other installation in the number of people charged with sexual assaults.

Air Force computer records, which include personnel charged but not tried, show that 23 people were charged with sexual assaults at Kadena. Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas ranks first with 26 cases, but that base has 7,020 military personnel — more than Kadena, which has 5,984.

Please see JAPAN, Page 4

Japan: Young personnel's attitudes cited as problem

Continued from Page 1

The computer records do not show how many of the cases involved assaults on Japanese women.

Officials at the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., said they would examine the high rate of sexual assaults committed by American service members.

Orlando, Fla., lawyer Robert Wheelock, who has defended military personnel in Japan, said several factors may explain the numbers.

"Okinawa is one of the biggest staging areas for Marines in the early part of their careers," he said. "That means you have a large population of 18- to 22-year-old kids there — many of them away from home for the first time, feeling their oats, trained to think they're hot

stuff just because they're Marines."

Army Reserve Maj. Kathy Platoni, a clinical psychologist in Centerville, Ohio, said military personnel overseas often feel liberated from the social structures that had previously controlled their behavior at home.

"There is often a party atmosphere and an attitude of: 'I can act out, and I'm not going to get caught.' That's why they feel free to abuse other humans," she said.

Military officials declined to explain the high number of courts-martial in Japan.

Of the 169 courts-martial at Navy and Marine Corps installations in Japan, nearly a third were held in the military's version of misdemeanor court, where the maximum sentence is six months — less than that

faced by many drunken drivers.

One of those tried in misdemeanor court was a sailor accused in 1991 of what would have been felony charges in civilian criminal court.

The sailor was charged with grabbing a woman's breast, fondling her and pulling down her pants during an attempted rape.

He was found guilty of indecent assault, sentenced to 150 days in jail and given a \$1,750 fine and a "bad conduct discharge" from the service.

Overall, 107 of the 169 defendants were found guilty of a sexual assault, but only half of the guilty — 54 — got sentences of more than six months.

Fewer than half of the defendants in Kadena — 11 of 23 — were found guilty of a sexual assault. Of the guilty, seven were sentenced to more than six months.

Mainichi Daily News
95.9.28

US reports drop in crime by servicemen abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Defense Department figures show that American servicemen abroad are committing fewer violent crimes than just a few years ago. But the recent gang-rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl shows the problem persists and can cause huge diplomatic headaches.

The statistical improvement is due in part to the presence overseas of only about half as many American military people today as in 1990. That's when the Pentagon began cutting troops, consolidating bases and partially withdrawing from Europe.

Even taking that into account, a review of Pentagon crime statistics shows American troops in foreign nations are less likely to break laws but that even one case — as Okinawa demonstrates — is potentially a diplomatic disaster.

Lawrence Korb, an assistant

(Continued on Page 3)

Continued from Page 1

US servicemen ...

secretary of defense for manpower during Ronald Reagan's administration, said criminal activity by American servicemen was more prevalent in the 1970s and '80s but got relatively little attention.

"During the Cold War, people (in Japan and Europe) were so afraid we'd leave, they were willing to overlook this" for the sake of remaining under the protective American nuclear umbrella, Korb said in an interview.

"They've got more self-awareness now. They look around and say, 'The Cold War

is over. Why are all these Americans still here?'" he said.

The main U.S. overseas bases are in Japan, Germany and South Korea.

Christopher Jehn, former President George Bush's assistant secretary of defense for force management, said in an interview the decline in criminal activity reflects overall improvement in the quality of recruits. Also, since the military services are shrinking, they are more selective about who stays in.

Americans who remain at U.S. outposts are still involved in substantial numbers of crimes, but the trend is clearly improving. According to Defense Department records com-

pared by the Army's Judge Advocate General:

- The number of violent crimes — murder, rape and manslaughter — that U.S. military personnel outside the United States were accused of fell by 64 percent, from 223 cases in 1989 to 80 last year. The population of U.S. servicemen abroad fell by 43 percent, from 510,000 to 287,000.

- The incidence of rape cases alone fell from 134 in 1989 to 45 last year, a two-thirds decline. Eleven murder cases were recorded in 1989, compared with six last year. The most numerous of serious crimes is robbery: 1,095 cases in 1989, 406 last year.

- In Japan, where about 10

percent fewer U.S. servicemen reside today than six years ago, the number of crime cases has fallen by 52 percent.

Seven rape cases involving U.S. military personnel in Japan were reported in 1989, six last year. Over the six-year period, 28 rape cases were tried, and 11 servicemen were convicted.

- In Germany, host to the largest contingent of U.S. forces outside the U.S., the number of murders, rapes and manslaughter cases involving U.S. soldiers fell by 78 percent in six years, from 138 cases in 1989 to 30 last year. At the same time, the U.S. soldier population in Germany fell by 65 percent.

13

US military on trial in Okinawa

A tiny island south-west of Japan has been Little America for 50 years. But the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl has enraged locals and boosted their desire to get the US troops out. **Andrew Higgins** reports

MAJOR Edmund Memi of Brooklyn, New York, is explaining why the 18th Air Wing needs its own 18-hole golf course bang in the middle of Okinawa and why the US Air Force should never surrender an inch of its 11,500 acres of prime Japanese real estate.

"We've got men here who are used to the American way of life," he says. "Back home in the States this is perfectly normal. It is not an extravagance. It is provided for the morale of our troops. All work and no play helps nobody. We'd rather have our men hitting golf balls than hitting . . ." He stops himself abruptly in mid-sentence.

He has struggled valiantly for more than an hour to avoid the real issue in Okinawa and prove that 28,000 US troops pose no threat to anyone.

Sure, a few Japanese want back some of the land they lost in 1945 (he scoffs at "tatami mat" landlords). Yes, they might resent their property being used by a foreign military to play golf, fly (and sometimes crash) F-15 warplanes and store 54,000 tonnes of munitions, including, though nobody will say so officially, nuclear warheads. And, of course, the neighbours don't like it when fighter squadrons take off in the middle of the night ("We try to avoid it but you don't go to war in the dark if you don't practise in the dark").

Surely, though, a few grumpy neighbours is small price to pay for half a century of peace and stability? "We are not here for ourselves but for the good of Japan and the rest of Asia."

The sentence left unfinished by Major Memi at the Kadena Air Base is completed in grisly detail a few miles down Highway 58 in Hearing Room 201 of the Naha District Court. Here, in a hall so scrubbed and polished it glows antiseptic white, there is no dodging what soldiers are capable of doing in their free time — when not hitting golf balls, watching NFL football matches and Playboy channel movies on cable TV or guzzling duty-free bottles of beer at on-base bars.

The court starts its business for the day at 10 o'clock sharp. First to appear before a panel of three black-robed judges is US Marine 1st Class Joshua Hill. He makes a swaggering entry wearing handcuffs and a T-shirt that says "Boss". He is accused of bludgeoning a 24-year-old Japanese woman to death with a hammer. He admits to hammering

her head but says he did not mean to kill her.

Before they can decide how long to lock him up for, the judges (there is no jury) want to know how many times he hit his victim, a shop assistant called Kanako Kinjo. The prosecution estimates the number of hammer blows to the head at 70; the defence suggests "only" 20; Hill, a Korean-Afro-American from Ohio, grunts and rolls his eyes.

He is no more helpful on the question of motive. He mutters something about bad driving but declines to elaborate. His lawyer, Mistunobu Matsunga, asks for psychological tests "because what he did was not understandable". The judges, no less baffled, set another hearing in a fortnight's time.

After a break for lunch, the Japanese justice system has its second encounter of the day with the US Armed Forces in Hearing Room 201. The afternoon session centres on the abduction and gang rape of a 12-year-old Japanese schoolgirl. Sitting handcuffed at the front of the court are two more Marines, this time from Georgia, and a Texan in the Navy. Also in court are two of their mothers and a wife.

The three men allegedly seized the girl as she walked home from buying school notebooks in a village shop. After forcing her into a white rental car, they bound her wrists with tape and drove to a sugar cane field in the north of Okinawa. There she was raped and then dumped, semi-conscious and badly battered.

Again, there are confessions and again the task faced by the judges is less one of choosing between guilt and innocence than calibrating degrees of a horror that defy understanding. (All three admit to planning and then carrying out the abduction but disagree on who did exactly what in the car.)

Even defence witnesses splutter with appalled incomprehension. "As the father of two children I find it difficult to believe that anyone could be capable of doing something like this, especially to a child," says John Deardorff, a military officer called to act as a character witness for 22-year-old Naval recruit Marcus Gill. All he can offer by way of mitigating circumstances is a dim recollection that Gill had put on weight at the time of the rape and worried about slinking his physical: "He was upset about his weight control problem."

The response of Okinawa, scene of a bloody second world war battle in which more than 200,000 died, has been one of predictable outrage. The Pentagon, and much of Tokyo's political elite, voice revulsion while praying that the horrors of Hearing Room 201 will soon be forgotten. The case of Joshua Hill — now known to his Marine Corps buddies as "MC Hammer", an allusion to the American rap musician — may well fade from memory. The press has shown little interest in his victim. One of the few newspapers to report the case regularly is the US military's own in-house publication, Stars and Stripes.

The indifference has a reason: the murdered woman mixed with marines. Even zealous critics of military violence suggest this some-



A women's group outside Japan's foreign ministry in Tokyo protests against the US military presence

PHOTOGRAPH: KATSUMI KASAHARA

how explains her fate. "Using a hammer should be recognised as a violent act but this killing was a personal matter between two people," says Iha Yoichi, a trade union leader and activist in a campaign to get US soldiers out of Okinawa.

But passions accused by the rape of a pre-teen schoolgirl tainted by any past association with her attackers show no sign of abating, despite a claim by the Pentagon that a recent visit to Japan by US Defence Secretary William Perry had "put the Okinawa problem behind us".

The furor has claimed the career of Admiral Richard Macke, overall commander of US forces in the Pacific. He took early "retire-

The Pentagon, and much of Tokyo's political elite, voice revulsion while praying that the horrors of Hearing Room 201 will soon be forgotten

ment" after an off-colour remark that the accused rapists could have hired a prostitute with the money they spent hiring a car to abduct the schoolgirl.

Three months after the crime entered vocabulary as the *reipu jiken* — rape incident — the parking lot of the District Court in Naha, Okinawa's capital, is clogged on trial days with television crews and satellite transmission vans.

A helicopter clatters overhead taking aerial shots for a Japanese network. So many journalists and ordinary Okinawans want a seat in the Room 201 that court officials hold a pre-trial lottery of courtroom tickets. (Hill draws only a handful of spectators.)

wardmost defence against any potential hostile aggression towards the United States in the Pacific theatre . . . When they're not training hard, they're playing hard. Immeasurable time and effort have been selflessly provided over the years by hardcharging volunteers to make the lives of their neighbours better."

And those who charge too hard? "If your actions result in serious injury or death to a Japanese . . . you should offer compensation of up to \$1,000."

The text, like much else about the US military presence in Okinawa, is badly outdated, a relic of the simple certainties of preppy 1950s soda fountain sports rhetoric and Cold War Pax Americana in the Pacific.

"You don't have to be Thucydides or Henry Kissinger to realise that this situation is highly unstable and could blow up in our faces," says Chalmers Johnson, head of the Japan Policy Research Institute in California. "Japan must become a normal country and we must end our protectorate. We are defending a country while going into debt to it to the tune of \$60 billion a year." When Washington last fully revised its security treaty with Tokyo in 1960, the US was 11 times richer than Japan. Today, it is only 1.3 times wealthier.

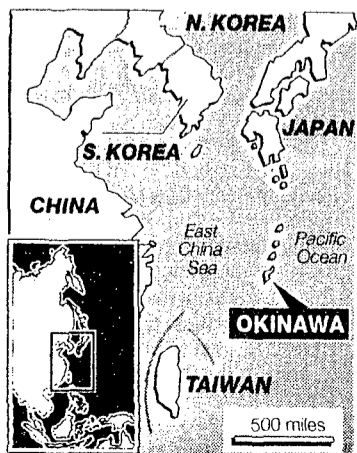
The Pentagon dismisses such logic as isolationist claptrap. It also unnerves many Japanese and other Asians. Singapore's elder statesman, Lee Kuan Yew, says encouraging Japan to build up its own military is "like giving a chocolate liqueur to an alcoholic".

After reluctantly promising to slash US troops levels in Japan and Korea in 1990 and then again in 1992, the US defence department has reversed itself with an unequivocal commitment to maintain "a stable forward presence" in Asia of 100,000 men. It argues that it is cheaper to keep American troops in Japan, where Tokyo is supposed to pick up 70 per cent of the tab, than back home in the United States. (South Korea pays nearly 90 per cent of the cost of keeping 37,000 American soldiers.)

The arrangement used to suit all sides — except for the Okinawans, whose tiny island plays host to two-thirds of all US ground troops stationed in Japan. The rape, however, has served as a catalyst for a more general, albeit unfocused, sense that something must change.

But what? Few Japanese want to drive out US troops altogether; fewer still are ready to share Okinawa's burden and welcome teenage marines into their own neighbourhood. "The cold war in Europe ended when people tore down the Berlin Wall. It has ended in Asia with the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl," claims Rose Johnson. "American troops in Japan look a lot like the Russian troops who lingered in East Germany for years after the Wall came down. Vested interests are fighting, but it is all over."

For Okinawans, though, it is far from over. At the Hamagawa Junior School, teachers still get drowned out in the middle of lessons by the din of F-15s coming in to land at the nearby Kadena Air Base. The school principal, Higa Hideo, still has to interrupt assembly meetings to wait for the noise to die down. However, he does thank the US military for one thing: "Because of all their noise pollution, students greet me very boisterously in the morning. Here we all know how to shout."



14

Women demand U.S. reduce Okinawa forces

THE JAPAN TIMES • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995

By NAOMI HIRAKAWA

Staff writer
In the wake of the alleged rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen in Okinawa Prefecture, a Japanese woman and an American woman living in Okinawa are calling for a reduction or complete withdrawal of U.S. military personnel in Okinawa.

The Sept. 4 rape "pushed all the buttons," leading to the media deluge over the incident, Carolyn Francis said.

Francis, a Christian missionary who moved to Okinawa from Tokyo six years ago and has participated in citizens' peace movements, made the statement in an interview with The Japan Times.

She suggested that murder and rape cases involving U.S. servicemen in Okinawa have been so common that in local media they have mostly been run on inside pages, whereas a crash of a U.S. military plane would appear on the front page.

This time, however, it's different.

"Women, mothers who have been reluctant until now, stood up," said Suzuyo Takazato, a member of the Naha Municipal Assembly who has long worked on the issue of military violence and women in Okinawa.

The case moved the Okinawan women for the first time in the past five decades, Francis said.

"Okinawa women regret that if they had talked about their experiences before, maybe the Sept. 4 case would not have happened," Takazato said.

Both Francis and Takazato welcome the nationwide media coverage, which they said has enabled the issue of crimes committed by U.S. servicemen in Okinawa to become widely known.

Between 1984 and 1994, U.S. servicemen were arrested by Okinawan police in connection with 1,172 crimes, of which 108 cases, or 9.2 percent of the total, were felonies such as murder, burglary, arson and rape.

At the same time, however, they are puzzled by the excessive reports by television reporters as well as foreign media, who have tried to get comments by the schoolgirl or her parents.

They said they do not want the schoolgirl to be raped again by the media.

According to a police investigation, around 8 p.m. on Sept. 4, the three men abducted the girl, tied her up with packing tape and took her in a rented car to an isolated beach in the northern part of the island, where she was al-

legedly raped.

Police said the suspects were traced through rental car records.

"Child" and "sexual crime" were the key phrases that moved the people of Okinawa, the two women observed.

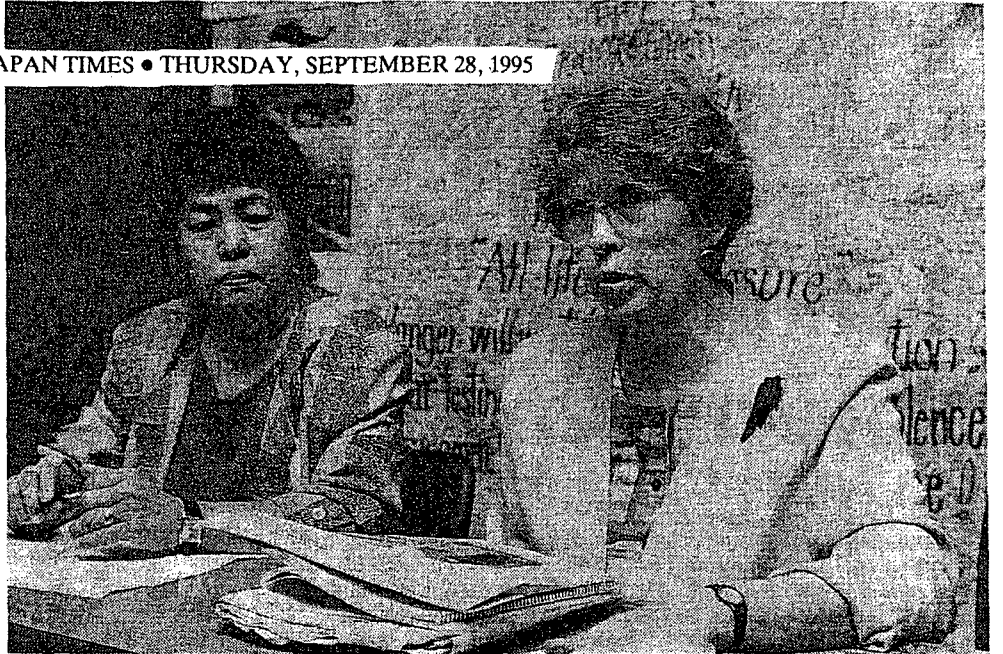
Admitting that her group's activities had not been strong enough to move the women of Okinawa, Takazato said that "rape and U.S. bases" have not been linked until now.

"Rapes were considered to be crimes committed during private time of the U.S. servicemen," she added. "Which means (the crimes) are not directly linked to the presence of the U.S. military forces on the island."

She criticized this idea, which is also accepted by the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

Since the national government financially supports a large portion of the costs of deploying U.S. troops in Japan — including housing, where servicemen often spend their free time — crimes committed on the island should not be treated separately, she said.

Even though the United States has agreed to improve implementation of the section of the Status of Forces Agreement that allows for the holding of Americans in U.S. mili-



CAROLYN FRANCIS (right) and Suzuyo Takazato explain the feelings of Okinawan residents toward the recent rape incident. TOSHIKI SAWAGUCHI PHOTO

tary custody until indictment by Japanese prosecutors, Takazato wants the Japanese-U.S. Security Treaty itself to be re-evaluated.

Under the treaty, about 45,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan, about 29,000 of them on Okinawa, home to about 75 percent of U.S. military bases in the country.

"The government may stress the importance of the security treaty, but it is a problem that Okinawa and its people have to suffer from that," she said.

U.S. officials have been granting Japanese investigators access to the three — Marine Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, of Georgia; Pfc. Kendrick Ledet, 20, of Georgia; and Navy

Seaman Marcus Gill, 22, of Texas.

The three are to be turned over to Japanese police as soon as charges are filed.

Women on the island tried to forget their traumatic post-war experiences, which included prostitution and being raped by U.S. servicemen, Francis said. Now, she added, they are thinking about the future of their children and grandchildren.

Francis said that the incident encouraged women and children to speak out on their experiences of being raped by U.S. servicemen during a Sept. 23 rally held in Okinawa Prefecture.

Francis, who came to Japan about 26 years ago,

strongly feels the need to set up a better support system for victims of such crimes against women.

In May 1993, a 19-year-old woman was taken onto a base by car and raped. The case was reported by the mass media only after the offender had fled arrest by leaving for the U.S.

It was only after the local bar association and the prefectural assembly took up the case that the criminal was sent back. But the victim did not pursue the case, largely because she had no supporters to look to for help, Francis said.

A military court in the U.S. in March 1994 gave the soldier a dishonorable discharge.

Women's group takes action

1995. 9. 28

A women's action group opposing military bases and forces, chaired by President Kimi Hara of Okinawa Christian Junior College, sent twenty-five representatives to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 17. They handed in a petition with the signatures of 53,000 people to revise the Status of Forces Agreement, to remove military bases, and to protest the alleged recent rape incident by military servicemen.

The representative delegation was headed by Mrs. Keiko Itokazu, an Okinawan prefectural assemblywoman. About one hundred and twenty other representatives or individuals joined them in their effort.

Because Prime Minister Tomiichi

Murayama and other key ministers were absent in order to attend the APEC meetings, the women's action group representatives met with Deputy Director Ishi, a lower level official in the Prime Minister's Office. Mr. Ishi stated that he believed the Okinawan petition would be reflected in governmental policies.

The group also met with Chief Administrative Officer Yamada of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He commented only that issues relating to the bases would be discussed in the newly formed joint organization between Japan and the U.S.

After officially presenting the petition to the central government, Mrs. Itokazu and three other representatives held a press

conference. They made clear that other instances of rape had been reported. They also commented that the Japan-U.S. Security Pact protected Japan and the Japanese, but not Okinawan women. They are now planning to take action in the United States in the early part of next year.

The women's action group representatives took part in the all Japan rally for solidification with Okinawans to demand the removal of military bases from Okinawa. The rally was held at the Hibiya Outdoor Music Stage with an attendance of about 5,000 people. There Mrs. Itokazu reported on Okinawa's demands and asked for the support of fellow citizens in Japan.

Women groups spur demonstration

95. 9. 28

Prompted by the recent rape of a young school girl in Kin allegedly committed by three U.S. servicemen, the executive committee members of the Okinawa delegation to the NGO Women's Forum in Beijing, organized a demonstration outside Kadena Air Base, Saturday.

"We don't want military and wars any more," said Suzuyo Takasato, the chairwoman of the committee, during a speech she gave before the demonstration at a gathering at Okinawa City Civil Hall.

Over 150 women attended the meeting and the demonstration.

The women called for better protection of women and children. Other women's organizations held similar rallies in Naha and other cities over the weekend.

Rape repercussions affecting land leases

SEP. 29, 1995

NAHA — Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota refused Thursday to cooperate with the central government in forcibly using Okinawa land for U.S. military bases.

"Under the current circumstances, it's absolutely difficult," Ota said during a session of the prefectural assembly, referring to the public outcry over the rape earlier this month of an Okinawan schoolgirl, allegedly by three U.S. servicemen.

Ota later told reporters that he made the decision despite the risk of facing a lawsuit

from the central government.

"I want to speak about the situation in Okinawa (to central government officials) and obtain the understanding of the central government," Ota said.

His remarks come amid growing anger among Okinawans over the rape, which has fueled calls by local leaders and residents for a reduction in the U.S. military presence in Okinawa.

His decision could delay government procedures to forcibly use lands owned by 35 of about 2,900 so-called "anti-war" landowners.

In the case of the 35 landowners, both the landowners and related municipalities

have refused to sign necessary documents for forcible use of their properties.

In such a case, a signature by the governor is required in legal procedures for the national government to forcibly use the lands and provide

them to the U.S. forces.

The 35 landowners own a total of 35,200 sq. meters of land within eight U.S. military sites in Yomitan, Okinawa and Naha, according to the Defense Administration Facilities Agency.

Some 2,900 Okinawa landowners, who possess about 387,000 sq. meters of land inside 13 U.S. forces facilities, have refused to sign their contracts.

But except for the 35 properties, the national government is now able to forcibly use the lots because either the local municipalities or the owners themselves have already signed required documents.

Based on the law on land expropriation for U.S. forces, the central government is preparing to have the 2,900 Okinawan landowners, including the 35, sign contracts with it before the current forced leases expire in March next year and in May 1997.

If the governor refuses to sign the documents, the prime minister can file an administrative suit requesting the governor to carry out his

duties. With court backing, the prime minister can then sign the documents himself if the governor does not comply with the court's ruling, according to the Local Autonomy Law.

There are nearly 30,000 U.S. troops on the island, where about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan are located.

The Defense Facilities Administration Agency, which is in charge of expropriating land for use by U.S. forces, has urged the landowners to sign their names on documents for the forced the contracts.



Thursday, October 12, 1995

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS

DOMESTIC

Not budging

Ota firmly rejects renewing land lease

Mainichi Shimbun

Efforts by the central government to persuade Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota to sign documents allowing U.S. forces to continue using prefectural land for their bases appear to be foundering, as the governor remains firm in his opposition to the renewal of the leasing agreement.

The government, acting through intermediary Seishiro Eto, director general of the Defense Agency, hopes to resolve the problem after the end of the current session of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly on Thursday.

The land use agreement forms the core of the U.S.-Japan bilateral Security Treaty. Gov. Ota's unbending stance on its renewal is leading to government fears of its effect on the U.S.-Japan relationship, bringing in to question both the government's ability to conduct diplomacy and its defense strategy.

The problem was brought to the fore as a result of the alleged rape of a Japanese schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen on Sept. 4. In the wake of the incident, there has been much discussion about the possibility of revising the

Soldiers given party restrictions

NAHA — U.S. soldiers in Okinawa have been banned by their top officer from entering a bar and entertainment district in Okinawa City. The move comes as an effort to avoid further troubles after the rape of a young girl allegedly by three U.S. servicemen.

The order was given by Maj. Gen. Wayne E. Rollings through an army spokesman Tuesday. Soldiers will be restricted from entering the district between midnight and 6 a.m. starting this Friday.

According to the spokesman, the

order was given owing to "inappropriate behavior on the part of servicemen." He denied that the move was connected to the rape incident, although it clearly influenced the decision.

The bar district in question lies near Kadena Air Base, and is the largest in Okinawa. The move is bound to have a deep effect on the business of the hundreds of bars and discos that populate the area.

"It may be significant as a way to enforce discipline among the troops, but it should not be something that's going to cause grief for the businesses they fre-

quent," says Choko Takayama, director of Okinawa Prefecture's policy formulation section.

Maj. Gen. Rollings reportedly had been considering the move even before the rape in order to restore troop discipline, because soldiers have become notorious for causing brawls in the district.

The ban, which covers the soldiers' major nighttime recreational areas including the road that leads downtown from Kadena Air Base, will only be lifted if there are improvements in their behavior, the spokesman said.

Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement that governs the status of the U.S. troops here.

On Sept. 18, however, Administrative Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi said that the ministry had no plans to review the agreement, although Defense Agency Director Eto indicated a willingness to revise concerning U.S. servicemen's status in criminal court procedures.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono lodged a protest about the matter with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter F. Mondale. But the minister

announced on Sept. 19 that the government didn't intend to revise the agreement, saying that to demand a revision is more than what is needed.

In response, Gov. Ota and the prefectural assembly stepped in. Voicing his "shock at Foreign Minister Kono's indifferent attitude," the governor said he would not sign the agreement.

The government set up an expert group within the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee on Sept. 25 in an attempt to revise criminal court procedures involving American servicemen. However, an Okinawa prefectural

official says the improvement of the procedures will not be enough to ease the situation.

Government officials, including Eto, hope Ota will meet the director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency to discuss the matter. Eto says he and the foreign minister are doing their utmost to solve the problem, but negotiations between the central and the local governments are now deadlocked.

A former professor at Ryuky University, said that Gov. Ota's primary reason for the refusal to sign the agreement

as it stands is because of his fear that the national government is eager to strengthen and fix the bases' status through a reappraisal of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

The Okinawan dissatisfaction with incidents involving U.S. servicemen and the negative attitude of the central government toward a review of the status agreement is, according to a high-ranking official of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, is just a pretext to discuss the larger issue.

Approximately 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. armed forces in Japan is in Okinawa,

which Gov. Ota describes as "a burden that is far too heavy." U.S. bases currently cover 10.5 percent of land in the prefecture. The area used has dropped by only 15 percent since island's return to Japanese control in 1972.

In 1990, the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee agreed to begin discussing the return of 23 plots of land and facilities held by the U.S. forces, which cover about 1,000 hectares in the prefecture, but 10 of the 23 have remained untouched. The prefecture has demanded three other military facilities, including the Naha naval port, Yomitan airfield and a target practice site, be removed, but few sites for their relocation have been found.

As another measure, the government plans to issue a joint statement on the "re-arrangement and reduction of bases" at a U.S.-Japan summit meeting. Prefectural officials, however, believe the move is an "empty promise" because the government has taken few measures in the past despite much talk of such measures.

A top Defense Agency official has also said that business promotion measures for Okinawan residents living near the bases are needed, but observers say this, too, will not calm the anger of Okinawans.

大田知事

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Alaskan DA to seek indictments of sailors in sex case

Cox News Service

A civilian prosecutor in Alaska says he will seek indictments in the 1992 sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl if the Navy can identify the two sailors responsible.

"All the elements of the crime are there to take it to a grand jury," said Richard Svobodny, district attorney for Juneau and Sitka, Alaska.

The case is one of two 1992 sexual assault cases Svobodny reopened after a Dayton Daily News story about allegations against sailors from the USS Duncan.

In the two cases, four sailors from the USS Duncan were accused of sexually assaulting three girls ages 13, 14 and 15 during a port visit to the island of Sitka in 1992, the newspaper found.

Two of the sailors allegedly took the 13- and 15-year-old girls to the Sitka Hotel and had sex with them. The captain of the guided-missile frigate said he decided not to prosecute the sailors because they told him that they believed that the girls were of legal age.

Ignorance of someone's age is a defense under Alaska law, which, Svobodny said, makes him reluctant to prosecute that case.

In the second case, the one Svobodny is pursuing, two other sailors were accused of trying to have sex with a naked 14-year-old girl.

Navy commanders recommended trial for both, an officer and an enlisted sailor.

But a higher-ranking Navy officer overruled the recommendations, sending the officer to an administrative hearing offering no possibility of jail.

The case against the enlisted man was dropped.

Although the Navy had substantial evidence of crimes, there was never a trial.

In one case, a 31-year-old sailor told Navy officials that he had "sexual contact" with a teen-age girl. The girl, 13-year-old Jessica Demientieff, said she had sexual intercourse with the sailor, but she was never interviewed by Navy investigators.

The Duncan was docked at Sitka during its Alaska Day celebration, commemorating the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The skipper of the vessel was Cmdr. Martin J. Leghart Sr., a 43-year-old Canton, Ohio, native.

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Sailors admitted sex crimes, went unpunished

1995, 10, 16

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of an occasional series based on an eight-month investigation by the Dayton Daily News. Where juveniles are identified, permission was granted by parents or guardians.

By RUSSELL CAROLLO

Cox News Service

SITKA, Alaska — As the Navy's investigation into the Tailhook convention in Las Vegas made headlines nationwide,

the USS Duncan cruised into this remote port city to participate in another, lesser-known annual celebration.

In the two days that followed the 1992 visit, reports of drunken sailors harassing and having sex with underage girls led one high school to confine its students to campus until the guided missile frigate left.

A local motel, where a 14-year-old girl was found naked in bed with a Navy officer and one of his crew members, re-

MILITARY JUSTICE

fused to rent any more rooms to sailors.

"The offenses you are talking about are serious and warrant investigation. There's no doubt about it," said Ron Benefield, an agent and chief spokesman for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in Washington.

Although the Navy had substantial evidence of crimes, there was never a trial. In one case, a 31-year-old sailor told Navy officials that he had "sexual contact" with a teen-age girl. The girl, 13-year-old Jessica Demientieff, said she had sexual intercourse with the sailor, but she was never interviewed by Navy investigators.

The Duncan was docked at Sitka during its Alaska Day celebration, commemorating the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The skipper of the vessel was Cmdr. Martin J. Leghart Sr., a 43-year-old Canton, Ohio, native.

Please see NAVY, Page 4

THURSDAY, JAN. 18, 1996

U.S. to cede S. Korea more authority over military crime suspects

★ Proposed change in the status of forces agreement would allow South Korea civilian authorities to jail GIs after they've been indicted for serious crimes.

By JIM LEA

Stripes Korea Bureau Chief

SEOUL — South Korean and U.S. negotiators have agreed to give South Korea greater jurisdiction over U.S. soldiers charged with crimes, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said negotiators

reviewing the ROK-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement custody procedures have agreed in principle that U.S. troops accused of serious crimes may be turned over to Korean authorities upon indictment.

That is a significant change from the current procedure of U.S. suspects remaining in U.S. custody until their Korean tri-

als and appeals are completed.

A U.S. spokesman would not confirm that any agreement has been reached, however. He said only that the "talks are making substantial progress and are being conducted in a professional and friendly atmosphere."

Song Min-sun, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau, said that although agreement in principle has been reached, ne-

Please see SOFA, Page 7

Navy: Underage girls never interviewed

Continued from Page 1

ing its Alaska Day celebration, commemorating the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The skipper of the vessel was Cmdr. Martin J. Leghart Sr., a 43-year-old Canton, Ohio, native.

Demientieff was a student at Mount Edgecumbe, a public boarding school. Away from home for the first time, she had just arrived at the school's girls' dorm from the town of Holy Cross, hundreds of miles to the northwest. At 13, she should have been in the eighth grade, but she skipped a year because of her high grades.

Demientieff said she and her schoolmate, June Walker, 15, met two sailors at Castle Hill, a popular teen hangout and tourist attraction. "One thing led to another," Demientieff said. A Sitka police report states that both girls told the sailors that they were 17 years old.

During the evening, Walker said they drank beer, blackberry brandy and Southern Comfort. The girls said the two sailors took them to a hotel.

Leghart said both sailors admitted to Navy officials that they had sex with the girls at the hotel. A Sitka police report states that the 31-year-old sailor with Demientieff acknowledged only "sexual contact" to Navy officials, and the other sailor, 21, admitted to having intercourse with the 15-year-old Walker.

The next day, two other girls — a 14-year-old and her girl-

friend — went to the Super 8 Motel to find sailors one of them met earlier. They found the men in the room, and they started drinking tequila.

A police report states that a witness said that Ensign Reginald Meekins, 22, slipped into bed with her and took off her clothes. During an interview with the Dayton Daily News, she said Meekins "tried to make me have sex with him, but I said no. He tried a few times, but I kept saying no."

"Reggie started touching and fondling me," the 14-year-old told police, adding that Meekins then invited another sailor to get in bed with them. The sailor later was identified as Jonathan Rushin, a 23-year-old petty officer third class.

After an inquiry, Leghart decided to charge Meekins and Rushin with attempted sex with someone under 16, a military crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Regarding the separate incident in the Sitka Hotel, the commander decided not to charge the two sailors with anything, even though they admitted to carnal knowledge.

"My guys had every reason to believe they were of legal age," Leghart said. He said he never interviewed the girls, did not know their ages and had not read the Sitka Police Department report on the incident.

He said he was told girls in Sitka were known to throw themselves at visiting men because "it's a quick ticket out."

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Sailor on trial for attempted murder

BY JOSEPH OWEN
Stripes Japan Bureau Chief

TOKYO — A U.S. sailor who allegedly tried to strangle his Japanese girlfriend on Aug. 17 in Sasebo went to trial Wednesday in Japanese court, charged with attempted murder.

Seaman Recruit Jacky Darnell Barker, a mess specialist assigned to the Sasebo-based salvage and rescue ship USS Beaufort, has been in a Japanese jail in Sasebo since his in-

dictment on Oct. 13, according to a spokesman for the Sasebo branch of the Nagasaki prosecutor's office.

The incident left the victim, Shinobu Kameda, 23, in a coma at Sogo Hospital. She awakened later, but remains hospitalized, the spokesman said.

The trial, held in Nagasaki District Court's Sasebo branch, is expected to continue intermittently for three months.

Barker, of Columbia, S.C., and Kameda lived together in a

Sasebo apartment, where the alleged assault occurred.

A Japanese newspaper reported the two had been in a bar that night and had argued about the way Barker talked to another woman. The newspaper quoted Sasebo police as saying Barker tried to revive the woman with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after she lost consciousness.

Sasebo is about 615 miles southwest of Tokyo on Kyushu Island, north of Okinawa, where

residents have become increasingly critical of the presence of the U.S. military and crimes involving troops.

Like the three American suspects now on trial for the alleged Sept. 4 rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl, Barker remained in U.S. custody until his indictment. But the Navy said in a written response to questions that it allowed Japanese investigators "full access to him whenever it was required."

Ex-U.S. soldier gets life for rape, murder

★ Man found guilty in a Berlin court of raping and killing a South Korean woman in 1991 while supposedly under military arrest.

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A former U.S. Army soldier from Florida has been sentenced to life in prison for the rape and murder of a Korean woman in 1991 while he supposedly was under arrest to face a U.S. court-martial for attempted rapes in Berlin.

Despite the violent crimes of which Derrick Anderson, 31, was accused, the

trial attracted only modest attention in the German capital. Newspapers printed small stories in local-news sections while giving more prominent display recently to reports from Japan about tensions over U.S. soldiers accused of raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl on Okinawa.

The crime took place in former West Berlin, which long had virtually an adoring relationship with the U.S. military. American soldiers, even into the 1990s, were celebrated for saving the isolated city from being swallowed up in the surrounding Communist sea during the 1948-49 Berlin blockade and later crises.

Anderson, originally from Tampa,

Fla., was convicted of murder and rape by a three-judge panel in Berlin State Court on Wednesday and sentenced immediately to life in prison.

Presiding Judge Ralph Ehestaedt criticized the U.S. military for the lax conditions in which Anderson had been held under little more than house arrest.

"Without this, the crime would have been prevented," the judge said.

The victim, Kyung-lim Lee, a 32-year-old music student from South Korea, was found on Oct. 16, 1991, in a park in the Zehlendorf district where most U.S. troops were based before their withdrawal in 1994.

Anderson, a specialist-fourth class assigned to an engineers company, appeared to have an alibi. He was under arrest prior to being court-martialed for two attempted rapes of girls under 16, two attempted assaults of children and two counts of battery.

But suspicion fell on him because some of those crimes took place in the same neighborhood as the assault on the Korean woman. Witnesses said Anderson had been held under such loose restrictions that he was in effect guarding himself, and that he couldn't be reached by telephone at his post at the time of the fatal attack.

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Monday, November 27, 1995

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS

DOMESTIC

Report: US Navy handled '93 rape case quietly

Unlike the Okinawa incident, the Yokosuka assault by 3 sailors got little publicity

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A 1993 case in which three American sailors were charged with raping a woman in Japan was handled quietly by U.S. authorities, the Dayton Daily News reported in a copyright story.

That was in contrast to the outcry created by the rape in September of a Japanese girl by American servicemen.

When police in Okinawa said two Marines and a sailor had raped the 12-year-old girl, U.S. officials refused to turn the servicemen over until

Japanese authorities indicted them.

That triggered Japanese outrage and demands that a security treaty between the two countries be terminated. President Clinton issued an apology to the Japanese people.

The 1993 rape case, which was handled in military courts, generated little publicity in Japan, the Daily News said Saturday.

Records released by the Navy do not give the specific date of the rape, the newspaper

said. Three sailors were charged with raping a Japanese woman in a Yokosuka parking lot, and the "indecent act" of having sexual intercourse with her in the presence of other sailors.

The Navy did not release the names of the defendants. Once criminal trials are over, it is Navy policy to withhold the names of defendants and witnesses.

One sailor was convicted by a court-martial of rape, given a dishonorable discharge and sentenced to five years in prison, the newspaper said.

Two other sailors were convicted of the indecent act charge. One was sentenced to 45 days' confinement, and the other did not receive a prison sentence.

A fourth sailor — who was not charged with rape — was convicted of committing an indecent act. He was sentenced to six months in jail, fined 2,160 dollars and given a bad conduct discharge.

A telephone call by The Associated Press to the U.S. Secretary of the Navy's office in Washington seeking comment was not returned Saturday.

The newspaper said Japanese officials relinquished their authority under the Japanese-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement to charge the sailors two years ago. That left it up to the U.S. Navy to decide how or if the men would be punished.

A Navy spokesman said that under the agreement, U.S.

authorities detain servicemen accused of crimes on Japanese soil until local prosecutors obtain an indictment, the newspaper said.

If Japanese officials decide not to prosecute, the U.S. armed forces assume the case, the spokesman said.

The Daily News reported in October that more Marines and Navy sailors were tried for rapes, child molestation and other sexual assaults at bases in Japan than at any other American military site in the world.

Records show that the Navy and Marine Corps held 169 courts-martial for sex crimes in Japan from 1988 through 1994. The No.2 location, San Diego, had 102 cases, the newspaper said.

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2700-12

READERS' FORUM

OCT. 12, 1995

Judge us individually

My name is Ingrid Lietha. My husband is a member of the United States Marine Corps. We do not condone the behavior of the men accused of raping the 12-year-old Okinawan girl nor do we want these men to escape punishment if found guilty.

What we do want is not to be judged by the few who commit these crimes. The majority of Marines are decent, law-abiding, honorable men and women serving their country.

My husband and many other Marines are kind and gentle fathers, husbands and sons, in addition to being peacemakers for the world. They are not "beasts" and thus should not be labeled as such.

We are sincerely sorry for any damage inflicted by our service members, but when you see a Marine on the street, do not blame him or her for the actions of others.

We should all treat each other with respect and kindness.

Ingrid Lietha,
Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan

Regaining respectability

Recent events here on Okinawa have shattered the almost tranquil environment that both our host Okinawan neighbors and we Americans generally take for granted.

With the general stand-down as a "Day of Reflection," let us reflect on this.

SEP. 21, 1995

Enough is enough!

Enough is enough! The twelve murders and over 4,000 criminal acts committed against the good people of Okinawa during the past 20 years by the hands of American military personnel is unacceptable. As a former U.S. Navy Security Police stationed at Kadena Air Base more than a decade ago, I am sickened by the recent news of the heinous act

perpetrated against an Okinawan once again by American service members stationed at Okinawa. It is time for the United States to renegotiate the Status of Forces Agreement with Japan! The criminal element hiding amongst the decent and law-abiding sailors, airmen, Marines, and soldiers need to know that they will pay a very high price if they choose to victimize the citizens of the host nation in which they are stationed.

Nancy Darnold,
Misawa Air Base, Japan

Apology to Japan

I am ashamed and embarrassed to call the two Marines and one sailor charged with the rape of a school-aged Okinawan girl fellow Americans.

These three need to be charged and punished to the most severe level. Treat them like the beasts they are!

I offer a quick solution of punishment: a fast hand and a sharp blade! Maybe then they will think of the stupidity and pain of their crime!

I apologize to my host country for the act of these three morons.

Colleen Legumina,
Atsugi NAF, Japan

Knowing oppression

In response to the Aug. 25 letter *No more whining, get working*, I have heard enough also!

It is obvious to anyone with their eyes open and truly attuned to their environment, that our society is not fair to all of

What if this had occurred back in good ol' America, especially in areas such as Los Angeles, Miami, Washington, D.C., etc. Would the "locals" be as nonviolent as our hosts have been?

I think not, for there would be looting, muggings and your normal riots often accompanying something so vulgar to the local people.

Racist, anti-law enforcement attitudes are prevalent in America's society and God forbid if anyone violates the status quo of the local community. Forget the victim, save the criminal, for the rights of the criminal come above all others. An innocent girl was murdered because her parents got lost and violated the local "space" of a neighborhood gang.

We as Americans should take to heart and learn from our host neighbors here on Okinawa, and though boisterous as their feelings are, do you see local riots, muggings of local servicemen or their families? No. Although somewhat reserved, many of the Okinawans I come in contact with are still very gracious and polite.

Our culture has lost much of what America has been built upon. Let us reflect on how we can regain the honor, trust and respectability we have lost in our society, and where we are heading.

HMC Joseph P. Lapriore,
Okinawa, Japan

NAACP is no defender in rape case

JAN. 26, 1996

Racism hides real issue (Jan. 18) contained several errors about the NAACP's actions in the Okinawa rape case.

First of all, the NAACP has not gone to the defense of the accused rapists. Long before this case became daily news fodder, the Okinawa NAACP issued a statement condemning the crime. The NAACP was also one of the first organizations to encourage private-sector support and compensation for the victim and her family. In addition, the NAACP has tried to provide emotional and financial support for families of the suspects who, like the rape victim, have had their lives altered forever for the worse.

Is it the job of the NAACP to ensure that Americans incarcerated in domestic or foreign jails are afforded the due process of the law? Yes. We are no different than any other U.S. civil liberties organization. That issue in this case was answered to our satisfaction right from the start by both the Japanese and private American legal counsel we sought out. If someone is now claiming to the contrary, they are doing so without NAACP approval.

During my term as its president, the Okinawa chapter of the NAACP has never condoned criminal acts, regardless of the race or religion of the perpetrators.

For all of America's ills, I've found hope in that there are still a lot more people who prefer human decency and respect to hatred, and communication over confrontation. Let the courts deal with the criminals — and why don't we, who believe in a much higher moral commitment, work on some of the other serious problems that stand in the way of all people leading better and more productive lives.

Daniel L. Smith,
President, Okinawa Chapter NAACP

Americans in Okinawa are caring

JAN. 31, 1996

I am very confused by demonstrations the Okinawans have had in front of our bases. Many of them are very anxious for the military to leave the island. There may be countless reasons the military should leave, but I am clueless to them. Recently a young girl was raped and innocent children and their mother were killed but that is no reason to insist that all military bases be severely downsized or eliminated. The military is here to protect and not to intimidate our host nation.

If the Okinawans are that persistent in their quest for us to leave, then maybe we need to re-evaluate. What about the bases that many of the Okinawans use? If they are fearful of the military, then why are they using our facilities and working on our bases?

If our military is so awful and vengeful, why are our children taught about their culture and language in schools? If Americans are so unpredictable, why is there emphasis on host-nation relations in our churches, schools and clubs? If Americans are so selfish, why do we bother volunteering our time, our talents and our money to the local orphanages, Special Olympics, Make A Wish Foundation and Red Feather Campaign?

It's because Americans have heart and sympathize with people. Many military members are willing and sincere in their efforts to make a difference. Many Americans stationed here want their children to learn the culture and the language. Many want to take advantage of the experience of mingling and participating in activities that involve Okinawans. Many Americans want to leave Okinawa a better place by having been involved. What has the military done that has been so awful that a small island wants us to leave? We took the time to care.

Donna S. Eckelbarger,
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan

READERS' FORUM

JAN. 9, 1996

I'm under the impression MWR is here to serve American service members. If this is true, why is it so hard to get a tee time at Kadena and why do I have to wait for the Japanese to play out at Chibana before I get to play?

I have also been told I should go downtown if I can't get a tee time. Well, my COLA was cut so badly I can't afford that. Obviously the Japanese feel it's too expensive to play downtown as well since there are so many of them playing on the military courses.

Do I really have priority at military courses? If so, why do I constantly see so many locals with tee times when I can't get one?

Staff Sgt. David E. Shaw,
Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan

EDITOR'S NOTE: Officials at Kadena Air Base declined an opportunity to comment.

Battle rages in Oki

SEP. 22, 1995

The battle that I am referring to is not the one that was so glorious for Americans 50 years ago. This battle is the one raging on and around American bases, especially around Kadena's Gate Two area. A large part of it is caused by "America's great fighting force." Every weekend, it is the same thing. Someone is severely beaten, stabbed or slashed with a knife, or even murdered. Let's not forget the international incident regarding the rape of an Okinawa child. When is this going to stop? When are these American troops going to realize that every single one of us on this island serves as ambassadors for the United States? Due to the actions of the few, we are now being portrayed as reckless beasts that beat, stab, rape and molest the inno-

cent. (Most of this involves those who cannot handle alcohol responsibly.) The majority of us are responsible and peace-loving individuals.

We must make sure these individuals who are reckless and irresponsible are severely punished, and not just slapped on the hand. We cannot ignore this problem and hope it goes away. It is time for all of us to take action to make sure that these reckless few are held accountable for their actions.

Name withheld,
Okinawa, Japan