

April 11, 2018

Hamura Parachute Incident Details

A U.S. military parachutist on a routine training mission at Yokota Air Base cut away his main parachute at approximately 5 p.m., April 10, after jumping out of a C-130J aircraft. The parachutist was forced to cut away the main chute when both the main and reserve parachutes deployed after exiting the aircraft.

According to standard safety protocols parachutists must cut away the main chute in order to avoid the parachutes getting tangled together which could endanger the parachutist's life. The procedure worked as designed and the parachutist landed safely on Yokota Air Base without any injuries.

Part of the reserve parachute that is designed to break away after the reserve parachute is deployed was carried away by the wind and landed on the grounds of Hamura's No. 3 Middle School without causing any injuries or damage.

While we are grateful that no one was injured and no property damage occurred, we regret that this incident caused concerns in the Hamura community.

Training was suspended until the incident was fully investigated. The investigation found that the aircrew and the parachutist followed all established protocols and safety procedures. Additionally, the unit inspected all of its parachutes during the training pause to assure their reliability.

Parachute training is scheduled to resume on Thursday, April 12.

The 374th Airlift Wing is committed to conducting safe operations in support of its obligations to the defense of Japan.