

# Aviation Training Relocation Program

## “Enhancing Interoperability for the Defense of Japan”



### Basic Information

The Aviation Training Relocation Program (ATR) is a result of the May 2006 United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation. This bilateral program has three goals which are to increase operational readiness, improve interoperability, and reduce local noise impacts. This is achieved by dispersing unilateral jet-fighter training of U.S. forces based in Misawa AB, MCAS Iwakuni, and Kadena AB to six Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) bases on mainland, Japan which are: Tsuiki Air Base, Nyutabaru Air Base, Hyakuri Air Base, Chitose Air Base, Komatsu Air Base, and Misawa Air Base (JASDF side of the base). In 2011, territories under the administration of the United States (such as Guam) were added as viable ATR locations. The program is funded through a cost-share agreement between the governments of Japan and the United States. U.S. forces also use support aircraft from other bases, such as, but not limited to, MV-22B and KC-130J aircraft.

### INCREASE OPERATIONAL READINESS

The ATR Program provides Marine Corps aviation access to various areas with differing opportunities to meet training requirements.

### IMPROVE INTEROPERABILITY

Every ATR event enables US and Japanese forces to understand each other's tactics and capabilities. The ATR Program offers excellent opportunities for Marine Corps aviation and the JASDF to mature their interoperability, which contributes to a more capable alliance.



### REDUCE LOCAL NOISE IMPACTS

An important result of the ATR Program is that it reduces noise pollution that would have been concentrated in one community by distributing jet-fighter training to various areas in a balanced, bilateral approach. Since 2007, many ATR events involving US forces have been conducted. Of these, MCAS Iwakuni-based jet-fighters and support aircraft based in Okinawa, such as MV-22B and KC-130J aircraft, have participated in nearly half of the ATR events conducted in mainland, Japan and US Territories. These ATR events are training events that were by-and-large relocated from Okinawa. As such, the goals of this program enable US forces to mitigate noise impacts on local communities while still meeting required training objectives and upholding alliance obligations.