

## Special Measures relating to the Memorandum for the Joint Committee on New Aircraft in Japan (MV-22)

### 1. References:

a. Agreement under Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America, Regarding Facilities and Areas and the Status of the United States Armed Forces in Japan, signed on 19 January and entered into force on 23 June 1960.

b. Memorandum for the Joint Committee, approved on 28 January 2022, subject: Designation of the Training Relocation Subcommittee (TRS) as the Training Subcommittee (TSC)

c. Memorandum for the Joint Committee, approved on 19 September 2012, subject: Memorandum for the Joint Committee on New Aircraft in Japan (MV-22)

d. Memorandum for the Joint Committee, approved on 1 September 2016, subject: Tilt-Rotor/Rotary Wing (TR/RW) Training Relocation Program

### 2. Purpose:

To conduct low-altitude tactics (LAT) training of U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) MV-22 below 500 feet to 200 feet above ground level (hereinafter referred to as “LAT”) in Japan as special measures relating to reference 1.c. above, given the necessity of this training to utilize the USMC MV-22 most effectively, and to provide realistic training that maintains the readiness of the U.S. forces in Japan.

### 3. Training Place:

The USMC MV-22 may conduct LAT training along the training navigation routes in mountainous areas in Japan, except for Okinawa Prefecture, as specified in the Attachment. The training navigation routes may be modified through bilateral consultations at the Training Subcommittee.

### 4. Preparations:

The USMC MV-22 unit will make the following preparations before conducting each LAT training.

#### a. Preliminary Survey:

The USMC MV-22 unit will conduct topographical survey and flight survey at or above 500 feet prior to conducting LAT training below 500 feet to assess the safety and usability of the LAT training flight route.

b. Familiarization Flight:

Prior to conducting LAT training on the actual routes, the USMC MV-22 unit will conduct a LAT training route familiarization flight at or above 500 along the actual route or in a flight simulator to validate hazards and areas of concern to ensure compliance with all elements of this memorandum. The USMC MV-22 unit will ensure all pilots are made aware of hazards and areas of concern.

5. Pre-Coordination:

The USMC MV-22 unit will notify the concerned regional authorities of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) by, in principle two days prior to the training, and provide the date, training window time, number of aircraft, flight route and other necessary information prior to conducting LAT training along the training navigation routes. The USMC MV-22 unit will also conduct prior coordination, as required, with other appropriate authorities of the U.S. Forces or the JSDF.

6. Rules:

a. Principle:

The USMC MV-22 will fly, in principle, at or above 500 feet while using training navigation routes as well as respect the Civil Aeronautics Act of Japan. LAT training will be conducted below 500 feet to the minimum extent necessary to fulfil its mission requirements and maintain its proficiency while ensuring safety and avoiding impacts on the living environment of local people to the maximum extent possible.

b. Flight Mode:

LAT training will normally be conducted in airplane mode unless it is necessary to fly in conversion mode for safety reasons. To prevent items from falling out of the aircraft while in flight, all supplies and goods in the aircraft will be secured and the rear ramp will be closed unless operations otherwise require it to be left open during flight.

c. Weather Minimums:

The USMC MV-22 unit will adhere to USMC required weather minimums (3,000 Feet Ceiling and 5 NM Visibility) in order to conduct LAT training.

d. Training Date and Time:

USMC MV-22 LAT training will not be conducted on Saturdays, Sundays, Japanese national holidays, and days/hours and places of important local and school events, which will be notified to the Headquarters, USFJ by the MOD. LAT training will not be conducted

from 10 pm to 7 am. Exceptions to these no-fly days and times must be approved by the USMC MV-22 unit commander and U.S. installation commander after conducting pre-coordination with the MOD.

e. Training Navigation Routes and Altitude:

1) USMC MV-22s will use training navigation routes which enable them to land safely while avoiding injury to people and damage to properties on the ground and water, in case of emergency including an engine failure. USMC MV-22s will not fly above areas and facilities such as housing areas, schools, kindergarten and nursery school, nursery homes, hospitals, petrochemical complex zones, nuclear, thermal and wind power facilities, structures designated as tangible cultural properties, horse-race track, and baseball stadiums and other stadiums where events and competitions are underway.

2) USMC MV-22s will fly at altitudes which enable them to avoid injury to people and damage to properties on the ground and water in case the USMC MV-22 is forced to conduct an emergency landing and to secure enough distance from artificial objects including power transmission lines in areas dotted by properties on the ground.

3) USMC MV-22s will observe "no fly" areas observed by the JSDF when conducting LAT training to minimize impacts on surrounding areas. The MOD will notify the U.S. forces in Japan of "no fly" areas when there are any updates.

f. Distance from Other Aircraft, People and Properties:

USMC MV-22s will secure safety distance from all other aircraft. MV-22s will maintain a distance of 150 meters or more from people and properties.

g. Flight with External Loads:

MV-22 flight operations with external loads will not be conducted while conducting LAT training.

7. Others:

a. Safety Measures:

USMC MV-22 flight crews will take all possible measures to ensure safe flight operations including, but not limited to, pre-flight briefing for the crew, survey of flight routes, regular maintenance, and inspection of aircraft.

b. Response to Incidents and Accidents:

1) In case of incidents and accidents such as a mishap, items falling off aircraft while in flight and other malfunctions including cases where precautionary / emergency landings

are necessary as a result, the USMC MV-22 unit will investigate the cause, take measures to prevent recurrence, and notify the MOD of the cause and preventive measures.

2) USMC MV-22s will suspend LAT training below 500 feet upon request by the Government of Japan until the investigation of the cause is completed and prevention measures are taken.

c. Public Affairs

Both governments will hold prior consultations on the details of USG's public announcements concerning LAT training.

d. Settlement and consultations at Training Subcommittee

Both governments will settle any disagreements regarding the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum through consultations at the Training Subcommittee in a friendly and expeditious manner.

8. This memorandum will become effective on 10 July 2023.

9. The contents of this Memorandum are to be released except for the Attachment referred to in Paragraph 3.

Approved by the Joint Committee on Jun. 7. 2023.

KOBE YASUHIRO  
Japanese Representative  
Joint Committee

JAMES B. WELLONS  
Brigadier General, US Marine Corps  
US Representative, Joint Committee