[Press clippings](http://www3.airnet.ne.jp/dioxin/Eng_news/clipping.html)  
**...** report confirms:October 27,1999 EMERGENCY INVESTIGATION OF **DIOXIN** TO BEGIN OFF  
BASE:October 27,1999 Yomiuri Record **dioxin** levels found at **Atsugi**:October 26 **...**   
www3.airnet.ne.jp/**dioxin**/Eng\_news/clipping.html - 3k - [Cached](http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:xR_v9Z7KpdkJ:www3.airnet.ne.jp/dioxin/Eng_news/clipping.html+dioxin+atsugi+&hl=en) - [Similar pages](file:///D:\search%3fhl=en&lr=&q=related:www3.airnet.ne.jp\dioxin\Eng_news\clipping.html)  
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Japan urged to clean air near Atsugi

Upcoming pollution report will confirm earlier Navy  
studies showing high dioxin levels, officials say.

By Matt Curtis  
Stripes Zama Bureau Chief

TOKYO - U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas Foley,  
worried over an upcoming environmental report, has  
urged Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono to clean up  
the air over an incinerator near Atsugi Naval Air  
Facility, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said Friday.

In the coming weeks, Command Naval Forces Japan and  
Japanese health agencies are slated to release a joint  
environmental report on air and soil samples collected at  
Atsugi. However, steps already are being taken to reduce  
the pollution from Ayase's Enviro-Tech incinerator near  
the base.

Lt. Cmdr. James Graybeal, CNFJ spokesman, said the  
study itself won't be complete for another year.

But preliminary data reflects what U.S. officials have  
been saying all along: The Enviro-Tech incinerator poses  
a grave health risk to Atsugi sailors and their families.

Since 1995, Navy studies have shown the incinerator  
churns out as much as 33.4 picograms of dioxin per cubic  
meter of air. Dioxin is a carcinogen formed when plastics  
and other compounds are burned at low temperatures.

Japan health organizations view any level above 0.8  
picograms - less than one-trillionth of a gram - as  
unsafe.  
But up until now, Japanese officials have been reluctant  
to accept U.S. findings because they haven't been involved  
in the actual research.

The latest study, funded by a joint U.S.-Japan contract,  
will validate the Navy's earlier numbers, Graybeal said.

"We have a long history of data that is very consistent,  
and everything says the dioxin levels exceed the local  
standard,'' he said. "We don't expect it to be any  
different this time around.''

A U.S. embassy spokesman Friday confirmed Foley  
asked Kono to "expedite action'' at the Enviro-Tech  
incinerator.

According to Graybeal, Japanese officials already have  
promised a series of structural improvements to the  
waste- disposal plant. Workers are scheduled to install  
baghouse filters by February to help screen hazardous  
particles from the incinerator's exhaust. By March 2001,  
the facility also will boast 100-meter smokestacks.

The Foreign Affairs spokesman, who did not want to be  
identified, said Kono had some concerns of his own.