

-----Original Message-----

From: [PTSC-1@aftayz21.ptsc.pentagon.mil@AMC](mailto:PTSC-1@aftayz21.ptsc.pentagon.mil)
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2003 2:14 PM
To: amxed@alexandria-emh1.army.mil
Subject: [6R02324108U.CGS] PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE: DEPLETED URANIUM (DU)

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FM DA WASHINGTON DC//SAPA-SCD//

TO AIG 7406

AIG 7446

RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//SAPA-SCD//

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE: DEPLETED URANIUM (DU)

1. PURPOSE. TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO ARMY PAOS ON DEPLETED URANIUM
ISSUES.

2. BACKGROUND. A WELL-PLANNED AND COORDINATED PUBLIC RELATIONS
EFFORT IS UNDERWAY BY ACTIVIST GROUPS TO OVERSTATE THE PUBLIC HEALTH
RISKS OF DEPLETED URANIUM FOUND IN MUNITIONS AND ABRAMS TANK ARMOR. A
RECENT PAID AD IN THE WASHINGTON POST FROM THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF
JAPAN IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF DU OPPONENTS' EFFORTS TO DISTRIBUTE
DISINFORMATION ON WHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE MUNITIONS NOW IN
THE U.S. ARMY'S ARSENAL. THE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN CAN AFFECT THE
MORALE OF OUR TROOPS BY CALLING INTO QUESTION THE SAFETY ASSURANCES
OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. THIS ISSUE REQUIRES A STRONG COMMAND

PAGE 02 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

INFORMATION, PUBLIC INFORMATION, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS EFFORT.
DEPLETED URANIUM MAY BE ACCURATELY NAMED BUT POORLY CHOSEN FOR THE
PURPOSE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. THE MEANING OF THE WORD "DEPLETED"
IS LOST WHEN PLACED UP AGAINST THE WORD "URANIUM" WHICH STRONGLY
PROVOKES INACCURATE IMAGES OF BIRTH DEFECTS AND RADIATION POISONING.
IN REALITY, DU'S TOTAL HEALTH RISK (CHEMICAL AND RADIATION) COME
PRIMARILY FROM ITS CHEMICAL PROPERTIES AND IS COMPARABLE TO MANY
OTHER COMMON MATERIALS SUCH AS LEAD OR TUNGSTEN. THE RADIOACTIVE
CONTENT OF DU IS 40 PERCENT LESS THAN NATURAL URANIUM THAT IS FOUND
IN THE AIR, FOOD AND WATER THAT WE TAKE IN ON A DAILY BASIS. EVEN
THOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE LINKING DU TO RADIATION-INDUCED
ILLNESSES, LIKE LEUKEMIA OR CANCERS, A STRONG ANTI-DU CAMPAIGN IS
MAKING OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS.

DU IS USED WIDELY IN COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE USE OF

A VERY DENSE MATERIAL. THESE INCLUDE: BALLAST AND COUNTERWEIGHTS; SHIELDING FOR MEDICINE AND INDUSTRY; SHIPPING CONTAINER SHIELDING FOR RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS, PIGMENTS; AND EVEN X-RAY TUBES. THE DENSITY OF DU PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR THE ABRAMS TANK AND ITS CREW AGAINST ENEMY ANTI-TANK MUNITIONS. DU SANDWICHED BETWEEN TWO LAYERS OF STEEL, AND PLACED STRATEGICALLY ON THE ABRAMS HAS MORE THAN

PAGE 03 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

ONCE CAUSED ROUNDS TO EXPLODE HARMLESSLY OR BOUNCE OFF THE EXTERIOR OF THE TANK.

DU MUNITIONS HAVE BEEN NICKNAMED THE "SILVER BULLET" BY TANKERS FOR THEIR ABILITY TO KNOCK OUT ENEMY ARMORED VEHICLES AT EXTENDED RANGES WITH A SINGLE SHOT. IT IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, WHICH WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING DESERT STORM. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING A BATTLE AN M1A1 ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANK, ITS THICK STEEL ARMOR REINFORCED WITH A LAYER OF DU, REBUFFED A CLOSE-IN ATTACK BY THREE IRAQI T-72 TANKS. THE ABRAMS TOOK THREE HITS AND THE SHELLS BOUNCED OFF. IN REPLY, THE ABRAMS CREW RETURNED FIRE AND DESTROYED TWO OF THE ATTACKING T-72 TANKS WITH DU ROUNDS. THE THIRD T-72 RETREATED AND SOUGHT PROTECTION BEHIND A BANK OF SAND BUT WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE ABRAMS FIRED A DU SHELL THROUGH THE SAND WALL AND HIT THE TANK.

3. PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTURE. ACTIVE. PAOS ARE DIRECTED TO DISSEMINATE ACCURATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION THROUGH COMMAND INFORMATION PROGRAMS. FEATURE STORIES SHALL BE WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED IN COMMAND PAPERS EXPLAINING THE DU CONTROVERSY AND EMPHASIZING HEALTH ISSUES AND PROPER HANDLING OF DU MUNITIONS. FIRST LINE SUPERVISORS ARMED WITH DU BRIEFING BOOKLETS SHOULD HOLD SMALL TRAINING MEETINGS TO ADDRESS DU CONCERNS AND EMPHASIZE CERTIFIED MEDICAL RESEARCH. THROUGH

PAGE 04 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OUTLETS VETERAN GROUPS SHALL BE INVITED TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND ARMY REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE OPEN TO CRITICISM BUT HOLD FIRM TO THE ARMY'S, DOD'S AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY'S POSITION OF DU SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE ANTI-DU CAMPAIGN IS VOCAL AND VISIBLE. THE PAS SHOULD USE BASE AND UNIT PAPERS TO CHALLENGE INACCURATE INFORMATION THAT FINDS ITS WAY ON BASE. ARTICLES, RADIO SPOTS AND POSTERS SHOULD DIRECT SOLDIERS TO DOD WEBSITES ON THE SUBJECT.

4. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS PROVIDED FOR USE BY MILITARY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS: "DEPLETED URANIUM SAVES LIVES. IT IS A DENSE MATERIAL, WITH ULTRA-LOW RADIOACTIVE CONTENT, THAT NOT ONLY PREVENTS A BREACH OF ABRAMS TANK ARMOR BY ENEMY MUNITIONS BUT, WHEN USED IN A US PROJECTILE, PROVIDES UNMATCHED CAPABILITY TO PENETRATE ENEMY ARMOR AT DISTANCES FAR GREATER THAN MUNITIONS MADE OUT OF ALTERNATE MATERIALS. IN OTHER WORDS, DU HAS BOTH A DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE APPLICATION THAT PROVIDES AN INDISPENSABLE ADVANTAGE TO OUR MILITARY. THE ARMY IS AWARE OF GROUPS ADVOCATING THE ABOLITION OF THIS MATERIAL FROM THE MILITARY'S ARSENAL DUE TO FEARS OF RADIOACTIVE LEVELS. THESE FEARS ARE NOT BASED ON FACTS. THE RESIDUAL RADIATION IN DU REGISTERS LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE DOSE OF RADIATION A PERSON

PAGE 05 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

RECEIVES FROM EATING, DRINKING OR TAKING A WALK (IN FACT 40 PERCENT LOWER). NUMEROUS RESPECTED INDEPENDENT AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE ANY LINK BETWEEN DU AND ANY FORMS OF LEUKEMIA OR CANCER.

THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL'S (CDC) AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY HAS DETERMINED, "NO HUMAN CANCER OF ANY TYPE HAS EVER BEEN SEEN AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE TO NATURAL OR DEPLETED URANIUM."

OUT OF A CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF ITS SOLDIERS AND VETERANS, THE UNITED STATES ARMY STILL CONTINUES TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM AND TRACK THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO IT. AT THIS DATE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SHOWING ANY ILL HEALTH EFFECTS, AND BECAUSE DU CONTINUES TO DELIVER UNSURPASSED METHODS FOR ATTACK AND DEFENSE, IT WILL REMAIN A PART OF THE U.S. ARSENAL.

6. MEDIA COVERAGE.

SITUATION: MOST OF THE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS FOCUSED ON THE MYTHS, RATHER THAN THE FACTS. RECENT PRESS REPORTS HAVE CONTAINED SOME MIS-INFORMATION AND HALF-TRUTHS BASED ON ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE AND MISLEADING CLAIMS FROM PSEUDO-EXPERTS. TELEVISION BROADCAST: CNN, MARCH 9, 2003, BG JOHN S. BROWN, CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY, FIELDDED

PAGE 06 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

QUESTIONS ON DU WHILE DISCUSSING THE HISTORY OF THE TANK. THE CALLER WAS MORE INTERESTED IN STATING HIS PERCEIVED DANGERS OF DU THAN ASKING A QUESTION. HE TALKED ABOUT "THE GLOWING BATTLEFIELDS OF DESERT STORM" REFERRING TO RADIOACTIVE DU DUST CLOUDS. BROWN, A FORMER TANK COMMANDER, POINTED OUT THE LOW LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH DU AND STRESSED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DU AS A WEAPON. "GULF WAR WEAPONS BLAMED FOR CANCER RISE IN IRAQ'S KIDS; DELETED URANIUM AMMUNITION CITED BY DOCTORS", SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, JANUARY 15, 2003

REPORTER VISITS THE HOSPITAL WARD OF DR. EMAND WISAM IN IRAQ DESCRIBING AN INCREASE IN CHILD CANCERS, LEUKEMIA, AND BIRTH DEFECTS. THE AUTHOR CITES THAT THERE IS A LACK OF EVIDENCE TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DU AND CANCER BUT ATTEMPTS TO CONNECT THE DOTS BY POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. AND BRITAIN ARE THE ONLY ONES USING DU IN BATTLE.

"FEARS OVER DEPLETED URANIUM MUNITIONS", PA NEWS, MARCH 7, 2003 THIS BRITISH PAPER REPORTS THAT VETERANS GROUPS ARE EXPRESSING FEARS THAT USING DU IN COMBAT WILL RESULT IN "CANCER AND OTHER ILLNESSES." SPOKESPERSON FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND A REPORT FROM A ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY REPORTS THAT THE HEALTH RISKS TO SOLDIERS ARE

PAGE 07 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

"MINIMAL."

"DEPLETED URANIUM EFFECTIVE BUT POLITICALLY INCORRECT", SEATTLE

POST-INTELLIGENCER, JANUARY 28, 2003

STORY POINTS OUT "SMEAR CAMPAIGN" AGAINST WHAT THE REPORTER TERMS A "INVALUABLE, MIRACLE-WORKING SUBSTANCE" -- DU. THE REPORTER CITES THAT EVEN THOUGH DU WAS NEVER USED IN THE BASRA AREA, AND A RAND CORPORATION STUDY IS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN DU AND "ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS." THE WRITER SPECULATES THE U.S. MILITARY'S ATTEMPT TO FIND "ALTERNATIVES" IS BECAUSE OF AN IRAQI PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

"EGYPT: RESEARCH NEEDED TO VERIFY USE OF DEPLETED URANIUM BY USA, UK, ISRAEL",

AL-WAFD, CAIRO (TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC)

REPORTER CITES RECENT INTERVIEW WITH DAI WILLIAMS, BRITISH RESEARCHER ON QATARI AL-JAZEERA TELEVISION. WILLIAMS CLAIMS THE UNITED STATES SUPPLIED ISRAEL WITH DU AMMUNITION TO TIP "THE BALANCE OF POWER." THE WRITER QUOTES THE RESEARCHER AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO DROP 100-200 TONS OF URANIUM AGAINST IRAQ, IN THE FORM OF LASER-GUIDED BOMBS AND MISSILES THAT WILL RAISE THE TEMPERATURE OF THE TARGET TO "5,000 DEGREES CELSIUS."

PAGE 08 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

7. MESSAGES.

A. DU IS SAFE. IN AREAS WHERE DEPLETED URANIUM MUNITIONS HAVE BEEN USED AGAINST AN ENEMY, EXTENSIVE STUDIES BY INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAVE DISCOVERED NO EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND RISKS NO GREATER THAN ANY OTHER TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND ON THE BATTLEFIELD. AN ONGOING MEDICAL EVALUATION PROGRAM OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL INJURED BY DEPLETED URANIUM FRIENDLY FIRE INCIDENTS IN THE 1990-1991 GULF WAR HAS NOT IDENTIFIED ANY MEDICAL PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE. IN ADDITION, RADIATION DOSES TO CREW MEMBERS, AMMUNITION HANDLERS, EOD PERSONNEL, TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL, AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE OF DU MUNITIONS IS WELL BELOW THE LEVELS ALLOWED BY US RADIATION WORKERS.

B. DU WORKS. DURING DESERT STORM, DU WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE OF THE LARGEST "LOPSIDED" VICTORIES EVER SEEN.

C. DU SAVES SOLDIER'S LIVES. IT PROVIDES US WITH SUPERIOR ARMOR PROTECTION AND ALLOWS US TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY AT DISTANCES OUT OF THE RANGE OF ENEMY'S WEAPON SYSTEMS.

D. DU IS AN EASY TARGET. DEPLETED URANIUM IS THE VICTIM OF A CLEVER, WELL-ORCHESTRATED DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN THAT PLAYS ON THE

PAGE 09 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

PUBLIC'S FEAR OF RADIATION POISONING.

8. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE AS RESPONSE TO QUERY ONLY:

Q1: WHAT IS DEPLETED URANIUM?

A1: DEPLETED URANIUM IS A MAN-MADE HEAVY METAL WITH COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY USES. IT IS FORMED AS A BYPRODUCT OF THE PROCESSING OF URANIUM. THIS PROCESS, CALLED ENRICHMENT, TAKES NATURAL URANIUM FOUND IN THE EARTH AND REMOVES ABOUT 70% OF THE URANIUM-235 (U-235),

THE ISOTOPE OF URANIUM NEEDED FOR NUCLEAR FUEL AND WEAPONS. AS A RESULT, DU RADIATION EXPOSURE IS 40 PERCENT LESS RADIOACTIVE THAN THE NATURALLY OCCURRING URANIUM IN THE FOOD, WATER, AND AIR THAT YOU CONSUME ON A DAILY BASIS.

Q2: CAN YOU MAKE DU INTO AN ATOMIC BOMB?

A2: NO. IT IS NEITHER EXPLOSIVE OR COMBUSTIBLE.

Q3: WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

A3: DU HAS BOTH MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS. MILITARILY, DU IS USED FOR PROTECTIVE ARMOR FOR TANKS AND IN MUNITIONS BECAUSE OF ITS DENSITY AND STABILITY. THESE PROPERTIES ALLOWS US TO TAKE DEPLETED URANIUM AND PLACE IT BETWEEN TWO ARMOR PLATES AND ATTACH IT TO A VITAL PLACE ON AN ABRAMS TANK. IT ACTS AS A SHIELD TO STOP ENEMY

PAGE 10 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

MUNITIONS. DU PLACED IN A NEEDLELIKE ARMOR PIERCING SHELL WILL RETAIN ITS SHAPE AND CUT THROUGH ENEMY ARMOR.

Q4: WHY USE DU AT ALL? WHY NOT USE TUNGSTEN?

A4: BECAUSE TUNGSTEN DOES NOT WORK AS WELL AS DU. IN FACT, NOTHING ELSE NOW AVAILABLE WORKS AS WELL AS DU. TUNGSTEN PROJECTILES TEND TO DEFORM AND MUSHROOM OUT WHEN FIRED AGAINST ARMOR PLATING. THIS DECREASES THEIR ABILITY TO GO THROUGH ENEMY ARMOR. DU, ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAINS ITS SHAPE, DUE TO ITS DENSITY, AND SO IS A MORE EFFECTIVE ARMOR DEFEATING AMMUNITION.

Q5: SO IF DU IS SAFE, WHY IS THE ARMY LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE?

A5: BECAUSE THE ARMY IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE EFFECTIVE MATERIAL AND WEAPONS TO HELP OUR SOLDIERS WIN ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

Q6: DO ALL U.S. ROUNDS USE DU?

A6: NO. DU IS USED ONLY IN THE ARMOR PIERCING ROUNDS ON THE ABRAMS TANK AND THE BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE. IN ADDITION, THE ABRAMS USES ARMOR REINFORCED WITH DU. OTHER THAN THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER WEAPONS IN THE U.S. ARMY INVENTORY THAT USE DEPLETED URANIUM.

Q7: WHAT ABOUT CLAIMS BY ADVOCACY GROUPS THAT DU PRESENTS POTENTIAL HEALTH THREATS TO MILITARY AND CIVILIANS EXPOSED TO ITS EFFECTS?

A7: THE FOLLOWING HEALTH STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THE FOLLOWING:

PAGE 11 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

1. RAND STUDY, 1999. "NO EVIDENCE IS DOCUMENTED IN THE LITERATURE OF CANCER OR ANY OTHER NEGATIVE HEALTH EFFECT RELATED TO RADIATION RECEIVED BY EXPOSURE TO NATURAL URANIUM, WHETHER INHALED OR INGESTED, EVEN AT VERY HIGH DOSES."

2. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE, AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY (ATSDR) IN 1999 TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR URANIUM "NO HUMAN CANCER OF ANY TYPE HAS EVER BEEN SEEN AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE TO NATURAL OR DEPLETED URANIUM."

3. UNITED KINGDOM ROYAL SOCIETY IN MAY 2001. "EVEN IF THE ESTIMATES OF RISK ARE ONE HUNDRED TIMES TOO LOW, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY EXCESS OF FATAL CANCER WOULD BE DETECTED WITHIN A GROUP OF 10,000 SOLDIERS FOLLOWED OVER 50 YEARS."

4. EUROPEAN COMMISSION MARCH 2001 REPORT. "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PATHWAYS AND REALISTIC SCENARIOS OF HUMAN EXPOSURE, RADIOLOGICAL

EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM COULD NOT CAUSE A DETECTABLE EFFECT ON HEALTH (E.G. CANCER).

5. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION APRIL 2001 REPORT. "THE RADIOLOGICAL HAZARD IS LIKELY TO BE VERY SMALL. NO INCREASE OF LEUKEMIA OR OTHER CANCERS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO URANIUM OR DU."

6. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APRIL 2001 REPORT. "THE FACT THAT THERE IS

PAGE 12 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

NO EVIDENCE OF AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EXPOSURES - SOMETIMES HIGH AND LASTING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE URANIUM INDUSTRY - AND HEALTH DAMAGES SUCH AS BONE CANCER, LYMPHATIC OR OTHER FORMS OF LEUKEMIA SHOWS THAT THESE DISEASES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF AN URANIUM EXPOSURE ARE EITHER NOT PRESENT OR VERY EXCEPTIONAL."

7. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM FINAL REPORT 2001. "ONE RISK RELATED TO CONTAMINATION POINTS IS THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME CONTAMINATED SOIL BECOMING AIRBORNE THROUGH WIND ACTION AND BEING INHALED BY PEOPLE. ANOTHER RISK COULD BE THAT THE DU FROM THE CONTAMINATION POINTS EVENTUALLY CONTAMINATES GROUND WATER AND PLANTS THROUGH LEAKAGE. HOWEVER, IN BOTH THESE CASES, THE AMOUNT OF DU AT THE CONTAMINATION POINTS IS TOO LOW TO CAUSE ANY RADIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES AT PRESENT OR IN THE FUTURE. THE CORRESPONDING RISKS ARE INSIGNIFICANT."

Q8: YOU'RE TELLING US IS THAT DU IS PERFECTLY SAFE?

A8: NOTHING USED IN MUNITIONS CAN BE CALLED PERFECTLY SAFE. DU PRESENTS A HEALTH RISK ONLY IF IT IS INTERNALIZED IN LARGE AMOUNTS. DU RISKS ARE SO LOW THAT PEACETIME SAFETY STANDARDS FOR DU MAY BE EXCEEDED ONLY IF THE PERSONNEL ARE IN, ON, OR NEAR (WITHIN 50 METERS) OF AN ARMORED VEHICLE AT THE TIME THE VEHICLE IS STRUCK. IN

PAGE 13 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

ADDITION, DU SAFETY STANDARDS ARE EXCEEDED ONLY IF PERSONNEL SPEND OVER 800 HOURS IN A YEAR INSIDE A VEHICLE STRUCK BY A DU ROUND OR A DU ARMORED VEHICLE THAT HAS HAD ITS DU ARMOR PENETRATED.

Q9: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS OF IRAQI CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM URANIUM POISONING NEAR BASRA?

A9: DU WAS NEVER USED NEAR BASRA. IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE REPORTS MAY BE A WELL-COORDINATED EFFORT TO DISCREDIT DU AS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON.

Q10: WHAT ABOUT SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DU PARTICLES IMBEDDED IN THEIR BODIES?

A10: THIRTY-THREE VETERANS THAT WERE EMBEDDED WITH DU FRAGMENTS DUE TO FRIENDLY FIRE ARE BEING EVALUATED. IN MOST CASES, EXPOSURE TO DU IS SEEN IN THE URINE. TEN YEARS AFTER THE GULF WAR, THOSE THAT HAVE SHOWN A HIGH URINE URANIUM LEVEL STILL HAVEN'T DEVELOPED SIGNS OF KIDNEY PROBLEMS, LEUKEMIA, BONE OR LUNG CANCER, OR ANY OTHER ILLNESS THAT CAN BE TRACKED TO URANIUM EXPOSURE. ADDED TO THIS STUDY ARE GULF WAR VETERANS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO DU THROUGH CLOSE CONTACT OR INHALING THE VAPOR CAUSED BY A FIRE AT CAMP DOHA. THESE SOLDIERS HAVE NOT SHOWN ANY SIGNS OF ILLNESS EITHER. THE DU MEDICAL

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THOSE WITH ELEVATED URINE

PAGE 14 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

SAMPLES. THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH LOW LEVELS OF URANIUM IN THEIR URINE ARE UNLIKELY TO DEVELOP ABNORMALITIES.

Q11: HOW CAN THE ARMY BE SO SURE THAT DU IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CAUSING ILLNESS IN VETERANS OR CIVILIANS?

A11: IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVE A NEGATIVE BUT OUR BELIEF IS BASED ON NUMEROUS STUDIES THAT WERE CONDUCTED TO TRACK THE POSSIBILITY OF ILL HEALTH EFFECTS OF DU.

A FEW OF THEM ARE:

A. US ARMY CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE, "PERSIAN HEALTH VETERANS HEALTH TRACKING SYSTEM" THIS IS AN ONGOING STUDY.

B. ARMED FORCE RADIOBIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, "CARCINOGENIC POTENTIAL OF DEPLETED URANIUM AND TUNGSTEN ALLOYS." THIS IS AN ONGOING STUDY.

C. ARMED FORCES RADIOBIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, "EVALUATION BY THE ARMED FORCES RADIOBIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AFRRI) OF THE HEALTH RISKS OF EMBEDDED DEPLETED URANIUM SHRAPNEL ON PREGNANCY AND OFFSPRING DEVELOPMENT" THIS IS AN ONGOING STUDY.

D. US AIR FORCE ARMAMENT LABORATORY, "ALTERNATIVES FOR URANIUM WASTE DISPOSAL OF DEPLETED URANIUM WASTE."

PAGE 15 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

AT THIS TIME THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 11 ONGOING AND COMPLETED RESEARCH STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF DEPLETED URANIUM IN THE GULF AND THE BALKANS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE STUDIES ON THE PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO DU AND METHODS FOR DISPOSAL.

Q12: DOES DU VIOLATE THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT?

A12: USE OF DU DOES NOT VIOLATE THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT. IT'S NOT A POISON NOR DOES IT CAUSE UNNECESSARY SUFFERING.

9. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE)

A. MEDIA CENTER. NA

B. COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS: OCPA MRD WEAPONS ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM HAVE THE LEAD FOR RESPONDING TO THE MEDIA ON ARMY ISSUES AND POLICIES. LOCAL PAOS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND USING THE APPROVED STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 4, AND DIRECT BASE, DIVISION OR UNIT NEWSPAPERS TO ADDRESS DU SUBJECTS.

C. MEDIA COVERAGE: IS ENCOURAGED.

D. DOD MEDIA POOL: NA

E. MEDIA AND RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES. MACOM PAOS WILL AGGRESSIVELY CHALLENGE MISINFORMATION WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE LOCAL MEDIA OR IN COMMUNITY LITERATURE. DIVISION OR BASE NEWSPAPERS WILL HIGHLIGHT DU WITH THE PURPOSE OF SPREADING ACCURATE INFORMATION. MRD WILL ASSIST

PAGE 16 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

LOCAL PAOS BY PROVIDING DEPT OF THE ARMY DU EXPERTS FOR INTERVIEW

UPON REQUEST. AS NEEDED, MRD WILL COORDINATE MEDIA ROUNDTABLES WITH DU EXPERTS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND ADDRESS THE GROWING ANTI-DU MOVEMENT.

F. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS: OCPA MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION WILL COORDINATE MEDIA ACTIVITIES. COMMAND INFORMATION WILL COVER DU THROUGH SRTV AND ARNEWS WITH EMPHASIS ON EDUCATING THE SOLDIER ON THE PURPOSE AND SAFETY OF DU PROCEDURES AND MAKING THEM AWARE OF THE GROWING ANTI-DU CAMPAIGN BY ACTIVISTS. MRD WILL ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF A SINGLE RECOGNIZABLE DU EXPERT TO COUNTERACT AND CHALLENGE THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF DR. DOUG ROKKE, WHO HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY AND INACCURATELY BILLED AS THE "FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY'S DEPLETED URANIUM PROJECT." ROKKE WAS PRESENT IN THE GULF AS PART OF A RECOVERY TEAM TO SECURE VEHICLES DESTROYED BY DU PROJECTILES BUT WAS NOT IN CHARGE OF ANY PROGRAM. HE HAS OVERSTATED HIS EXPERTISE AND IMPORTANCE. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT A SINGLE RECOGNIZABLE FACE SHALL REPLACE THE MONOLITHIC FRONT OF THE ARMY (USUALLY QUOTED AS "ARMY SOURCES") TO CHALLENGE DU MISPERCEPTIONS.

G. RELATED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. COMM REL REPS WILL RESPOND AND

PAGE 17 RUEADWD1493 UNCLAS

SEEK OUT VETERANS GROUPS TO ADDRESS DU SUBJECTS WITH TIMELY AND ACCURATE INFORMATION.

10. POINTS OF CONTACT:

A. OCPA MRD - KAREN BAKER, MRD, (703) 697-7592

B. OCPA SCD - MAJ ROB CAIN, (703) 693-6209.

C.OSD DEPLOYMENT HEALTH AND SERVICES - BARBARA GOODNO, 703-578-8552.

D.DAMO-SSD (CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS POLICY BRANCH) - MR. JOHN WIRICH, 703-614-2688

11. WEB SITES:

[HTTP://DEPLOYMENTLINK.OSD.MIL/MEDICAL/MEDICAL_ISSUES/DEPLOYMENT_EXPOSURES/DU.SHTML](http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/medical/medical_issues/deployment_exposures/du.shtml)

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