

2. Depleted uranium found at PTA

Posted by: "viviane lerner" vivlerner@gmail.com
vlerner2002

Date: Sat Aug 25, 2007 11:56 am ((PDT))

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Depleted uranium found at PTA

Army: Material doesn't pose a health danger

by Jason Armstrong
Hawaii Tribune-Herald Staff Writer
Tuesday, August 21, 2007 8:50 AM HST

http://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/articles/2007/08/21/local_news/local01.txt#blogcomments

Radioactive depleted uranium has been found at the U.S. Army's Pohakuloa Training Area, the Army announced Monday.

Military contractor Cabrera Services has also determined that a formerly classified weapon capable of firing DU rounds was used at the Big Island military base, the Army said in a two-page news release.

"The depleted uranium (DU) that was found does not pose a health danger," said Army spokeswoman Stefanie Gardin.

The material, the same as previously discovered at the Army's Schofield Barracks on Oahu, was found in an area where there is no public access.

The PTA training range covers about 55,000 acres, Gardin said.

The contractor collected soil samples that have been sent to an independent laboratory for analysis, the Army said in its written statement.

"Now that DU has been confirmed at Pohakuloa, the Army will coordinate with the State of Hawaii and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to determine the next steps," the statement added.

That plan will include an "extensive" survey and monitoring of PTA, Schofield and Oahu's Makua Military Reservation. The Army said it also will partner with state officials "in the planning and execution of a mutually agreed upon response."

"This is obviously going to be the first step in the process," Gardin said of the aerial testing Cabrera Services conducted Thursday through Saturday.

She did not immediately know the cost of the survey, or why the Army had to hire a contractor to determine what was used on its firing range.

Gardin said she'd seek answers to those and other questions.

"(I'm) not surprised in the least," Jim Albertini, a Big Island peace activist and co-author of a book that examined the military's nuclear activity in Hawaii, said when told that DU has been confirmed at PTA.

Albertini said the announcement verifies radiation tests he and others conducted downwind of the PTA firing range on May 29. The unverified readings showed high levels of DU radiation, he said.

"I think this is a major issue that's going to make Agent Orange dwarf in comparison," Albertini said of the chemical defoliant the U.S. used during the Vietnam War. "It's going to be a nightmare."

The Army has said it has not used weapons containing DU at PTA. It said Monday that the material is not currently used in training ammunition.

"I question everything that the military said," Albertini said in response to the claim. "They originally said they never used DU in Hawaii."

Albertini suggested that if the Army used DU rounds in its 1960s-era "Davy Crockett" recoilless gun, then it likely also fired the material from other weapons.

"I think it's very reasonable to at least suggest that," he said.

Albertini called for citizen involvement "to ensure the transparency of the overall process."

Offering his own services, Albertini suggested enlisting the help of Dr. Lorrin Pang, who serves as the state Health Department's district health officer for Maui County.

Pang has volunteered his own time to oversee civilian monitoring for depleted uranium. He gave a presentation in Hilo on Saturday to announce no DU-produced radiation was observed during testing done in Kona during June and July.

Unaware of the Army's findings at the time, Pang called for follow-up testing closer to the PTA firing range.

Army spokeswoman Gardin said she would look into the possibility of civilian oversight of any cleanup efforts.

DU is the byproduct of producing nuclear energy. The military uses it in armor-piercing munitions because the material has about twice the density of lead and can ignite on impact.

Breathing the "weakly radioactive" material allows it to be absorbed into the blood faster than by ingestion, according to the World Health Organization's Web site. People exposed to DU would have to breathe grams of the material to trigger the risk of lung cancer, according to the WHO.

DU is considered to be a "chemical health hazard" that has not been known to cause "observable health or reproductive effects," according to the Army's news release.

Jason Armstrong can be reached at jarmstrong@hawaiiitribune-herald.com.

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Begin forwarded message:

> From: "shannon rudolph" <shannonkona@gmail.com>
> Date: August 21, 2007 1:44:27 PM HST
> Subject: Re: AND I'D LIKE TO ADD..... NEWS FLASH!!!
Army Confirms
> Depleted Uranium at Pohakuloa
>
>
>
> I'd like to add..... Hawaii residents and especially everyone
> downwind of any DU discovery wants the military to follow its own
> laws! Everyone wants free, "REAL" DU testing for all residents! The
> thousand dollar test!!! Everyone wants the military to follow is

> own laws to give medical care to anyone harmed ...and in regard to
> clean- up; close and pave Pohakuloa and every live fire range
> across the country that used DU! Everyone wants to know why the
> cancer rates, birth defects, thyroid, immune and neurological
> problems are so high downwind! Why are feral cats sick on the
> western slopes of Mauna Kea? Why are hunters reporting a greatly
> increased amount of tumors in sheep and goats? Hawaii residents
> want an INDEPENDENT monitor, NOW!
>
> Everyone in Hawaii wants the army to clean up the other 871
> contaminated sites, and however many hundred the navy, has, too!
> AND they must pay for what they've done to Hawaii and the rest of
> the country!!!!
> (AND let the U.N. environmental team into Iraq to test and anywhere
> else we have contaminated, that they won't let in to test!)

>
> WE SALUTE AND GIVE THANKS WITH DEEP GRATITUDE to Jim Albertini;
> Dr. Lorrin Pang; the Hawaiian cultural monitors; Kyle Kajihiro;
> Leuren Moret; Doug Rokke; David Henkin; Lindafaye Kroll; and the
> citizen monitors and ankle biters who bit into this issue and
> didn't let go! Spending THOUSANDS of their own money and HUGE
> amounts of time and humiliation to protect us all!!! You are my heros!

>
> AND the Department of Health, Radiation Dept., Harry Kim, Gov.
> Lingle, Representatives, and Senators, here and in D.C., owe the
> people of Hawaii a HUGE apology AND 100% backing of the residents
> from here on out to make 100% SURE, the military follows its own
> laws in regard to the horrendous mess that they've made for Hawaii
> residents!
> (And also, for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and
> Lebanon, whose land we have contaminated.)
>
> Pohakuloa, Schofield Barracks,and probably, Kaho'olawe and
> Makua are now contaminated FOREVER. FOREVER!!!
>
> THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII DO NOT WANT THE MILITARY TO BE THE NUMBER 1
> ECONOMIC ENGINE OF THE ALOHA STATE!!!!
> WE DO NOT WANT THIS MORALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FILTHY AND CORRUPT
> "BUSINESS" IN OUR STATE AT ALL!!!
>
> POLITICIANS TAKE NOTE! (with few exceptions) YOU HAVE NOT PROTECTED
> US, YOU HAVE FAILED US!
>MAYBE EVEN POISONED US!
> YOU BET I'M MAD!!! (...and have weird health problems)
> THIS WILL FOREVER BE YOUR LASTING LEGACY TO THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII.
> WAS IT WORTH ALL OF THOSE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ARMS
> DEALERS? SHAME!!!
>
> THE MANUFACTURE AND USE OF DEPLETED URANIUM MUST STOP.. LIKE AGENT

> ORANGE, BEFORE IT!
> IF DU RADIATION IS BLOWING INTO THE EARTH'S
ATMOSPHERE..WE ARE ALL
> IN BIG TROUBLE.
>
> Shannon Rudolph - Holualoa, Hawaii
> DOWNWIND POHAKULOA
>
>

8. Survey finds depleted uranium in training area
Posted by: "viviane lerner" vivlerner@gmail.com
vlerner2002
Date: Sat Aug 25, 2007 12:11 pm ((PDT))

So much for Hawaii as paradise of the Pacific, actually a
military radiation-contaminated fortress by DU, with a
shelf-life of 2.5 billion years!
Maybe you'd do well to check the military base in your
neighborhood, see if it has a training area....
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Survey finds depleted uranium in training area

By Greg Small - The Associated Press
Posted : Tuesday Aug 21, 2007

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2007/08/ap_hawaiiuranium_070821/

HONOLULU – A military contractor confirmed the presence of depleted uranium at the Army’s Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, the Army said.

The Army has said it did not use depleted uranium at the training range. Earlier state tests found radiation levels in the air near the Pohakuloa training range to be “normal.”

The Army said last year it also found depleted uranium at an Oahu post, Schofield Barracks, in remnants of training rounds used in the 1960s. That announcement came after years of Army denials it used depleted uranium in the islands.

The Army said in a news release Monday it currently does not use depleted uranium in training munitions.

Cabrera Services, the contractor, conducted an aerial survey for depleted uranium Thursday through Saturday.

The contractor's study sought to determine if a 1960s-era weapon which was capable of firing depleted uranium rounds, the Davy Crockett gun, had ever been fired at Pohakuloa.

The contractor also took soil samples from Pohakuloa, which have been sent to a lab for analysis.

The Army said it will coordinate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the state to determine what steps will be taken.

Big Island peace activist Jim Albertini said the news confirmed his suspicions.

"I'm not surprised at all," said Albertini, who heads the Malu Aina Center for Nonviolent Education and Action in Kurtistown.

Albertini said his group detected heightened radiation levels at the edge of Pohakuloa as wind was coming off the firing range May 29.

He called on the Army to suspend all live-fire training in Hawaii because of the risk exercises could disturb any depleted uranium in the soil and release contaminated particles into the air.

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii officials did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Depleted uranium is a byproduct of radioactive enriched uranium and has been used by the military in bullets and other weapons designed to pierce armor. Some researchers suspect exposure to depleted uranium may have caused chronic fatigue and other symptoms in veterans of the first Gulf War, but there is no conclusive evidence it has.

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13. Fwd: Ferry carries radioactive Stryker Light Tanks

Posted by: "viviane lerner" vivlerner@gmail.com

vlerner2002

Date: Sat Aug 25, 2007 12:18 pm ((PDT))

Companion piece:

<http://homepage.mac.com/juanwilson/islandbreath/%20Year%202006/03->

[environment/0603-20SuperFerryMilitary.html](http://homepage.mac.com/juanwilson/islandbreath/%20Year%202006/03-environment/0603-20SuperFerryMilitary.html)

Superferry Gantlet vs Gauntlet [excerpt, but the whole article is

worth reading - vl]

by Juan Wilson

13 October 2006 - 2:00pm HST

>>Pacific Business News reported on March 26, 2005, that with

Lehman's expertise, the Superferry plans to operate a Westpac

Express, essentially to carry military equipment and ferry vehicles

from Oahu to the Big Island on a daily basis. Lehman told PBN that

“This logistical plan will make it easier for soldiers to train when the Stryker Brigade comes to Hawaii. The brigade will be stationed on Oahu and conduct training exercises on the Big Island.”

The Superferry is intended to transport vehicles and equipment that could be contaminated with DU dust in the field. After battle simulations on the Big Island, will this cargo be inspected for traces of depleted uranium before it is loaded onto the Superferry? Will the Superferry itself be inspected for DU after carrying military shipments?

It seems prudent to examine the possibility of the spread of DU contamination throughout the Hawaiian islands by battlefield equipment transported on the Superferry.
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