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TO: Major General Benjamin R. Mixon, Commanding General
Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division (Light) and
U.S. Army, Hawai`i
Schofield Barracks, Hawai`i 96857-6000

DATE: January 5, 2006

RE: Discovery of Depleted Uranium at Schofield Battlefield Area Complex

We, together with communities throughout the Hawaiian Islands, are outraged by the revelation that the U.S. Army has used depleted uranium in our islands, despite repeatedly assuring the public that the hazardous weapon was never used here.

We are outraged because depleted uranium is a radioactive and highly toxic heavy metal that poses an unacceptably high risk to the public's health, even in small amounts.

For years U.S. military commanders in Hawai`i assured the public that depleted uranium was never used in live-fire training exercises here. During the public comment period for the Stryker Brigade environmental impact statement in 2004, community members raised concerns about depleted uranium contamination with U.S. Army representatives. In their written response, the U.S. Army representatives assured the public that the Army's detailed and accurate records of live-fire training confirmed that depleted uranium had never been used in Hawai`i.

However, last summer depleted uranium was discovered in Wahiawa. In an email dated September 19, 2005 from Samuel McManus to Ronald Borne regarding the high cost of unexploded ordnance removal required for the Stryker Brigade expansion, Mr. McManus explained that depleted uranium was among many of the unexpected munitions discovered in a field the Army calls the Schofield Battle Area Complex. The discovery of depleted uranium in Wahiawa means either the records are inaccurate or the U.S. Army's representatives misled the public.

The U.S. Army refuses to be forthcoming about past and present trespasses against the public's health and safety. From the secrecy and failure to clean up the chemical weapons dumped in our nearshore waters, to the insistence of a Stryker Brigade in Hawai`i despite the intolerable environmental and cultural destruction it causes, to this discovery of depleted uranium, it is clear that the U.S. Army puts military readiness

above the health and safety of the communities it claims to protect. The U.S. Army's destructive and secretive nature compels our communities to provide for their own protection.

We demand that this depleted uranium site be cleaned up immediately. Regardless of the risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses, it is better to be certain that this potentially lethal contamination site is fully recovered before the community's health is jeopardized.

We call for an open and public clean-up effort to ensure that the damage caused by this depleted uranium site is completely and properly neutralized, including the provision of health care for potentially affected communities, which includes military personnel and dependents. We expect an independent investigation of the extent of depleted uranium and chemical weapons contamination at Schofield and at other Army ranges in Hawai'i and full disclosure of the amount, location, and extent of the contamination. We request copies of all information and documents related to unexploded ordnance removal efforts in Schofield, Makua, Pohakuloa and other Army training areas in Hawai'i in the last five years, including documentation of the amounts, types, locations and final disposition of munitions discovered. Clean-up must begin as soon as possible and include full public participation.

We demand a moratorium on all military expansion projects and the return of wrongfully acquired Hawaiian government and crown lands, what is often referred to as "ceded lands", to Hawai'i's people. The U.S. military cannot assume Hawai'i will continue to give freely of itself after all of this needless destruction and unwarranted risks to the public's health. We expect your full cooperation in this movement towards a healthier and safer Hawai'i.

Please respond to the address above in 20 days. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kajihiro
Program Director
AFSC Hawai'i

On behalf of
DMZ-Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina
KAHEA
Life of the Land
Malu 'Aina
Malama Makua
'Ohana Koa/ Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific
'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition