

World Premiere at Brisbane: New Australian Documentary on the horrifying effects of DU

The World premiere of new Australian documentary on Depleted Uranium (DU) weaponry and its horrifying effects on "Coalition of the willing" soldiers and civilians will be held in Brisbane at a date and venue now under negotiation. Details will be available on our website at www.acej.org.au

The documentary by David Bradbury: *Blowin' in the Wind*, was two years in the making and took him around the world. It was inspired by the Australian Coalition for Economic Justice (ACEJ) 2003 sponsored tour by former US Army physicist Dr Doug Rokke. He features in the film, which has important messages for Australians.

After former US Army physicist Dr Doug Rokke's visit to Australia in 2003 a new organisation was formed to continue creating awareness of the horrific effects of depleted uranium (DU) ammunition on soldiers and innocent civilians alike. It is called Depleted Uranium Silent Killer (DUSK).

DUSK is on the campaign trail again and will launch a new documentary highlighting how DU could affect the lives of Australians living near places like Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area in Central Queensland and at Lancelin Western Australia, 130 km north of Perth.

Perth is now a major R&R city for U.S. troops. Will they be kicked out of there as they have been in other places around the world?

Not only are locals likely to be affected by radiation from DU practice shelling but also our own soldiers and their families, not to mention the endangered dugongs at Shoalwater Bay.

The Federal Department of Environment and Heritage website describes Shoalwater Bay 454 500ha military training area as "a significant habitat for the threatened dugong, and several species of marine turtle. Five nationally threatened plant species also occur in this area.

Abundant species of migratory birds were also recorded by the department on

the tidal mudflats during the summer of 1991-1992 including the lesser golden plover (*pluvialis fulva*), and other bird species.

It is listed as a Commonwealth Heritage Place.

According to an article in The Australian April 20 more than 17,000 Australian and US troops will take part in the major military exercise in central coastal Queensland. A defence spokesman said navy, army, air force, marines and special forces personnel would combine for exercise Talisman Sabre 2005 in Shoalwater Bay.

"More than 6000 Australian Defence Force (ADF) and 11,000 US troops would take part," he said. Land forces will train primarily in the Shoalwater Bay area..

Maritime forces will exercise off Queensland's coast in the Coral Sea, while Australian and US fighter jets and transport aircraft will operate from the RAAF Base Amberley, in the state's south-east, and Townsville, in the north.

"Talisman Sabre merges past combined training exercises, Tandem Thrust and Crocodile," he said. "It will help improve ADF/US combat readiness and interoperability."

Just how closely and for how long will our troops be "merged" with US troops?

The residents at Lancelin WA are very unhappy since the arrival of American war ships using the firing range nearby at all hours of the day and night. This relaxed W.A. coastal town is part of the Coral Coast and is promoted as being "perfect for tourists who are interested in adrenaline sports. Recognised worldwide as an excellent venue for windsurfing and sandboarding on the amazingly large, white sandhills. Offshore islands and reefs are great for fishing and diving."