





# ALETHO NEWS

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Palestine: Elections Doomed to Fail Under Division  
*3 hours ago*

 **xymphora**  
Thursday, October 29, 2009  
*7 hours ago*

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### BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2009 (275)

OCTOBER 27, 2009

## The Pentagon's Dirty Bombers: Depleted Uranium in the USA

10/26/2009 - 15:13 — dlindorff

The Nuclear Regulator Commission is considering an application by the US Army for a permit to have depleted uranium at its Pohakuloa Training Area, a vast stretch of flat land in what's called the "saddle" between the sacred mountains of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on Hawaii's Big Island, and at the Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu. In fact, what the Army is asking for is a permit to leave in place the DU left over from years of test firing of M101 mortar "spotting rounds," that each contained close to half a pound of depleted uranium (DU). The Army, which originally denied that any DU weapons had been used at either location, now says that as many as 2000 rounds of M101 DU mortars might have been fired at Pohakuloa alone.

But that's only a small part of the story.

The Army is actually seeking a master permit from the NRC to cover all the sites where it has fired DU weapons, including penetrator shells that, unlike the M101, are designed to hit targets and burn on impact, turning the DU in the warhead into a fine dust of uranium oxide. Hearings on this proposal were held in Hawaii on Aug. 26 and 27.

## ▼ October (273)

## Video:

Palestinians  
homeless  
again after  
eviction

UK: Over 60  
face charges  
from anti-  
Israel  
protests...

Israel denies  
illegal diamond  
trade

More speech  
silencing:  
Michigan  
Student  
Assembly v...

Iran, Turkey  
seek to triple  
trade by 2014

Palestinian  
villager stands  
up to Israeli  
settleme...

Richard  
Goldstone  
confuses  
International  
Law

Bahrain  
Parliament  
Votes to  
Penalize  
Contacts  
with...

Kouchner  
acting 'against  
interest of  
French  
people...



**Depleted uranium M101 "spotter round" for Davy Crockett  
Mortar**

Uranium particles, whether pure uranium or in an oxidized form, are alpha emitters, and can be highly carcinogenic and mutagenic if ingested or inhaled, since they can lodge in one part of the body—the kidney or lung or gonad, for example—and then irradiate surrounding cells with large, destructive alpha particles (actually helium atoms), until some gene is compromised and a cell become malignant.

Among the sites identified by the NRC as being contaminated with DU are:

Ft. Hood, TX  
Ft. Benning, GA  
Ft. Campbell, KY  
Ft. Knox, KY  
Ft. Lewis, WA  
Ft. Riley, KS  
Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD  
Ft. Dix, NJ  
Makua Military Reservation, HI

Other locations identified as having DU weapons contamination are:

China Lake Air Warfare Center, CA  
Eglin AFB, Florida,  
Nellis AFB, NV  
Davis-Monthan AFB  
Kirtland AFB, NM  
White Sands Missile Range, NM  
Ethan Allen Firing Range, VT

<p>Agony in Western Sahara Shot after photographing the Gaza sea</p>	<p>New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology</p> <p>An application for a 99-year permit to test DU weapons at the NM Inst. Of Mining and Technology claimed that that site's test area was "so contaminated with DU...as to preclude any other use"!</p>
<p>Taliban Already Vastly Outnumbered, NATO Making No...</p>	<p>DU weapons have also been used by the Navy at Vieques Island off Puerto Rico (the Navy claimed it was a "mistake.")</p>
<p>Jail terms for 'Angola- gate' guilty</p>	<p>The Pentagon continues a long history of claiming that DU-- which is the uranium that is left after the fissionable isotope U-235 is removed to make nuclear fuel and bombs--</p>
<p>Curry, new anti- cancer treatment</p>	<p>is not dangerous, although this official stance is belied by the warnings it has given to its troops (though not to civilians in battle zones), to stay well clear of tanks and other equipment destroyed by US tanks, which used DU weapons as the ordnance of choice in both the Gulf War and the current Iraq War. During both wars, DU</p>
<p>Report from J- street</p>	<p>ammunition was used by Army and Marine tanks, by the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the A-10 ground support jet, the Marine Harrier jet, and specially equipped F16 fighter jets.</p>
<p>UN approves nuclear free resolution</p>	<p>The Navy also switched from DU ammunition to tungsten ammunition in its Phalanx anti-missile ship defense system because of health and environmental concerns with the DU ammo.</p>
<p>Sugar: The Bitter Truth</p>	
<p>Israeli minister's speech disrupted at London univ...</p>	<p>In both wars, a high percentage of troops have returned with many physical ailments--auto-immune problems, cancers, and later, birth defects in offspring--which have been referred to as Gulf War and now Iraq War Syndrome.</p>
<p>Power Plays in Florida</p>	<p>As many as a quarter of returning vets from the Gulf War have reported strange illnesses and cancers and the numbers are rising for Iraq War vets. As well, statistics from the National Institutes of Health show that counties hosting bases and test facilities where DU has been uses also show high cancer rates. This is certainly true for Hawaii's Big Island, which has the highest cancer rates for the Hawaiian archipelago. Meanwhile, the lung cancer rate for the Ft. Knox area is 105-127 per 100,000 for the 2001-2005 period, high by state and national standards. The rate is among the highest in the state of Washington for Pierce</p>
<p>Israelis Targeting Grassroots Activists</p>	
<p>Honduran Coup Myths Dispelled</p>	
<p>Nine injured as settlers rampage through olive har...</p>	

Bishop fined  
€12,000 for  
denying  
Holocaust

County, where Ft. Lewis is located.

Iran to Accept  
Nuclear Fuel  
Deal but  
Wants Key  
Cha...

The Pentagon denies that it uses depleted uranium in bombs, missiles and cruise missile warheads, but military personnel have reported their use in all three delivery systems, and reports exist of DU bunker-buster bombs, DU-tipped penetrator warheads on Tomahawk cruise missiles and on some air-to-ground missiles.

The Pentagon's  
Dirty  
Bombers:  
Depleted  
Uranium in ...

It's a good bet that all US munitions containing DU have been widely tested at various US military bases and testing grounds.

Israel denying  
Palestinians  
access to  
clean water

The bottom line is that at the same time that US government is continuing to warn about the danger of terrorists acquiring the materials to make a "dirty" bomb that could spread radioactive material in the US, the US military has for years been doing exactly that, and continues to do so, with no intention to clean up its messes, many of which are allowing depleted uranium to percolate into ground water or flow down streams to more populated areas.

Rainforest  
treaty 'fatally  
flawed'

IRGC says no  
guards  
arrested in  
Pakistan

Of course, it could have been worse. The M101 mortar that litters Pohakuloa was actually designed as a range-finder for the Davy Crocket mortar, which back in the late 1950s and the 1960s, and up until 1971 was designed to allow infantry troops to fire a small "tactical" nuclear mortar shell at targets just one to two miles distant. Some 700 of these "little nukes", that had a power of "just" several kilotons or less, were made and actually made their way into the arsenals of troops in Europe and elsewhere during the Cold War. Fortunately there are no reports of any of them having been fired off at any of the military's firing ranges--especially given that their radiation effect radius was larger than their firing range, meaning that launching one was an automatic suicide mission.

Book review:  
How aid hurt  
Palestine

Prisoner  
Society: more  
than 2,000  
cases of  
torture...

Italy: an  
attempt to  
outlaw  
defending  
freedom of s...

Are You Ready  
for the Next  
Crisis?

Thirteen

detailed after  
tent erected at  
settlement...

What does  
China's  
ascendance  
mean for  
Palestine?

An exclusively  
Jewish  
Investment  
Boom

China Should  
Raise Euro,  
Yen Holdings,  
News Report...

S&P 500  
Overvalued by  
40%, Set to  
Fall, Smithers  
S...

Leader:  
Foreigners  
behind  
regional terror  
attacks

Police in £9m  
scheme to  
log 'domestic  
extremists'

Is equality  
a 'nightmare'  
for liberal  
Zionists?

Another 147  
people dead in  
Baghdad, cui  
bono?

Israel increasing  
military build-  
up near  
Lebanon



**Davy Crockett mini nuke, in test-firing at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD**

**(Actually firing it would have been suicide.)**

Then again, the Pentagon doesn't exactly have a sterling record about telling the truth where nuclear weapons and DU weapons are concerned. (You start to notice as you look into this stuff that with uranium weapons, the military's attitude towards troop safety is not a whole lot better than its attitude towards the people at the downrange end of the line.)

Nor is the NRC to be relied on to protect the American public. As an administrative judge wrote in a ruling on a case involving DU contamination at Jefferson Proving Ground in Indiana, the NRC exhibited a "more than casual attitude with regard to decommissioning of sites on which radioactive materials remain as a potential threat to public health and safety and to the environment."

In another case, involving cleanup of the ShieldAlloy Metallurgical Corp.'s site in Newfield, NJ, where DU weapons were made, a judge said, "at the very least, the (NRC) staff has countenanced...a situation that will leave the citizens in the area surrounding the activity site in doubt for close to two decades regarding what measures will ultimately be taken for their protection."