

IN RE: STRYKER BRIGADE)
COMBAT TEAM DRAFT EIS)
8 PUBLIC MEETING)

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10 DRAFT EIS PUBLIC MEETING

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12 Taken on behalf of the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army
13 Hawaii held at the Turtle Bay Resort, 57-091 Kamehameha Hwy.
14 Kahuku, Hawaii, commencing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
15 November 4, 2003, pursuant to Public Notice.

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18 REPORTED BY: HOLLY M. HACKETT, RPR, CSR #130

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3 **MR. HENRY CURTIS:** Aloha. I'm Henry Curtis,
4 Executive Director of Life of the Land. We're going to
5 have extensive written comments, but I want to focus my
6 oral comments on one very narrow topic, and that is
7 groundwater contamination at Schofield.
8 I want to concentrate just on Schofield for the
9 moment. And I want to preface my comments by saying that

10 when Schofield Barracks was a Super Fund site, a
11 Technical Review Committee was formed to monitor the
12 military cleanup, and it consisted of the military
13 regulators and Life of the Land. The military has set up
14 Restoration Advisory Boards, which are sort of military/
15 civilian interfaces to monitor military cleanups. We sit
16 on the Central Oahu Air Force Restoration Advisory Board,
17 which monitors the military cleaning up of fuel storage
18 annexes, petroleum oil lubricant pipelines, and Wheeler
19 Army Airfield until the year 2000, when it was turned
20 over to the Army. We sit on the Pearl Harbor Naval
21 Restoration Advisory Board and the Hickam Air Force Base
22 Restoration Advisory Board. So we spend a lot of time
23 poring through military documents, trying to understand
24 their acronyms and the fact that they use the same
25 acronym to mean multiple things.

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1 We also sat on the EPA/Department of Health
2 Source Water Assessment Project, which looked at
3 groundwater contamination, how you define boundaries for
4 groundwater aquifers, what types of things might be
5 contaminating it, and what the probability of
6 contamination is. And we look, also, at non-military
7 toxic sites, such as Honolulu Harbor, such as Village
8 Park, and such as Kunia.
9 Now, you may know that the EPA defines the
10 aquifer under Schofield as a sole-source aquifer. That
11 means that it's not replaceable. It provides a lot of
12 water for the island, and it is not replaceable. During
13 this past legislative session, one person in the state
14 government got this brilliant idea, Why don't we stick a
15 landfill on top of it; and that was beaten back on the
16 floor of the Senate.
17 Now there's being proposed a massive amount of
18 military development over this aquifer. And the EIS is
19 very good at looking at past contamination. The EIS
20 points out that trichloroethylene, or TCE, has made it
21 from Schofield to the groundwater and is being pumped out
22 as we speak. Although the source of it was never found,
23 it is still leaking into the aquifer.
24 They did discover the source of the tetra -
25 screw up that name -- CCL4, carbon tetrachloride, which

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came from the landfill at Schofield. It seeped down from
the landfill, into the aquifer, and it is being dealt
with. So the military knows that contamination on the
top is reaching the aquifer. That's not a mystery. They
have a contaminant on the top; they have a source way
down; they found it in the aquifer. So the EIS
acknowledges this past contamination but then does almost
nothing on describing possible new contamination.
They give a few sections, and it's buried in
three different sections of the report, which makes it
hard to put together; but they say, for example, they
analyzed 39 composite samples. Now, "composite" means
you take a little dirt from here, a little dirt from
here, a little dirt from here, and you mix them together,
and you hope that if any one of those samples is
contaminated that the blend will pass your approval
rating. And then they go on to say that these sites,
very limited in number, are representative of the
contamination sites and, in fact, are probably higher
contaminated than the sites they didn't test; and,
therefore, the sites they didn't test are absolutely
safe.
They say that -- there's two standards of
measuring, whether something is safe for an industrial
area or whether it's safe for a residential area. And

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that was part of the problem that was called Barber's
Point Naval Air Station, now Kalaeloa, where the military

cleaned it up to industrial levels, but the County wanted it at higher levels of cleanliness; and, therefore, the military turned over the land to the State and County, which couldn't use it; and hence, now, it is a largely unused site.

The military has found that there's high levels of valium, arsenic, iron, aluminum, magnesium, nitroglycerin, and RDX. RDX has multiple names, like C4, T4; it's a plastic explosive. These granules exist above levels that are safe for residential use. They know that it can get down into the groundwater; and, therefore, the EIS does not evaluate it at all. We find this shocking. I've been given this poster here that says one minute. So I will say in the next one minute that the groundwater contamination, which is pitiful, is better than their section, a lot of their other sections, which are even smaller in size.

Thank you.

MR. CHANG: Kat Brady, followed by Kalei Crabbe; and then Kaijo Seales.

MS. KAT BRADY: Aloha kakou. Thank you all for coming and for staying.

I'm Kat Brady, and I'm with Life of the Land, as PACIFIC REPORTING SERVICES UNLIMITED, INC.

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1 well.

2 I want to thank you for extending the comment
3 period. This is a very complex document, and people need
4 time to really analyze it and make thoughtful comments.

5 I hope that you ask the prosecutor to withdraw
6 all charges, because people were just expressing their
7 rights. Woodrow Wilson said, The history of liberty is
8 the history of resistance; and I hope you understand
9 that.

10 I hope, also, that you're going to hold real
11 public hearings, in real public places. Many people did
12 not even know where the Honolulu Country Club was. I
13 didn't. I had to look it up. They're not places that
14 the regular folks go. So having meetings in private
15 places and calling them public meetings is disingenuous,
16 and I hope that you rectify that by having real public
17 meetings on all the islands.

18 As Henry mentioned, we sit on many military
19 Restoration Advisory Boards. And to quote (inaudible), a
20 poet, she said, I think my eyes were knocked open, and
21 they don't close. I sometimes wish I could close them
22 and look away. But once you've seen certain things, you
23 can't unsee them. And seeing nothing is as political an
24 act as seeing something.

25 I've seen many things on the Restoration

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Advisory Boards that have broken my heart. I have seen
the land that people have worked for generations, people

I know, whose family have worked the land for generations, I've seen that land destroyed and rendered unusable.

According to the Hawaiian Military Land Use Master Plan of 1995, we currently have 210,000 acres that are controlled in Hawaii by the Department of Defense. 112,000 of those acres are stolen land, which are sometimes called "ceded land". 71,000 of those acres are leased land for secondary use. 27,000 acres are held in fee simple. Now the Army wants another 1400 acres on Oahu and 23,000 more acres on Hawaii Island. We say enough already.

You're squeezing out the peaceful people of Hawaii with your warring ways. The impact of military in Hawaii continues to be huge. The Air Force has more than 142 sites and 60 areas of concern. The Navy's contamination of Pearl Harbor, which was our breadbasket, has resulted in being designated as Super Fund, with 749 sites of significant contamination.

NC10s in Whitmore Village is another extremely contaminated place. Kalaeloa has hazardous contamination, many places that will never, ever be used 25 or can never be used, among all those cultural and

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1 archaeological treasures in that land.

2 Henry talked about Schofield and TCE. You need
3 to understand that TCE is something that's used to clean
4 engines. And that is what that book of civil action in
5 the movie, Civil Action, was about, when people were
6 dying, kids were getting leukemia. And the way that -
7 the pathway that that got into people's system was not by
8 drinking the water; it was when they showered, because
9 the -- it evaporated, and it went into their pores, and
10 it caused massive illness in Massachusetts. And we are
11 still very concerned about Schofield.

12 Lualualei is another terribly contaminated
13 place. Makua Valley and the controlled burn, after we
14 commented on the EIS, Oh, yes, we are so sure that we've
15 got it down now; We know that we will not have a burn
16 like that again. 2500 acres this summer, gone.

17 And now you want to bring the Stryker Brigade.
18 On top of all the contamination we have now, you want to
19 bulldoze and make roads; you want to build a fake village
20 in Kahuku. We are concerned about our coastal waters; we
21 are concerned about topsoil eroding and getting into the
22 streams and blocking them up. I think Ralph Makaau
23 really said it best when he said Kahuku was waist-deep.
24 On the North Shore, we don't really have a big --we
25 don't have sewers; so whenever it rains, we are all under
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1 water. I've had a backyard under water for months in
2 some really rainy winters. So this is not something to
3 be taken lightly. This has a huge impact on people's
4 life and their health.

5 And while all this is happening, the military is
6 in Congress, asking to be exempted from environmental and

7 health laws. We have to say, as people, We're not taking
8 this anymore. This is immoral, and we are not going to
9 do this.
10 The Stryker has many problems, and I am amazed
11 that the Army would put their own people in such
12 jeopardy. There has been much written about this really
13 dangerous vehicle. The mobile gun system, if it turns,
14 it can tip over. The armor of it was not sufficient to
15 stop the types of grenades, rocket-propelled grenades,
16 that will be shot at it. And the wheels in the front
17 can't have the skirts to protect it because they need it
18 to turn. And one of the big things about the Stryker is
19 that it's fast; and that's great, the Army says. Well,
20 not all soldiers think that. Some of them who train on
21 it said there have been many, many accidents because of
22 its speed. They said that the troop carrier compartment
23 in the Stryker is so small, that when the soldiers are in
24 there, they can't even reach down and get their canteens.
25 We've now deployed the Strykers to Iraq; so in 120

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1 degrees, these guys are sitting in this -- and women are
2 sitting in this little compartment, and they can't even
3 access their canteens.
4 All people need to be concerned about this. If
5 you have a son, daughter, loved one in the military, I
6 would be out here screaming. I have a nephew in the
7 military, and that's why I'm screaming. But people have
8 been saying, retired generals have been saying, this is
9 unsafe. There's a report currently circulating in
10 Congress that, basically, concludes it's poorly armored,
11 it's entirely vulnerable to rocket-propelled grenades;
12 the wheels and wells are extremely vulnerable to small
13 arms.
14 And in the EIS you talk about ranges. And one
15 of the -- well, there are so many outrageous things in
16 the EIS; but one of the most outrageous was a piece where
17 they talk about ranges, which are terribly contaminated.
18 And we know that there's depleted uranium there, which
19 has a shelf life of, like, 4 million --half-life of 4
20 million years. But in the EIS it says, Well, you know,
21 when the ranges get too contaminated, we'll just move the
22 soldiers to another range. I say you've had enough, you
23 need to clean up your mess; you get no more land, because
24 you are taking land that can never be used again; you're
25 done; it's over; clean up your mess.

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Aloha.

www.25idl.army.mil/sbcteis/feis/Appendices/Appendix%20P2_04.pdf