



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

5720
Ser N09B30/9U513213
May 27, 1999
IN REPLY REFER TO

Mr. Peter Klein
Producer, 60 Minutes
555 West 57th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10019-2985

Dear Mr. Klein:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of May 6, 1999, in which you seek copies of any documentation, photos and or videos related to depleted uranium bullets or depleted uranium arsenal. Your request was received on May 12, 1999, and assigned case number 9900811.

During our conversation on May 26, 1999, in attempting to clarify the scope of your request, I provided you excerpts from a prior FOIA response we had issued to another requester. You stated we could satisfy your request by providing you with a copy of the same documents.

Accordingly, a copy of that response is provided with all fees waived in this instance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris M. Lama".

DORIS M. LAMA
Head, DON PA/FOIA Policy Branch
By direction of the
Chief of Naval Operations
(202) 685-6545

Enclosure
Copy of response provided
to The Military Toxics Project,
March 29, 1999



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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5104 IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser N455/9U595352
March 29, 1999

Ms. Tara Thornton
The Military Toxics Project
P.O. Box 558
Lewiston, ME 04243-0558

Dear Ms. Thornton,

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

This letter responds to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) pertaining to the use of depleted uranium within the Department of Defense, and more specifically, the United States Navy.

Navy uses depleted uranium 20mm munitions in the Phalanx Close-In-Weapons-System or CIWS. The sole purpose of the Phalanx is for defensive anti-missile protection of ships at sea. There are no overseas naval bases or training facilities that are authorized the use of depleted uranium munitions in live-fire. Enclosure (1) provides a copy of the Navy policy document (Naval Radioactive Materials Permit No. 13-00164-L1NP) restricting the use of depleted uranium at sea for "pre-action calibration and alignment (functionality/serviceability firing." Navy does not use depleted uranium as armor protection on ships.

Responding to your second request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) pertaining to the amount of depleted uranium in Navy munitions, counterweights, and specifically the Tomahawk cruise missile, as noted above, the only Navy weapons system using depleted uranium ammunition is the Phalanx CIWS. Each 20mm round contains 70 grams of depleted uranium.

Regarding the Tomahawk missile system, there is no depleted uranium used in or on the deployed version of this weapons system. An unspecified quantity of depleted uranium is used as mass for test and evaluation purposes within the United States and is owned by the Department of Energy (DOE).

Pursuant to the authority stated in OPNAVINST 6470.3, Naval Radiation Safety Committee, and in reliance on statements made by the applicant, permission is hereby granted for the acquisition, receipt, possession, use, storage and disposal of radioactive materials listed below subject to the conditions listed in this permit.

1 - COMMAND COMMANDER CRANE DIVISION NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER 300 HIGHWAY 361 CRANE, IN 47522-5001	2 - PERMIT NO. 13-00164-L1NP
	3 - AMENDMENT NO. 2
	4 - DOCKET NO.
	5 - EXPIRATION DATE 31 AUGUST 2002

6 - RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

A. Uranium

7 - CHEMICAL/ PHYSICAL FORM

A. Depleted uranium (DU) alloy penetrators in munitions

8 - MAXIMUM QUANTITY AUTHORIZED

A. Not to exceed 5,000,000 Kilograms.

9. Authorized Use

A. For storage as war reserve material. CIWS (20mm) shipboard ammunition may be utilized at sea for Pre Action Calibration and Alignment (functionality/serviceability) firing as specified in Crane letter 5104 Ser 4012/7028 of 21 July 1997.

10. Live fire training exercises of DU munitions will only be conducted at facilities specifically authorized to conduct such firings under separate radioactive material permits or NRC licenses.
11. Rework or demilitarization of DU munitions and the use of any DU material in any chemical, metallurgical or nuclear process is not authorized under this.

NAVAL RADIATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

NAVSEA S0420-AA-RAD-010 (RAD-010)

RADIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS SUPPORT PROGRAM MANUAL



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PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF COMMANDER, NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND

1 OCTOBER 1991



SECTION X

SOURCE MATERIAL

10.1 DEPLETED URANIUM

DISCUSSION:

Depleted Uranium (DU) is a heavy metal used as ballast or counterweights in aircraft gyroscope assemblies, flight control surfaces, helicopter blade assemblies, elevator balance assemblies, aileron balance assemblies, etc., in aircraft, rockets, projectiles, and missiles; and as penetrators in certain ammunition. DU is natural uranium that has most of the uranium-235 and uranium-234 atoms removed.

10.1.1 DEPLETED URANIUM COUNTERWEIGHTS

DISCUSSION:

Plated DU counterweights for use in aircraft are manufactured and distributed under a general NRC license granted in 10 CFR 40.13(5) and therefore do not require a NRMP. The general license prohibits chemical, physical, or metallurgical treatment or processing of counterweights other than repair or restoration of the plating or covering on the counterweight. Any use of these counterweights other than for their intended purpose in aircraft requires the issue of a specific NRMP. Personnel involved in the handling, use and distribution of these counterweights shall comply with the radiological control requirements of this manual.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. DU counterweights shall only be used as counterweights in Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and they shall never be transferred to personnel or organizations for any purpose other than use in aircraft.
2. DU counterweights shall not physically be transferred to Defense Reutilization Marketing Offices (DRMOs) for resale. Aircraft parts such as wings and helicopter blades containing DU counterweights shall be stripped of counterweights prior to disposal or resale by DRMOs.
3. No attempt shall be made to clean corrosion from DU counterweights. DU counterweights with corroded surfaces or chipped or peeled cladding shall be painted to seal the material, placed in plastic bags and returned to a manufacturer for repair or disposal. When replacement counterweights are not available, the counterweight shall be painted to seal potential contamination and the counterweight may be reinstalled on the aircraft until a replacement is available.

4. When performing work on aircraft where DU counterweights are close (less than 36 inches) to the eyes or trunk of the body, exposures shall be minimized by either removing the counterweight from the aircraft or shielding it by placing lead foil over the counterweight.

5. Corroded or damaged counterweights may be returned to an authorized manufacturer for repair or disposal in accordance with paragraph 7 below.

6. DU counterweights which are in serviceable condition may be returned to an authorized manufacturer for disposal in accordance with paragraph 7 below provided:

a. The counterweights have been offered for use by other Navy and Marine Corps aviation units operating or repairing similar aircraft.

b. The counterweights have been offered for use by other U.S. armed forces operating or repairing similar aircraft.

7. NAVSEADET RASO shall provide specific authorization for all transfers of counterweights from Navy and Marine Corps activities to any civilian activity. Requests for authorization to transfer counterweights to a manufacturer shall be submitted to NAVSEADET RASO by letter or message. Upon receipt of a transfer authorization request, NAVSEADET RASO shall provide packaging, marking, documentation and transportation requirements for the specific shipment. Upon assurance that all NRC and DOT regulations are met, NAVSEADET RASO shall provide authorization for shipment of the counterweights to a specific manufacturer.

10.1.2 DEPLETED URANIUM PROJECTILES

DISCUSSION:

The Navy and Marine Corps use DU projectiles in 20mm CIWS rounds, ^{2.5mm}~~30mm~~ GAU 12 aircraft rounds, 105mm and 120mm artillery projectiles. These DU sources are not exempt from NRC licensing requirements but are used under a specific NRMP. The NRMP is issued to the item manager (Naval Weapons Support Center, Crane) and not to each command which stores or uses the projectiles.

REQUIREMENTS :

1. The item manager shall maintain a NRMP for storage, handling and transportation of DU ammunition.

2. The item manager shall provide copies of the approved NRMP to each Navy and Marine Corps command which will handle, store and transport the DU ammunition.

3. Navy and Marine Corps commands which store, or handle DU ammunition shall comply with all requirements contained in the applicable NRMP.

4. DOT exemptions shall constitute exemption from transportation requirements of this manual.

10.13 OTHER DEPLETED URANIUM SOURCES

REQUIREMENT:

All other uses of DU which are not exempted in 10 CFR 40.13 or authorized on a general license in 10 CFR 40.22 shall require a NRMP to be issued prior to possession and use.