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Consolidation of Facts About the Contamination of Guam

Cocos Island and Lagoon are the extreme south end of Guam. Andersen is the extreme north end of Guam. The Guam Naval Complex is the center of Guam and has 5 bases. The naval facility is the one cited in the hearings as one of the worst contaminated spots in the world, that the military is responsible for, along with Andersen. Between the Naval Complex and Andersen is the NAS, NCS and Barrigada Station. This adds up to 10 bases. Guam was a major military complex. Guam was a staging area for WWII, Korea, Viet Nam and the Nuclear Weapons testing in the Pacific.

Andersen, Nas and NCS were contaminating the sole-source drinking water aquifer, the Northern Guam Lens. This aquifer supplied about 75% of the islands drinking water during Viet Nam. Andersen was by far the worst because of it's role in Viet Nam and all the B-52 flights. One could only guess that millions of gallons TCE, fuels and pesticides ended up in the aquifer. TCE and solvents overall probably being the worst. Andersen is an NPL site and the Naval Air Station should have been. The majority of NPL military sites are AFBs and NASs. One of each sat atop this aquifer with almost immediate runoff to the aquifer due to the rainfall and the drainage systems that tied the flight lines into the drainage system. The open dumping in sinkholes and unto the ground of all types of toxics. The burying of many of the contaminants. What wasn't dumped and buried was burned. Just the way it was done for the times.

In between Cocos Island and Andersen is the Guam Naval Complex. Five bases contaminating the center of the island. Ships were decontaminated at Apra Harbor. Santa Rita was the magazine and housed nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as the conventional stuff. This base surrounded the naval facilities and the ships that ported on Guam's, water supply, Fena Lake. Apra Harbor has some of the most contaminated harbor sediments in the world. Most came from the naval activities after WWII. Here again we can look to bases like Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in the US to know just about all the contaminants from the activities of the decontamination of ships and their overhauls.

Another way to know what was contaminating Guam is to look at the Ordot dumpsite (See bases). This was the navies and the militaries dump for years. What is in the dump was also on the bases. And in many cases was ending up in the aquifer or the lake.

We can give a very educated guess as to what and even how much contamination there was to Guam. We just need to look at current bases, the contamination problems their having and the amount of toxic waste they're generating. Many of the NPL sites in the USA are required to test for many of these substances and even give amounts and all types of the toxics. That gives a real good idea as to what was on Guam but multiplied many times over.

There are so many studies of this island and the environment. The ALS/PDC of the people of Guam and found in some military personnel stationed on Guam. The neurodegenerative disease studies done on Guam veterans. Cancer incidence in some military installations as pointed out in the 1987 hearings. Guam's high rates of cancer, heart disease and diabetes. The many veterans who are sick who were stationed on Guam after the war and even today. The leukemia cluster for navy and air force children. The list goes on and on.