

Depleted Uranium Spiked With Plutonium, Etc.

The fission products below—created inside nuclear reactors—are now known to be mixed with the uranium-238 used in depleted uranium munitions. Three hundred and twenty tons of DU were shot into Iraq and Kuwait in the 1991 bombardment; three tons into Bosnia in 1995; and 10 tons into Kosovo in 1999. Of the roughly 720,000 tons of DU available to U.S. weapons merchants, some 250,000 tons is now known to be spiked with these and other extremely radioactive, toxic and long-lived isotopes.

ISOTOPE	RADIOACTIVE HALF-LIFE	RADIATION EMITTED	CRITICAL ORGANS	SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS
Americium-241	432.2 years	alpha & gamma	bone & lung	Created only in reactors where uranium is bombarded with neutrons
Americium-243	7,370 years	alpha & gamma	bone & lung	Created only in reactors; decays to the <i>more radioactive</i> Pu-239
Neptunium-237	2.14 million years	alpha & gamma	bone surface	Created only in reactors
Neptunium-239	2.35 days	beta & gamma	liver, intestines, kidney, spleen, brain	Created only in reactors; decays to Pu-239
Uranium-236	24 million years	alpha & gamma	kidneys, lung, liver	Created only in reactors
Uranium-238	4.5 billion yrs	alpha	kidneys, lung, liver	Created only in reactors
Plutonium-239 (Pu-239)	24,110 yrs	alpha	lymph, liver, lung, gonads & bone	Created only in reactors; 200,000 times more radioactive than uranium-238
Plutonium-238 (Pu-238)	88 yrs	alpha	lymph, liver, lung, gonads & bone	Created only in reactors; 300 times as radioactive as Pu-239

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Sources: Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, *Plutonium: Deadly Gold of the Nuclear Age*, 1992, International Physicians Press, Cambridge; Joseph J. Mangano, *Low-Level Radiation and Immune System Damage: An Atomic Era Legacy*, 1999, Lewis Publishers, New York; Ralph Nader & John Abbotts, *The Menace of Atomic Energy*, 1979, WW Norton, New York; by Rosalie Bertell, *No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth*, 1985, The Women's Press; Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, "The Yellow Pages," 4th Ed., 1994, Takoma Park, MD; Steve Fetter & Frank von Hippel, "After the Dust Settles," *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Dec. 1999; "Groundswell," Nuclear Information & Resource Service, Spring 1989; Environmental Protection Agency, "Federal Guidance Report No. 11" (EPA-520/1-88-020) Sept. 1988.

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