

Health & Human Services Dept.: Medical X-rays Cause Cancer

WASHINGTON, DC – Low-dosage medical X-rays have for the first time ever been listed among 246 cancer-causing agents recognized by the federal government.

In its 11th edition of the "Report on Carcinogens," the National Toxicology Program (NTP) of the Department of Health and Human Services has listed medical X-rays, gamma radiation and neutrons as "known human carcinogens." In its press announcement of the newly expanded list, HHS said:

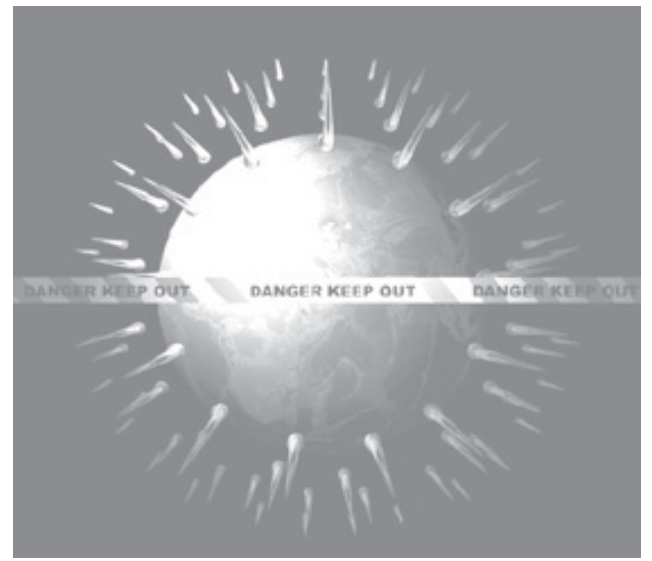
"X-radiation and gamma-radiation are listed in the report as 'known human carcinogens' because human studies show that exposure to these kinds of radiation causes many types of cancer including leukemia and cancers of the thyroid, breast and lung. The risk of developing cancers due to these forms of ionizing radiation depends to some extent on age at the time of exposure. Childhood exposure is linked to an increased risk for leukemia and thyroid cancer. Exposure during reproductive years increases the risk for breast cancer, and exposure later in life increases risk for lung cancer. Exposure to X-radiation and gamma radiation has also been shown to cause cancer of the salivary glands,

stomach, colon, bladder, ovaries, central nervous system and skin.

"Of the total worldwide exposure to X-radiation and gamma-radiation, 55 percent is from low-dose medical diagnosis such as bone, chest and dental X-rays, and 43 percent is from natural sources like radon. Other sources, such as industry, scientific research, military weapons testing, nuclear accidents and nuclear power generation, account for about 2 percent."

The Health Department's announcement comes after years of controversy over the danger of cancer from low doses of radiation. *USA Today* reported Dec. 31, 2002 that the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Christopher Portier, had raised concerns about the increased use of Computed Tomography (CT) scans, fluoroscopy, breast X-rays in younger women, and medical X-rays exposing the public to increasing levels of radiation. CT scans were especially worrisome, because their use in adults and children has increased sevenfold in the past 10 years. A single CT scan equals 100 chest X-rays.

The full Report on Carcinogens, 11th Edition, is available at the NTP website: <<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov>>



Graphic by Michael M. von Karkowsky

Send Help!

For the first time in many years, Nukewatch did not meet its fundraising goal in our winter appeal. In order to keep this non-profit peace and anti-nuclear organization alive, we need your financial support. Please send a contribution to Nukewatch today using the enclosed business reply envelope. Thanks!

U.S. Nukes Deployed Across Europe

Defying common sense and majority public opinion in Europe, the United States continues to deploy up to 480 nuclear weapons in six European states: England, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and Turkey. The U.S. is the only country in the world that places nuclear warheads in other countries.

Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy belong to both NATO and the European Union (EU). They are non-nuclear states and yet they carry the burden of U.S. nuclear weapons. The U.S. warheads are all on free-falling H-bombs, so-called B-61s, designed to be dropped from fighter jets. They are U.S.-owned but European pilots are trained to use them, and in time of war the U.S. intends to hand control of the B-61s to the European pilots. The host countries are also members of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group and take part in deciding how these weapons might be targeted.

The *New York Times* said last Feb. 9 that, according to a new report by the Federation of American Scientists, U.S. and allied air forces "regularly rehearse nuclear bombing missions at training ranges in Europe." The FAS report blasted NATO's continued use of nuclear weapons in Europe "when the U.S. has thousands of long-range missiles that could hit any target in a matter of minutes."

Article I of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obliges signatory states "not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever ... directly, or indirectly; and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons."

Article II uses nearly identical language to prohibit non-nuclear states from receiving nuclear weapons. The U.S. and the EU "platforms" all happen to be signatories to the NPT.

NATO's nuclear colonialism therefore appears to violate Articles I and II of the NPT. However, the U.S. and NATO argue that the Treaty does not forbid the deployment of nuclear warheads in countries that are non-nuclear weapon states. This argument is like arguing that the law does not specifically forbid killing someone with a meat axe.

NATO even contends that the NPT is not binding in times of war. This raises the question of what is meant by war. NATO now asserts the legitimate authority to use nuclear weapons against opponents armed with biological or chemical weapons.

The B-61s are militarily useless because they are both obsolete and illegal. NATO officials admit that their sole purpose is political. They are there to bolster the alliance's

policy of shared risks, roles and responsibilities and to maintain a U.S. nuclear presence in Europe. According to NATO's official Strategic Concept, "Nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the Alliance." Other countries with nuclear ambitions could of course use exactly the same rationale and NATO would be the first to protest.

-- For Mother Earth, Belgium

The U.S. is now the only state to station nuclear weapons in other countries. Following is a list weapons in Europe today:

RAF Lakenheath (England) A U.S. air force base in eastern England, Lakenheath is used to store between 66 and 110 nuclear weapons.....	110
Kleine Brogel (Belgium) The Belgian air force base at Kleine Brogel can store up to 20 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	20
Volkel (Netherlands) The Volkel air force base stores up to 20 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	20
Buchel (Germany) The German air force base at Buchel stores up to 20 U.S. nuclear weapons.	20
Ramstein (Germany) Ramstein, the largest U.S. military base in Germany, is used to train troops in the handling of nuclear weapons and can store up to 130 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	130**
Ghedi Torre (Italy) The air base can store up to 40 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	40
Aviano (Italy) The Aviano air base in northern Italy stores between 40 and 50 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	50
Incirlik (Turkey) The U.S. air base at Incirlik in central Turkey stores up to 90 U.S. nuclear weapons.....	90
TOTAL	480

* Sources: *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Nov./Dec. 2004, p.76; New York Times, Feb. 9, 2005; For Mother Earth. For a clickable map see: <<http://www.abolition2000europe.org/nukes.php>>*

**Twenty of these may have been returned to the U.S.

'Not Guilty'

(Continued from cover)

In 1997, seventy-nine people were found not guilty when they argued that ATK's manufacture of landmines also violated international law and that the act of drawing attention to the company's conduct didn't involve criminal intent.

Jack Nordby, the Hennepin County judge who presided in the 1997 case, also presided over a December trial. Judge Nordby's rulings on the admissibility of certain evidence allowed us to sow "reasonable doubt" in the minds of the jury regarding our intent. For example, the jury was able to review video tape of birth abnormalities, possibly caused by uranium poisoning, filmed by defendant Mike Miles inside Iraqi childrens' hospitals.

DU Munitions Fail Tests of Lawful Weaponry

Steve Clemens of Minneapolis, a self-taught international law expert who was part of the December 10 trial group, wrote of his acquittal, "We founded our defense arguments on the work of international law experts like Karen Parker, represented ourselves without lawyers, and testified that DU clearly fails four legal tests, any one of which would make the weapons illegal."

Dr. Parker's four-point test of a weapon's legal status is based on the laws of war found in binding international treaties. The defendants in both cases were allowed to present to the juries copies of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution — "the supremacy clause" — which establishes treaties ratified by the Senate as "the supreme law of the land."

Taken together, the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Regulations and the Nuremberg Charter form the basis of Dr. Parker's test: 1) Weapons must be limited to the war zone — DU, when it burns through hard targets, aerosolizes into radioactive particles which can be spread by the wind for miles (the territorial test);

2) Weapons must not continue to kill long after a war has ended — DU has a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years and continues to impact the civilian population for eons (the temporal test);

3) Weapons must not be unduly inhumane — the cancer, birth defects and genetic damage linked to the inhalation or ingestion of radioactive DU particles clearly impact both combatants and civilians (the humaneness test); and

4) Weapons may not cause long-term damage to the natural environment — DU particles can contaminate the air, water and soil indefinitely, unless they are removed, permanently secured and guarded in protective storage facilities (the environmental test).

Contaminated DU Site Evaluated for Cleanup

BOSTON — A site near Concord, Mass., that was used to research and manufacture low-level radioactive substances, including depleted uranium, is being excavated to study contamination and clean-up options. As many as 60 drums of waste will be dug up, the contents investigated and properly secured, and the soil around the drums sampled for contamination. Once the contents of the drums are confirmed, various disposal methods will be evaluated.

From 1958 to the present, operators at the site, Nuclear Metals, Inc., used depleted uranium, beryllium and other hazardous substances. Depleted uranium munitions were manufactured there from the 1970's to 1999. From 1958 to 1985, wastes contaminated with depleted uranium were disposed of in an unlined earthen basin.

The cleanup is part of a June 2003 agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Metals. The responsible parties will pay for the study, which will cost between \$8 and \$10 million. The site was added to the list of the country's most hazardous waste sites, called Superfund, in 2001.

— EPA Press Releases, Dec. 7, 2004