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SECTION V--CONSTRUCTION

Ordnance Facilities-Hawaii

Navy Ammunition Depot Retained

(U) In August 1971, in response to a Congressional request, the DOD initiated a full and comprehensive review of all DOD real property holdings in the State of Hawaii. The study was designated Project FRESH (Facilities Requirements Evaluation, State of Hawaii). This review considered, among other factors, the projected force levels to be stationed in Hawaii; the availability of facilities to support these forces; current and future uses of all bases; opportunities for consolidation of joint use of military facilities; and the feasibility of releasing unneeded real estate.

(U) A specific recommendation of Project FRESH was that the Army's ammunition, stored in Aliamanu, Kipapa and Waikakalaua, be relocated to Navy storage areas at the Waikale and Lualualei branches of the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD), Oahu. However, in April 1973, without mention of Project FRESH recommendations, the DOD announced the closure of NAD Oahu.

(U) On 1 June 1973, the ASD (I&L) requested the Navy, under the auspices of Project FRESH, to consider the impact of the Lualualei closure on retention of other ammunition storage areas. The suitability of Lualualei as a housing site was also to be considered. Additional guidance was received on 12 June 1973. In conducting the study, the total WESTPAC ammunition storage capability was to be considered, including the possibility of future denial of forward bases on foreign soil.

(U) During the period 15 June 1973 to 11 July 1973 the Tri-Service Council for Project FRESH conducted a detailed study of all ordnance storage facilities in Hawaii. The result was a recommendation that NAD Oahu be retained as a joint ammunition storage/housing complex. CINCPAC concurred with this recommendation on 3 August 1973.

Community Concern-Hazardous Underground Structures

(U) On 5 September 1973, the Chairman, Planning and Zoning Committee, Honolulu City Council sent a letter to Admiral Gayler requesting cooperation from the Services in investigating "a potential hazard" to civilian housing

1. J42 HistSum Aug 73; CINCPAC 030130Z Aug 73.

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developments. A copy of the letter was sent to Hawaii's Congressional Delegation. The councilman referred to military underground structures such as fuel storage tanks, fuel lines, and ammunition depots, and requested information as to the locations of these structures and the extent of hazard involved.¹

(U) On 17 September, CINCPAC staff representatives met informally with the city councilmen to obtain background information on the problem which had prompted the letter to Admiral Gayler. A reply, signed by Admiral Gayler, was sent to the council on 21 September acknowledging the concern of the community. He also designated a CINCPAC Logistics staff member as the military coordinator on the matter. Concurrently, a message was dispatched to the Service components stating that, because of public and congressional interest, CINCPAC would be the single point of contact on the subject. The Services were requested to provide pertinent information by 1 October 1973.²

(U) In October, the information gathered was reviewed by Logistics, Public Affairs and Staff Judge Advocate personnel. The data included maps depicting underground fuel lines and safety zones associated with ammunition facilities located on other than Federal land. A cover letter was signed by Admiral Gayler on 20 November, and the letter and maps were delivered to the City Hall on 21 November. The letter explained that the underground structures had been designed and constructed in accordance with applicable criteria, regulations, and safety standards. Trained operators made periodic inspections to assure that proper maintenance was performed and to recommend improvements to upgrade the facilities to current standards. The history of underground facility operation was a record of safety without significant incident. Investigation had confirmed that none of these facilities was hazardous to the public.³

Conventional Ammunition Storage Site Security

(U) In September 1973, a forthcoming visit to PACOM by the ASD (I&L) prompted CINCPAC to request his component commands for information concerning conventional ammunition storage site security. This subject was of particular interest to the assistant secretary. USARPAC passed CINCPAC's request to the

1. J42 HistSum Sep 73; Ltr, Geo. G. Akahane to Admiral Noel Gayler, 5 Sep 73, n.s.
2. J42 HistSum Sep 73; Ltr, Admiral Gayler to Geo. G. Akahane, 21 Sep 73, n.s.; CINCPAC 210300Z Sep 73.
3. J42 HistSum Oct and Nov 73; Ltr, Admiral Gayler to Geo. G. Akahane, 20 Nov 73, n.s.

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field units responsible for storage facilities in Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Thailand and Hawaii.

Japan

(C) The U.S. Army ammunition depot complex at Akizuki consisted of three storage sites--at Akizuki, Hiro and Kawakami. The first two areas had definite perimeter boundary security, but Kawakami, which was the largest, was unfenced and heavily wooded. The authorized waivered storage capacity for the entire complex was 118,000 short tons. As a result of reduced ammunition consumption in Southeast Asia and the consequent diversion of ammunition ships to Japan, the Akizuki complex was approaching maximum capacity. For external security, and internal security when boundaries were penetrated, the complex depended upon Japan law enforcement agencies. Limited on-the-scene security was provided by master labor contract (Japanese civilian) guards armed with night sticks.²

(C) Japanese national police expected leftist elements, bent on forcing abrogation of the U.S.-Japan security treaty, to increase their activities in the near future. Related to the radical elements and political atmosphere generally was a proposed move of Hiroshima University to a site close to Kawakami. Radicals attending the University would have easy access to the ammunition facility since physical security measures were almost non-existent. The U.S. Army, Japan intended to submit an urgent minor construction project request for a perimeter fence around Kawakami. Expedited approval was recommended for this construction.³

Okinawa

(U) The U.S. Army Base Command (USARBCO) reported that the ammunition depot at Chibana in central Okinawa covered 3,300 acres with 190 storage structures, 12 support facilities and 93 open storage pads. Depot security was maintained with a Japanese master labor contract force of 75 men under the direction of the depot commander and the provost marshal's office. A storage area one mile in length on the eastern boundary and two separately enclosed maintenance facilities on the western boundary were located outside the perimeter fence. Construction of two miles of perimeter fence to enclose those two areas had been approved. Pending the fence construction, perimeter security was enforced by patrols.⁴

1. CINCPAC 132209Z Sep 73, which cited SECDEF 072241Z Sep 73; CINCUSARPAC 142112Z Sep 73.
2. CDR USARJ 170815Z Sep 73.
3. Ibid.
4. CDR USARBCO 180825Z Sep 73.

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