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December 16, 2022

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Rear Admiral J.J. Kilian, P.E.
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Rear Admiral Stephen D. Barnett
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
850 Ticonderoga Street, Suite 110
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Dear Admirals Wade, Kilian and Barnett

Subject: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Detections and the Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Spill at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF)

We have the following questions to your public meeting held on December 12, 2022 at the Moanalua Middle School and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) letter to the United States Navy (Navy) dated November 2, 2022 regarding PFAS.

Navy's December 12, 2022 Public Meeting at Moanalua Middle School

A Navy handout provided at the meeting reported that (1) excavation and removal of AFFF contaminated soil at Adit six was completed on December 7 and sampling of the site was taken the same day; (2) initial assessment is that the AFFF release is unlikely to affect the drinking water or the aquifer and; (3) approximately 3,000 cubic feet of soil was identified for removal from the site.

1. How did the Navy determine that excavation of the AFFF contaminated soil could conclude on December 7? Was it based on soil test results showing no AFFF PFAS present in the soil? If so, what were the test results and please send us a copy of the laboratory report. If not, how was the determination made?
2. How did the Navy determine that the AFFF release is unlikely to affect the drinking water or the aquifer? Was the determination based on test results for PFAS? If so, please send us a copy of the laboratory report. If not, describe the data used to make the determination. If distance from the spill site was used as the reason, then describe the data you have that enabled you to make that determination.
3. How did the Navy identify the 3,000 cubic feet of soil for removal from the site? Is it based on soil test results? If not describe the criteria or data the Navy has and used to identify it for removal.
4. How did the Navy determine the AFFF spill did not migrate beyond the dig site both in length and depth that produced the 3,000 cubic feet of soil?

According to the Navy, AFFF used contains a C-6 PFAS. However, the PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) detected in the samples collected on December 20 and 27, 2021 from Red Hill Shaft are C-8 type PFAS.

1. Please explain the difference?
2. Did the Navy use C-8 type of PFAS in their AFFF system?
3. Did the Navy activate the AFFF system or have leaks or spills prior to the November 29, 2022 spill? Please provide the details.

Please send me your responses by December 26, 2022. If you have any questions please call me at 808-748-5061.

Very truly yours



ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



Dec. 12, 2022 Red Hill Fuel Facility Town Hall Panelists

1. Vice Admiral John Wade, Commander, Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH)

Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH) United States Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM JTF RED HILL (USA))

Vice Admiral John Wade was appointed by the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III to serve as the Joint Task Force –Red Hill (JTF-RH) commander, with the sole responsibility of leading the defueling effort of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. JTF-RH reports to the Secretary of Defense. Not to the Navy.

JTF-RH ensures the safe and expeditious **defueling** of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) through coordination with State and Federal stakeholders in order to set conditions for closure while working to rebuild trust with the State of Hawaii and the local community of Oahu.

Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH) ensures the safe and expeditious defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) through coordination with State and Federal stakeholders in order to set conditions for closure while continuing to rebuild trust with the State of Hawaii and the local community of Oahu.

- JTF-RH reports to the Secretary of Defense via U.S. Indo-Pacific Command vice a particular military branch.
- The Joint Task Force was created by the Secretary of Defense, culling a lesson learned from investigations pertaining to the May and November 2021 fuel releases.
- JTF-RH does not belong to a specific service, rather it is a JOINT effort with representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines and Coast Guard.
- Although JTF-RH is partially comprised of Navy service members, it is separate from the Navy.

2. Rear Admiral Jeff Kilian, Commander, NAVFAC Pacific

NAVFAC (Navy Facilities Engineering Systems Command) Hawaii

Rear Admiral Jeff Kilian is the Commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Pacific, responsible for the delivery of facilities and environmental engineering and contracting services across the Indo-Pacific theater, with subordinate commands located in Washington, California, Hawaii, Guam, and Japan. NAVFAC Hawaii, one of NAVFAC Pacific's subordinate commands, supports Joint Task Force-Red Hill and Navy Region Hawaii through execution of environmental remediation, facility maintenance and repair contracts, and provision of other technical and environmental support as needed.

3. Rear Admiral Barnett, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

Navy Region Hawaii

Rear Admiral Barnett serves as the regional coordinator for all shore-based naval activities and serves as the Navy's representative to the Hawaii community. Maintaining infrastructure on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam is a key priority. He and his team coordinate closely with all other commands who work the Red Hill issue and also stay connected with the regulators, key stakeholders, and the community regarding Red Hill and other Navy issues and topics.

At Red Hill, he is in charge of the remediation and safe, expeditious closure of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Responsible for the remediation and closure of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage facility.

4. Dr. Jennifer Espiritu, Chief of Public Health, DHA INDO-PACIFIC

Defense Health Agency Region Indo-Pacific

Dr. Jennifer Espiritu is the Chief of Public Health Services for the Defense Health Agency Region Indo-Pacific. A CDC trained medical epidemiologist, she and her family live locally, and their children attend a Honolulu school. Dr. Espiritu works closely with the Hawaii Department of Health and the CDC to address medical concerns related to the Red Hill fuel spill. Responsible for Health Care inquiries.

Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Release Info Sheet

Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) AKA Fire Fighting Foam is a fire suppressant used to extinguish flammable liquid fires such as fuel fires. AFFF is used at the RHBFSF as part of the fire suppression system.

- Suppresses the flammable liquid vapor and suffocates the fire
- Specific product is Ansulite AFC-3MS 3% AFFF Concentrate
- Contains PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)
 - Water- soluble chemical compound
 - Very difficult to break down. Very strong bonds. Can douse high temperature fires.
 - Chemical quality causes it to stay in the environment for a long time and not break down easily.
 - PFAS content is measured by parts per billion (ppb) unit

Red Hill Facility AFFF Release

On Nov. 29, 2022, Joint Base Federal Firefighting units responded to a release of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) at Adit 6, near the top of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF). There was a concentrated, liquid Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) release from the Red Hill fire suppression system in the upper portion of the Red Hill complex (not in vicinity of the Red Hill Well). The release was contained.

- Preliminary reporting indicates approximately 1,100 to 1,300 gallons of AFFF occurred at Adit 6 (lower portion of Red Hill Facility). The Navy reported 1,100 gallons initially as that was based on information available at the time. Collaboration with the regulators and the investigation will determine the final amount.
- The AFFF leaked from an air valve after a pump pressurized a pipeline used to distribute the AFFF throughout the lower access tunnel
- Joint Task Force – Red Hill is investigating the AFFF release and will publish the results of the investigation after it is complete.
- The DOD took immediate action to clean up the spill in order to protect the Red Hill aquifer and surrounding area.
- Initial assessment is that the AFFF release is unlikely to affect the drinking water or the aquifer. The nearest well is the Red Hill shaft, approximately one mile away. The Red Hill shaft has been closed for the past year and is not supplying drinking water to the Navy water distribution system.
- The excavation and removal of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) contaminated soil at Adit Six was completed on Dec. 7. Sampling of the site was taken the same day.
- Approximately 3,000 cubic feet of soil was identified for removal from the site.

Dec. 9, 2022 Joint Task Force - Red Hill issued the following informational update

- On Thursday, Dec 8, representatives from the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency viewed footage of the AFFF release captured by a video camera outside Adit 6 of the facility. The footage is part of the Department of Defense investigation into the incident and will be publicly released when doing so will no longer affect the course of the investigation.
- The Navy continues to collect soil samples from the release site to test for PFAS. All samples are sent to an off-island U.S. EPA-certified lab for testing. The first results are expected next week.
- As part of the ongoing water monitoring, the Navy is collecting ground-water samples from nine monitoring wells in the vicinity of the AFFF release site, as well as groundwater samples from the Red Hill shaft, to monitor for AFFF constituents.
- Soil excavation in and around the spill release site is complete. In coordination with regulatory agencies a storm culvert that runs beneath the access road near the spill site is scheduled for removal.

The latest photos of the site remediation may be found at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/JointTaskForceRedHill>