

THE STRYKER BRIGADE: ARMY EXPANSION FACT SHEET

The Stryker is an experimental 20-ton armored combat vehicle that the Army wants to deploy at six locations including Hawai'i. **The Army wants to station 296 Strykers in Hawai'i.** Here are some impacts taken from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Stryker Brigade and other sources:

- The military controls around 200,000 acres of land in Hawai'i. The military already controls nearly 1/4 of the island of O'ahu.
- The Army wants to **acquire 25,663 acres of land**, an area nearly the size of the entire island of Kaho'olawe, including **23,000 acres at Pohakuloa** on Hawai'i island, and **1,400 acres at Honouliuli** on O'ahu. This would be a 12.8% increase in military land holdings, the biggest military expansion since World War II.
- The Army Stryker brigade would increase the **percentage of military-controlled land in Hawai'i from 10.8% to 11.4%**.
- Army expansion will have a **significant impact on Hawaiian cultural sites and practices.**
- **Live ammunition use would increase by 25%.** There will be an overall **significant increase in Unexploded Ordnance hazards.** Live-fire training would take place in Kahuku where no live fire was allowed in the past.
- Increased live fire training will **elevate the already alarming levels of toxic chemicals released**, such as:
 - **RDX**, an explosive compound, affects the **central nervous system and may cause cancer.**
 - **TNT**, an explosive compound, is a **carcinogen and also causes genetic mutations.**
 - **HMX**, an explosive compound, **damages the central nervous system and liver.**
 - **Nitroglycerine**, an explosive compound, affects the **blood and circulatory system.**
 - **Arsenic**, a poisonous metal and **Lead**, a poison that **affects the nervous system.**

Where do these hazardous chemicals go when the bombs explode? What are the health impacts of these contaminants in our community?



- The **military is the largest polluter in Hawai'i**, with over 1,000 military contamination sites and many that have not yet been identified. *What is the cumulative impact of all of this military contamination on the health, cultural survival and quality of life of our communities? How much total contamination and unexploded munitions have been released into our 'āina over the years?*
 - Army vehicle **miles in maneuver will increase 300% overall, and 700% on Hawai'i island.**
 - **Dust emissions would increase by 7 million pounds per year to a total of 13.4 million pounds per year.** How does this contribute to our disproportionately high levels of respiratory ailments such as asthma?
- **Fires will be a major threat** to endangered species, cultural sites and human health and safety. The Army relies on the same fire control plan that failed miserably in Mākua in July. *How will smoke and toxins released by wild fires affect the health of affected communities?*
- **Significant impacts on endangered species.** *In the long run, how many species will be lost or severely diminished due to increased training, fires and alien species introductions?*
- *Why does the DEIS not consider impacts of the C-17 cargo aircraft?*
- **THE PROCESS IS INVALID:** Opponents of the Stryker Brigade were excluded from participating in two of the Stryker EIS meetings, and meeting locations are not accessible. Army regulations on NEPA state in part 651 of title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix E, (a) "EISs will: ... (4) Serve as a means to assess environmental impacts of proposed military actions, rather than justifying decisions." However Senator Inouye's press release June 26, 2003 stated: "Senator Inouye has been assured that one of the six Stryker Brigades will be based in Hawaii, and Schofield Barracks will be building new facilities, adding personnel, and increasing its land area to accommodate this unit."

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