

Has Government Earned Our Trust

Third in a series

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by Michael Keehn

mhkeehn@gmail.com

Should Americans trust their government? That's the question isn't it? I think we would like to give our trust, but do we have sufficient cause?

The Gulf of Tonkin incident:

The "*Gulf of Tonkin*" incident was billed to the American people as Vietnamese gun boats attacking *innocent* American war ships on routine patrol. While there was one attack by North Vietnamese torpedo boats on August 2, 1964, there was no second attack. And it was the assertion of a second attack on U. S. War Ships that resulted in the passage of the 'Gulf of Tonkin' resolution, giving the president the authority to use American combat personnel in Vietnam.

In the first incident, rather than being on a routine patrol Aug. 2, as was told to the American people and congress, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actively engaged in aggressive intelligence gathering maneuvers which was being conducted in synchronization with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force. But these facts were neither presented to the American people or to Congress.

"The day before, two attacks on North Vietnam...had taken place," writes scholar Daniel C. Hallin. These assaults were "part of a campaign of increasing military pressure on the North that the United States had been pursuing since early 1964."

Although the first attack by Vietnamese torpedo boats was wholly justified since North Vietnam was under attack, the lies being set forth by president Johnson, that a second attack had occurred, led to the passage of the "*Gulf of Tonkin Resolution*," and the escalation of the Vietnam War. The whole *Gulf of Tonkin second attack* was a *fabrication*, a lie. A lie which led to the deaths of over 2-million Asians and 58,000 American's.

In America, when our actions result in the death of another, it is *negligent homicide* or *manslaughter* at best. I'm not certain what the charge might be when the actions of lying (a fraud upon congress and the American people) results in the deaths of over two-million human beings.

Moving on:

Do we remember the use of what is termed "Agent Orange" in southeast Asia. "Agent Orange," as it is called, is an herbicide (a vegetation killer). From 1961 to 1971, the U. S. sprayed over 21 million gallons in Vietnam, defoliating forests and a half-million acres of crops and farm land.

The problem is that dioxin, a substance in the "Agent Orange" chemical, is linked to at least thirteen classes of cancer and several specific birth defects. Research by Jeanne Stellman of Columbia University tells us that 4.8-million Vietnamese civilians were living in the areas sprayed.

This number does not count those civilians who traveled through these regions, or those that worked on military bases, U. S. soldiers, nor Vietnamese military.

Purchased from Dow Chemical, Monsanto, and Diamond Shamrock, dioxin herbicides were used by the Department of Defense along the DMZ [Demilitarized Zone] in Korea, and performed tests throughout the United States, Thailand, Puerto Rico, and Canada. “Agent Orange” is a chemical weapon of mass destruction, but thus far, our leadership is unwilling to acknowledge it as such, or even that many who wore this nations uniform are ill or dying, or have died because of it. A real lesson from our leadership, both in concern of the American people and on how to accept responsibility.

Depleted Uranium.

This radioactive material now used as artillery shells was used extensively in Iraq as well as other U. S. military actions. The mechanics is that the *depleted uranium penetrating shell* has exceptional penetration ability but becomes an aerosol when it strikes its target, a tank for example. The aerosol can enter the body through breathing, or through food ingestion.

Depleted uranium is radioactive and continues to emit *alpha particles* once inside the body. The destruction of cells and living tissue caused by alpha particle emission in a human body will damage DNA and/or induce mutation in cellular structure. Significant possibility exists that one depleted uranium particle will cause cancers and organ disorders.

According to pentagon officials, as much as 2,000 tons (4-million pounds) of depleted uranium was expended by coalition forces in March and April of 2003 in the attack on Iraq. Most of it deployed in major cities, like Bagdad. It is a horrendous environmental problem the people in this part of the world will have to deal with for thousands of years to come. This is not a weapon of localized destruction, it is a weapon of mass destruction, waiting for unborn generations. It waits to kill for thousands of years.

Since depleted uranium has a half life (half as radio active) of 4.5 billion years, there will be almost no change in the rate of alpha particle emission in 10,000 or even a 100,000 years. A billion is a thousand-millions. A million is a thousand-thousands. This means that once a depleted uranium particle enters a human body, the body will be exposed to its radiation as long as he (or she) lives, while the environment continues to be polluted forever.

This from a government who pretends to be concerned about the environment, mankind and freedom. How can this ever produce freedom? And the troops we send to these places will be exposed as well.

These actions are taken in our name, by our government. We entered Iraq under a lie... “*weapons of mass destruction*,” and we remain there killing the people who don’t want us in their country. And we American’s wonder why the people of this world don’t like us very much. Perhaps we need to take a hard look at who is really engaged in terrorism. ***Terrorism*** is easy to avoid... stop participating in it.