

Alliance for Bases Clean Up and Community Response

In 1994, the People's Task Force for Bases Clean-up (PTFBC) and in 2000 became the Alliance for Bases Clean Up (ABC)

In 2000, Crizel Jane Valencia, six years old at that time, was stricken and died of leukemia tied to the mercury and nitrate contaminants from the ground-water at the CABCOM military facility. She became the symbol and rallying cry of many seeking for fairness and justice.



In 2002, ABC advocated for Princess Caroline of Monaco to visit the Philippines and she talked about justice for the children affected by toxic wastes.

In 2005, ABC and its partners presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights

In 2011, ABC and the Bayanihan Foundation highlighted a new video of victims of UXO in Clark and Subic, bringing to the forefront the need for fairness and justice on this issue.

What's Next? How Can You Help?

Twenty years later, the Philippine case is still far from being resolved. The US continues to deny responsibility because the US-Philippines military bases agreement that it signed in 1947 lacked any provisions on environmental protection. However, denial of its responsibility also ignores the US' core values of fairness and justice. The Bayanihan Foundation, the Alliance for Bases Clean Up (ABC) and others will conduct an education and outreach campaign and will appeal to Filipino Americans and to all for fairness and justice on this important almost forgotten issue.

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Keeping informed about this important issue. Sign up for our newsletter, Facebook updates and periodic conference calls
- Sharing this information to your friends and family
- Contacting your US Representative about the need for fairness and justice on this important issue
- Supporting toxic waste victims as they struggle to survive and heal by using BodyTalk Access
- Donating to the Bayanihan Foundation and increase their capacity to reach out to more people in this public awareness campaign www.fdnbayanihan.org



Filipinos Abroad Helping Filipinos At Home

Bayanihan Foundation Worldwide

www.fdnbayanihan.org

2020 N. California Ave Suite 7 Box 147

Chicago, IL 60647

Tel (773) 273-9793

Myrla Baldonado, Organizing Director
myrla@fdnbayanihan.org or 858-382-4580

Donate securely online at www.fdnbayanihan.org

Bayanihan Foundation Worldwide is a registered US 501(c) 3 public charity.

SEEKING FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE: Toxic Wastes Left Behind at the former US Military Installations in Clark and Subic, Philippines

The United States acknowledged that both its former military installations in the Philippines, Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Facility, have significant environmental damage and if the US unilaterally decides to clean up these bases in accordance with US standards, the costs for environmental clean up and restoration could approach Superfund proportions (U.S. General Accounting Office Report, January 1992).

Brief Timeline

In 1902, the end of the Philippine-American War; established Philippines as a colony

In 1904, the US established a naval facility in Subic Bay, the center of the US Seventh Fleet

In 1945, the US also established Clark Air Base, the second largest base in the US Air Force

In 1945, the United States gave the Philippines its independence

In 1947, the United States and the Philippines jointly signed the US-Philippine military bases agreement that gave the US a 99-year rent-free contract in the Philippines

In the 1950s, with the Cold War, found urgency to extend military presence in Asia

From the 1960s to the 1990s, the US depended heavily on both bases, Clark and Subic, for military operations: from the Korean War, to the Vietnam War, to Persian Gulf War

In June 12, 1991, Mt. Pinatubo erupted and forced the evacuation of Clark Air Force Base

In September 16, 1991, the Philippine Senate refused to extend the bases agreement

In 1991, displaced residents from Mt. Pinatubo's eruption were temporary resettled at the CABCOM military area of Clark Air Base. Many complained of the contaminated drinking water; pregnant women suffered miscarriages; and children were born with disabilities

In November 24, 1992, US troops shipped out leaving behind tainted facilities and neglected toxic waste victims

In 1992, the Philippine government redeveloped the areas into "special economic zones"

In 1993, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed the findings of the US General Accounting Office (GAO) that certain areas were affected with considerable pollution.

"Nowhere in the US are we able to use our military bases with less restrictions that we do in the Philippines," a US commanding officer said (Institute for Policy Studies, 1999, page 39).

US Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr. (retired), outspoken expert and witness to the toxic wastes left behind by the US military installations in Clark and Subic, Philippines.



Health Cost of US Military Presence in the Philippines: Evidence of Environmental Hazards and Toxic Wastes Left Behind

Seepage from underground storage tanks both Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Navy Facility
Lack of sanitary sewer system at the Subic Bay Navy Facility

Lead and other heavy metals from the ship repair facility's sandblasting site directly drained into the bay or are buried in a landfill

Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) The Subic Bay Navy Facility's power plant contains unknown amounts of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) but no official testing has been performed

Aviation fuel Thousands of gallons of highly corrosive aviation fuel were left behind in a decrepit 42-mile underground pipeline connecting Subic and Clark

Runoff and migration of contaminants beyond area of contamination source; absorbed on soil particles; and bio-concentrated by animal or plant life and move up the food chain

Unexploded ordnance UXO was left behind in firing ranges in Subic and Clark and scarred hundreds of innocent victims. See testimonies of 21 victims of UXO (www.fdnbayanihan.org)



Villager from Kinabukasan Village, Subic Bay holds unexploded ordnance (July 2011)

Filipino Workers and Residents Affected

- **Ed Pugay**, a former worker at the ship repair facility, said that base officials never told him of the dangers of asbestos and heavy metal wastes that he inhaled while cleaning Navy ships.
- **Edgar Magalang** said workers soaked their gloved hands in polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated fuel and they did not use respirators.
- **Salvador de Ocampo** thought he was doing a harmless job taking in samples from electric transformers; they gave him gloves and a mask for protection. He was never told that he would be handling PCBs. Afterwards he was suffering from headaches and nausea.
- **Anding Velonza** was severely burned in the face and body when a UXO exploded. Anding survived but his eight-year old brother, Dante died in a separate UXO explosion incident.
- **Abraham Taruc** was one of the children born with disabilities; his family lived in the CABCOM military area of Clark Air Base. He could not walk, talk or eat solid foods.



In 2000, Crizel Jane Valencia died of leukemia at the age of six years old, becoming the rallying cry and symbol of the toxic wastes left behind

Other Social Costs of the US Military Presence in the Philippines

The US military service personnel fathered 50,000 Amerasian children whose mothers are Filipinos; only less than 25% were acknowledged by their American fathers. Amerasian children, especially those with African-American fathers, unfairly suffer prejudice and discrimination due to their physical appearance and their mother's low social status perceived as prostitutes. They also do not have legal standing in the US; their births would not have been registered in the US.

Multiple Scientific Reports

- In 1994, a report identified 14 known contaminated sites at Subic Bay with significant potential risks to human health (Bloom, others).
- In 1997, a participatory health survey revealed that a high proportion of growth retardation and respiratory problems were present among women and children (Bertell, 1997, others).
- In 1997, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) conducted an environmental baseline survey of Subic Bay and did not find widespread contamination (Woodward Clyde, others).
- In 1998, the reliability of the Woodward Clyde report was put to the test as Clearwater Revival Company (CRC), reversed its conclusions (Clearwater Revival, others).
- In 1998, the Clark Development Corporation (CDC) hired Weston International to undertake another soil and water baseline study, confirming 22 contaminated sites but maintained that the contamination was localized, identified and secure (Mercado, others).
- In 1999, a report of 1,000 former base workers had been diagnosed with asbestosis, a form of lung cancer contracted from exposure to asbestos (Institute for Policy Studies, 1999).

Overwhelming evidence point towards the continued presence of toxic wastes in the former military sites of Clark and Subic as the victims seek fairness and justice over this neglected issue.

Complete bibliography at www.fdnbayanihan.org

US Denial of Responsibility

In the midst of all the scientific reports, the US continues to unfairly deny its responsibility of toxic wastes in their former military installations. US government officials do not deny the existence of toxic wastes in Clark and Subic. They deny responsibility based on the military bases agreement that it does not impose any well-defined environmental responsibility upon the US to clean up after the withdrawal and that both US and Philippine governments have agreements that included "hold-harmless" clauses that hold the US harmless (U.S. General Accounting Office Report January 1992). But beyond the legal standpoint and international laws, toxic waste victims want to appeal to fairness and justice to US policymakers and that the US should honor its responsibility to clean up the toxic wastes they left behind.