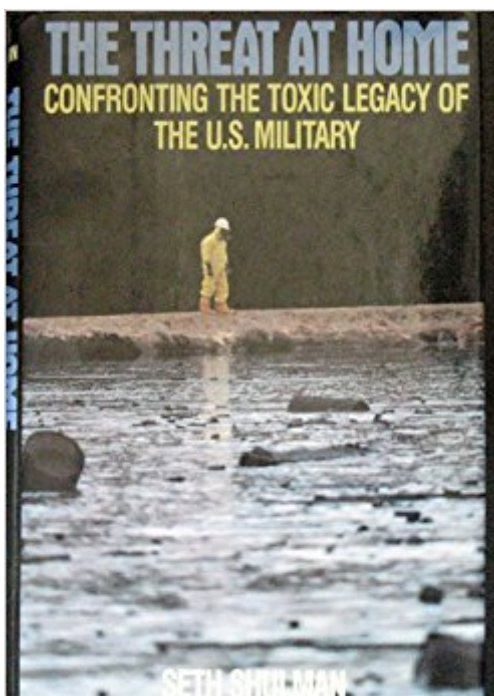


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The Threat At Home: Confronting The Toxic Legacy Of The U.S. Military



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Customer Reviews

In southeast Indiana, the 100 square miles of farmland known as the Jefferson Proving Ground (scheduled to close) contains more than one million unexploded bombs, mines and artillery shells, some buried 30 feet deep. In Hanford, Wash., the cleanup of radioactive wastes that have seeped into the ground is estimated to take 30 years and cost \$57 billion. Using the Freedom of Information Act, freelance journalist Shulman documents what may be the country's most serious environmental threat: toxic contamination at virtually every one of the 1855 military installations. Shulman charges that the defense department has for years included toxic material in mixed lots of surplus goods sold to the public and that managers have withheld information about pollution. He notes that the Pentagon insists on running the cleanup program, resisting outside regulation and hiring the same contractors that helped create the problems. Costs of cleanup are staggering, and in such cases as chemical weapons, the technology in doubt. Shulman describes citizen efforts for action and offers information on agencies to contact. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is an important work of investigative journalism that documents the damage to the environment inflicted by the U.S. military over the four decades of the Cold War. Shulman devotes a chapter each to some 15 different highly contaminated sites around the country. In each case, Shulman describes the nature and degree of the damage and analyzes how the Pentagon and other federal agencies have effectively written off tens of thousands of sites as "national sacrifice

zones" that will pose a threat to human health and our air, soil, water, and wildlife for generations. This is both a telling expose and an eminently practical guide to citizens interested in demanding that their neighborhoods be cleaned up. The appendixes hold a wealth of information on strategies for action, pertinent law, and suspected contamination sites.- Jennifer Scarlott, Campaign for Peace and Democracy, New York Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is an outstanding book that goes into great detail about the unseen and unknown hazards that affect a large segment of the American population. It should be mandatory reading in US schools.

I had no inkling of what was going on with the military and its contribution to environmental pollution in the United States until I read this book. Each chapter is well written and well researched. I was engrossed in the reading and could not stop until I read it to the finish. I found out how the Navy at the Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Center in N.J. had estimated in 1981 that "workers had dumped into the ground more than 3 million gallons of cancer-causing aviation fuel and other toxic substances, endangering the Cohansey aquifer.." I found out that Aberdeen Proving Ground (north of Baltimore) is included twice on the Superfund list and that they have toxic sites that are close to impossible to clean up. There are several other contaminated sites, like Hanford, Washington where at least "750,000 gallons of deadly, high-level radioactive waste are believed to have leaked from Hanford's underground storage tank farm over the past few decades." And so on. The horrifying truth is unfolded before our eyes as we see what is being done in our back yards in the name of "national security." Shulman also has a chapter that lists suspected contamination sites by type - from arsenals and ammunition Plants, to Depots, Proving Grounds, and Naval Bases and Shipyards. The redeeming factor comes later in the book when we read that the military has begun to be involved in environmental clean up. But they still have a long way to go. Kudos to Shulman for a very involved book that should be in everybody's library. I recommend this book highly!

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