



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES**

25 March 2015

Team Kadena,

A new interim report was released on 23 March by the Okinawa Defense Bureau (ODB) concerning their excavation of the Okinawa City soccer field between the Okinawa Expressway and Prefectural Highway 23. This letter is part of our effort to keep our Kadena community well informed. There is no change to our original health risk assessment.

In Monday's interim report, ODB stated 17 barrels were found between 6-19 February. The contamination, which ODB said exceeded Japan's standards for waste disposal in some barrels, are common industrial solvents used typically for degreasing and dry cleaning operations.

ODB has unearthed and taken samples from the newly found barrels. ODB also collected the water from inside and around the barrels to prevent the possibility of further contamination of surrounding soil. Kadena health and environmental experts are in continued coordination with ODB and the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) to discuss these results and ensure mutual understanding of each report. Kadena, ODB and OPG experts continue to agree there is no health risk unless the contaminated soil, found about 8 feet below ground, is ingested. The contamination is not in the top soil or ground water and is not migrating.

Our bioenvironmental engineering experts have been collecting air samples during the excavation and the samples have shown no migration of substances from the soccer field excavation site through the air. OPG continues to monitor storm water discharge from the excavation site; no samples have detected the industrial solvents in the discharge water.

Kadena's drinking water is drawn from commercial sources unrelated to the site and is tested monthly for chlorine, pH, and bacteriologicals throughout the distribution system and quarterly for inorganic chemicals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethane, and haloacetic acid to ensure the integrity and quality of the drinking water. The reports have been compliant with Japanese and American standards. We continue to regularly monitor the drinking water and post the annual Kadena Air Base Consumer Confidence Report on the base webpage.

We remain engaged with the responsible host nation organizations conducting this investigation. We will continue to monitor the environment for hazards on Kadena during future excavation phases and will take appropriate measures as soon as we become aware of any impacts to the health or safety of Team Kadena.

For detailed information on sample results, please visit our reading room on the Kadena webpage at: <http://www.kadena.af.mil/library/okinawacitysoccerfieldexcavation.asp>.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tamala L. Gulley".

TAMALA L. GULLEY, Maj, USAF, BSC
Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight Commander