

## 400,000 depleted uranium bullets stored at U.S. Kadena base in Okinawa in 2001

Nearly 400,000 depleted uranium bullets were stored at a U.S. base in Okinawa Prefecture in 2001, according to documents that U.S. forces disclosed under the country's Freedom of Information Act.

It is equal to half the number of such rounds that the United States used during the Gulf War in 1991.

The U.S. Air Force Kadena base admitted in May 2000 that it stored depleted uranium bullets at its ammunition depot, but this is the first time that a figure has been released.

In an interview with the Mainichi, a spokesman for Kadena base refused to disclose the specific number of depleted uranium bullets it currently owns or the location where they are stored.

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The documents that a U.S. peace activist received from U.S. forces show that 398,768 depleted uranium bullets of five different types were stored at Kadena base in 2001. They also show that a total of 2.74 million rounds were kept at three U.S. bases in South Korea.

A South Korean peace activist, who analyzed the documents, is scheduled to deliver a speech on the issue during an international conference to consider a ban on depleted uranium ammunition that will be held in Hiroshima from Thursday to Sunday. (Mainichi)

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