

Civilian Victims of Cluster Bombs

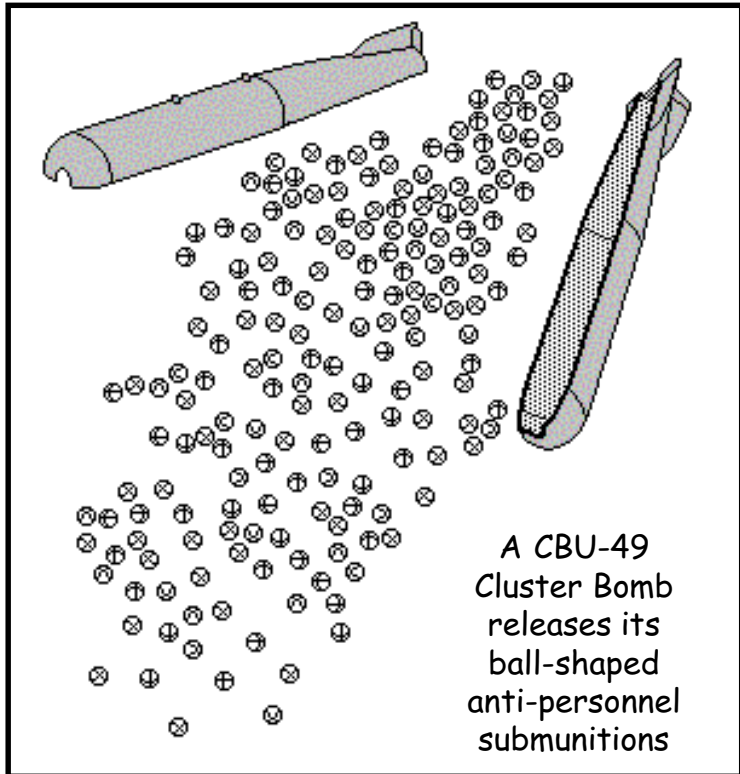
“It looked like the ball boys and girls toss to each other during Hmong New Year festivities. [Six-year-old] Sia Ya threw it to her [4-year-old] brother. He couldn't catch it and it landed behind him, exploding and killing him instantly. Sia Ya died after two agonizing days and nights in the provincial hospital.”

Account of Laotian cluster bomblet accident in 1993

“March 19, 1991: The first civilian cluster bomb victim [in Iraq] died today. It was a child. These insidious bombs were sprinkled all over the desert. Despite numerous warnings to the contrary, people could not leave them alone. They seemed to be drawn to them, almost mystically.

The devastation they caused on explosion was unbelievable. Shrapnel flew everywhere. Limbs were severed by the force of detonation. Massive abdominal bleeding and pulmonary pressure wounds occurred.”

MASH unit account of cluster bomb victims in Iraq.



“Toy-size bombs designed to kill tanks and soldiers appear as white lawn darts, green baseballs, orange-striped soda cans -- and have proved deadly to children.... ‘When you see a 5-year-old boy come to the hospital without any limbs,’ asked Kuwait City surgeon Dr. Mohammad Khaled, ‘how can you forget the sight?’”

Fort Worth Star Telegram, January 12, 1992.



“Ton Kemla is only 15, but his fate is settled. He will never have children of his own. While tilling the family rice paddy behind a water buffalo [in May 1996], his plow hit a long-hidden cluster bomblet that exploded and ripped apart his genitals.”

Account of Laotian cluster bomblet accident in 1996

“Saturation of unexploded submunitions has become a characteristic of the modern battlefield.”

U.S. Military Procedures Report

Source: “Drop Today, Kill Tomorrow: Cluster Munitions as Inhumane and Indiscriminate Weapons,” Mennonite Central Committee. <www.mcc.org/clusterbomb/drop_today/index.html>

US Budget for Cluster Bombs

Between 1997 and 2001, the US budget for cluster bombs was US\$5.28 billion.

Source: Procurement Programs (P-1), Department of Defense Budget for Fiscal Years 2000/2001 RDT&E (Research, Design, Test and Evaluation) Programs (R-1) Department of Defense Budget Department for Fiscal Years 2000-2001.

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