

State of the Pacific



A look at the environment in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

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TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- **Overview of environmental conditions in the Pacific**
- **Accomplishments since last year's conference**
- **Focus for the future**

EPA REGION 9



BASIC, SEVERE PROBLEMS

- **Clean water is a challenge,
and a top priority**



- photo from Guam PDN

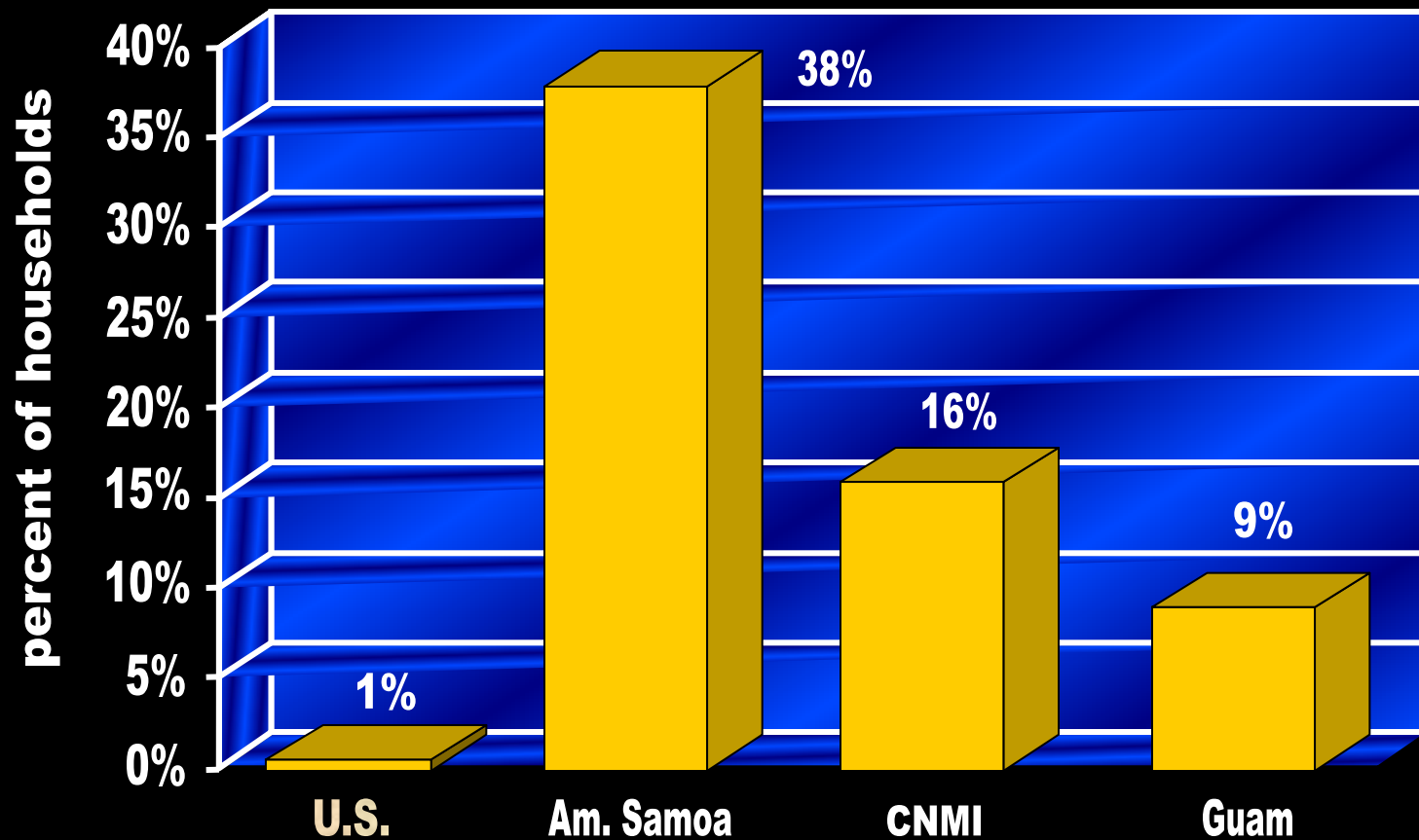
Broken drinking water pipe covered in raw sewage

DRINKING WATER IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

- **Water rationing; unsafe or unpalatable water common indoor plumbing**
- **Saipan is the only municipality in the U.S. without 24-hour water**
- **Gap between current funding and need is huge and growing**
- **High potential for waterborne disease outbreak**



COMMUNITIES LACKING COMPLETE PLUMBING FACILITIES



SAIPAN'S DRINKING WATER CHALLENGES

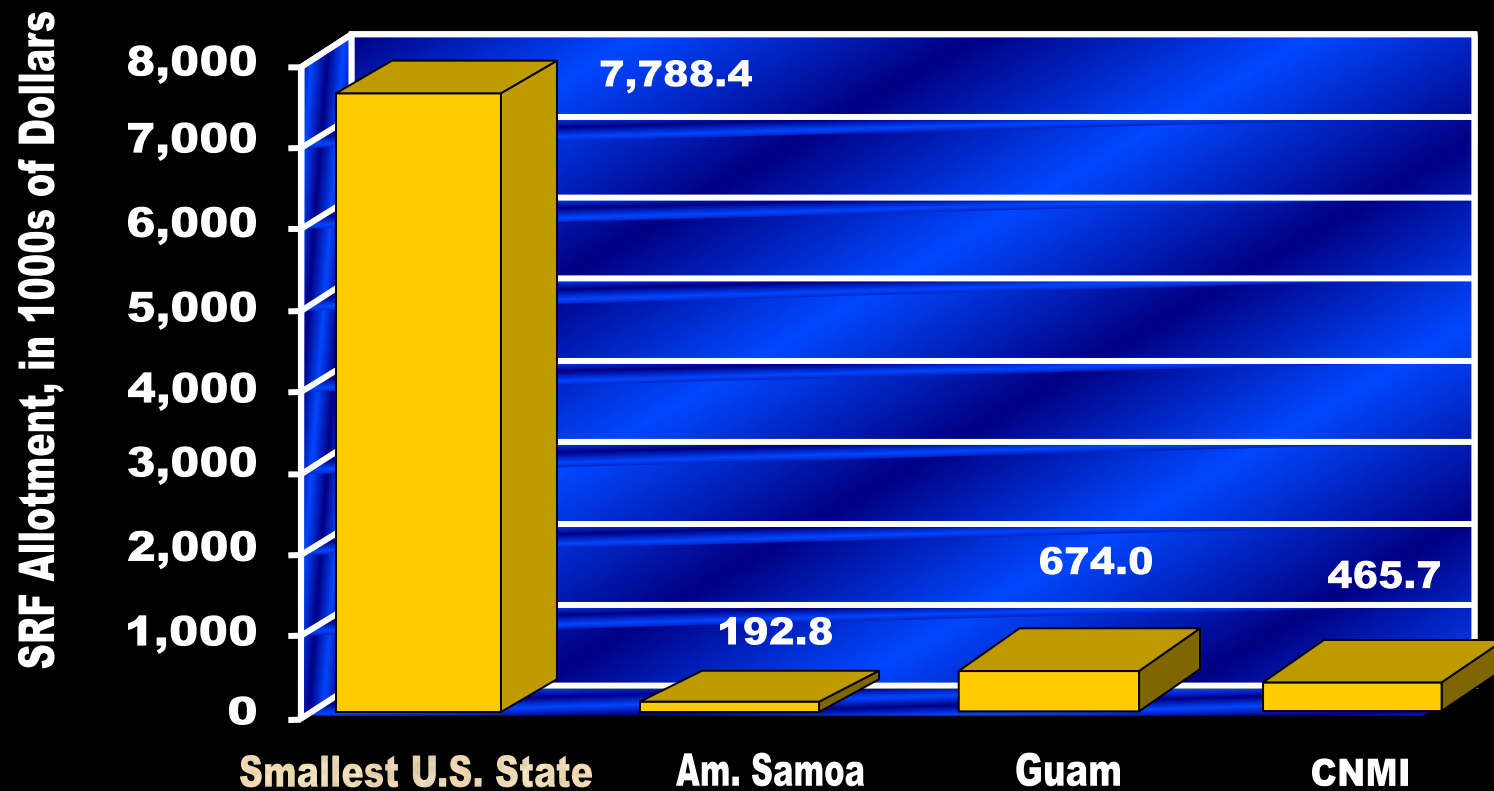
- Residents cannot drink the water; too salty
- 45% of residents don't have access to running water 24/7
- Cost to fix - \$90 million



EPA INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

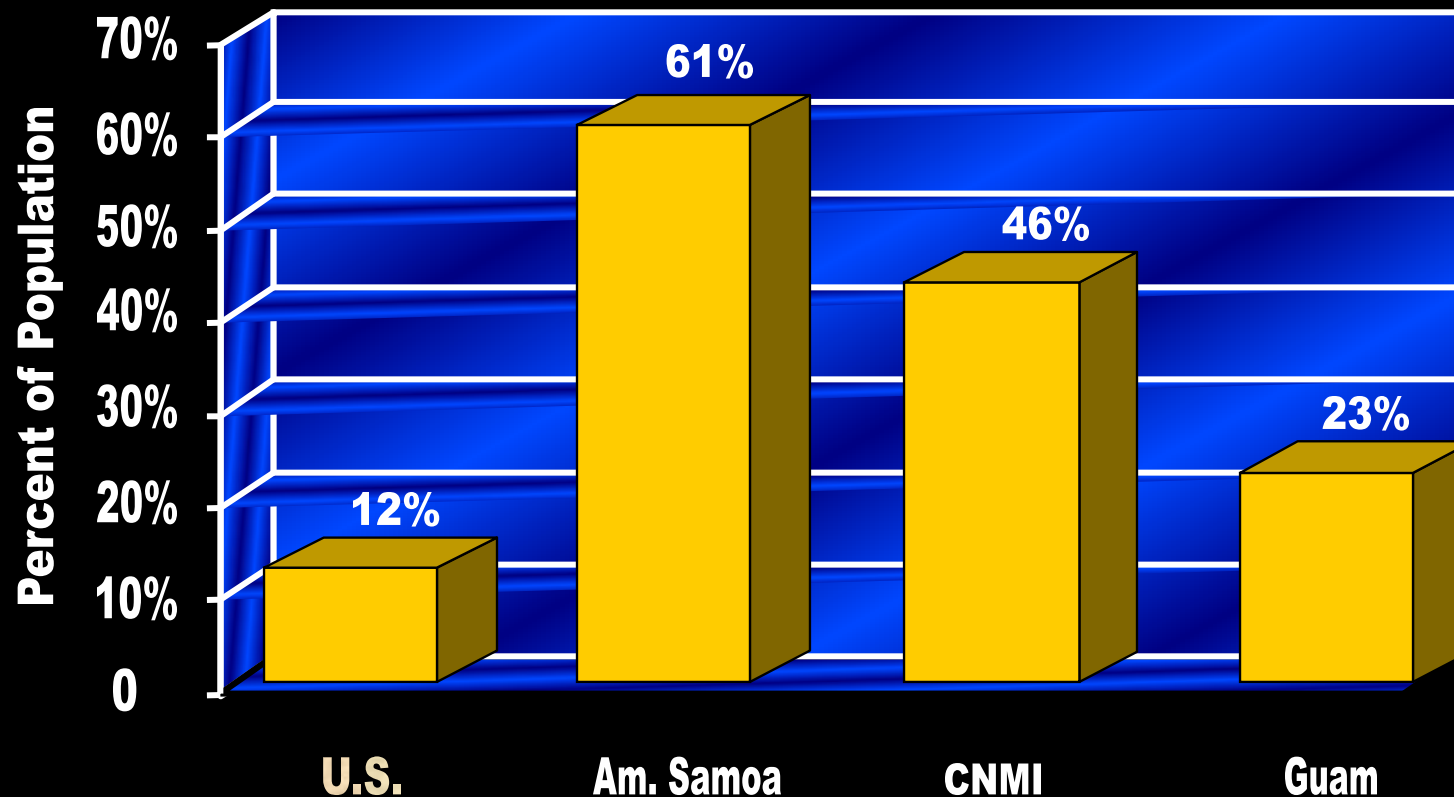
- Funds disproportionately low for smaller islands

Drinking water SRF allotments, FY'01



ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TERRITORIES LAG US

Populations living below the poverty line



SOLID WASTE PROBLEMS

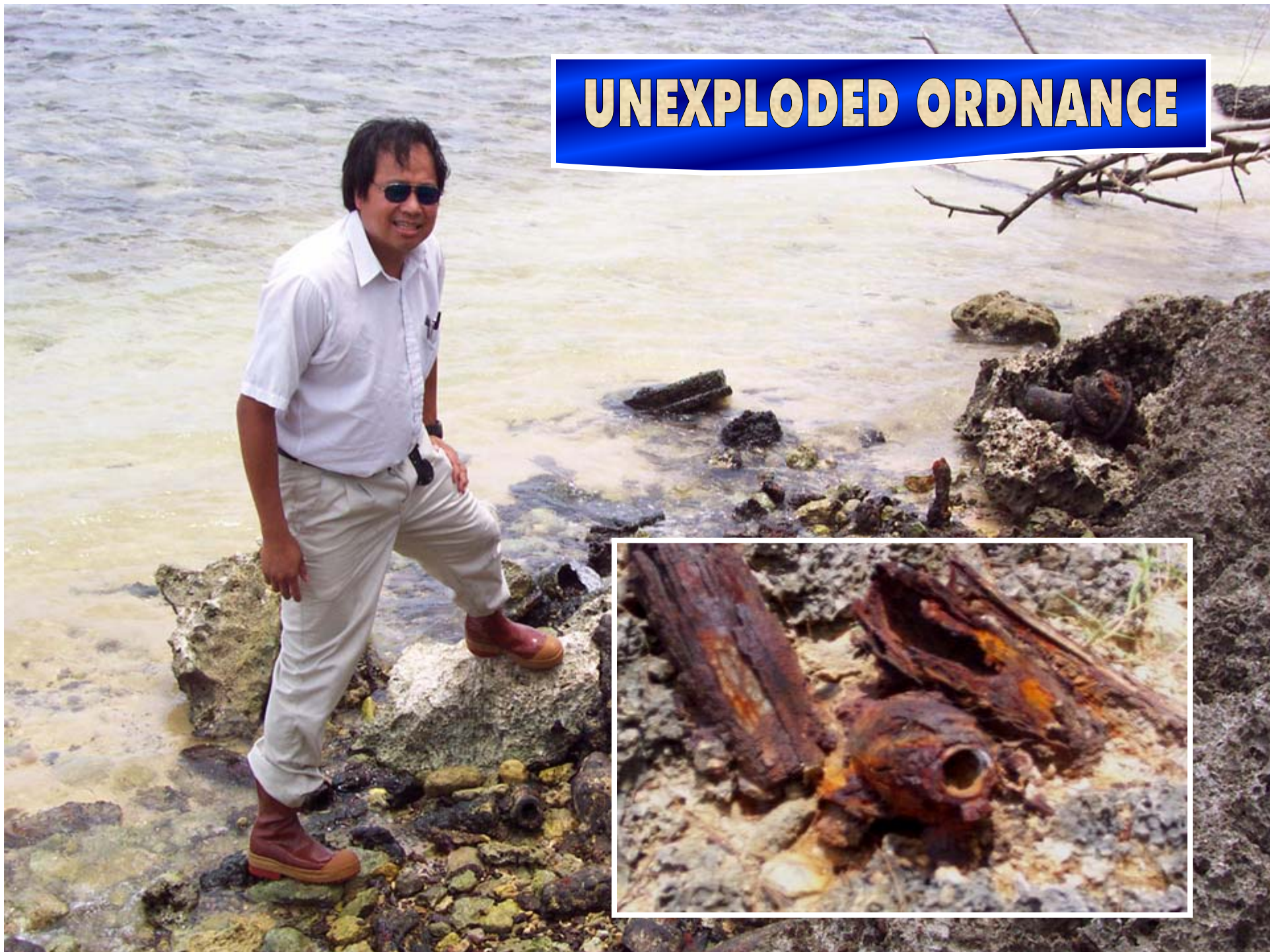
*Background: Ordot dump
fire on Guam*



INADEQUATE RECYCLING



UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE



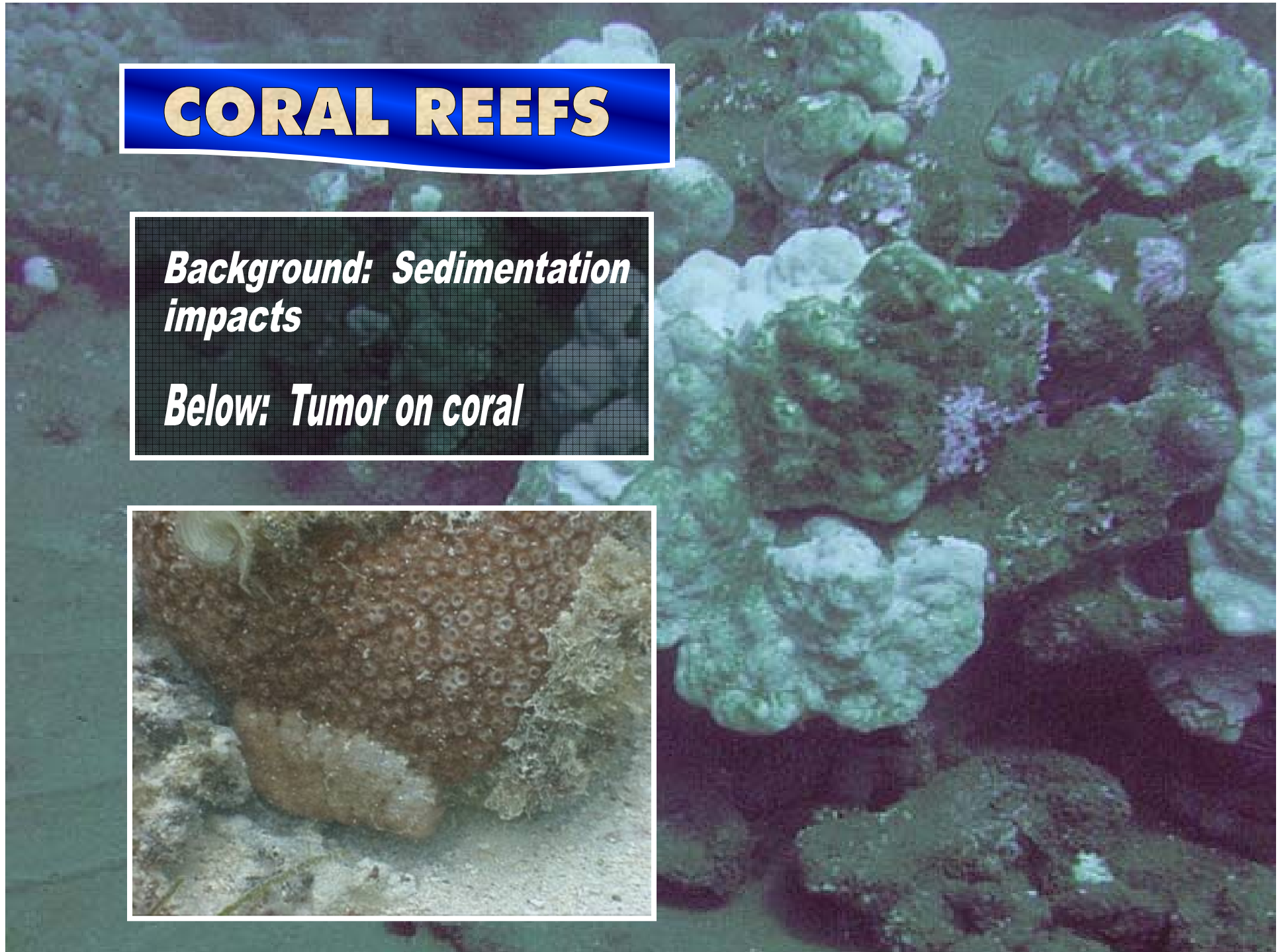
ILLEGAL DUMPING



CORAL REEFS

Background: Sedimentation impacts

Below: Tumor on coral



EPA's STRATEGIC GOALS IN THE PACIFIC

- **To protect health and the environment in the U.S. Pacific Islands and freely associated states**
- **To work in partnership with local governments to build their environmental protection capacity**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR

AMERICAN SAMOA

- Coastal NPS Program Approval
- Work with CDC to better identify Leptospirosis
- ASPA initiative to manage SW better: Glass crusher, can crusher



ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR

CNMI

- Implementing new ISWM plan
 - Marpi Landfill
 - MRF
- Water Task Force
 - Goal: "24/24"
- Coastal NPS Program approval
- Tanapag PCB site restored



ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR



Guam

- **Solid Waste**
 - Program toward new LF
 - Court approved plan in Feb.
 - New legislation to reduce waste
- **Water: Lots of progress**
 - GM Selected
 - CFO
 - Engineering improvements
 - Overall direction

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

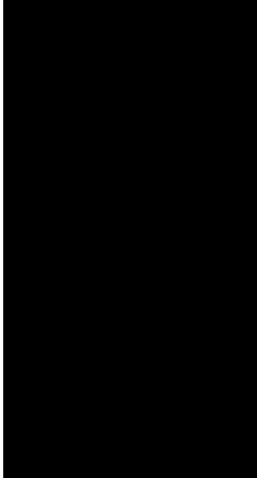
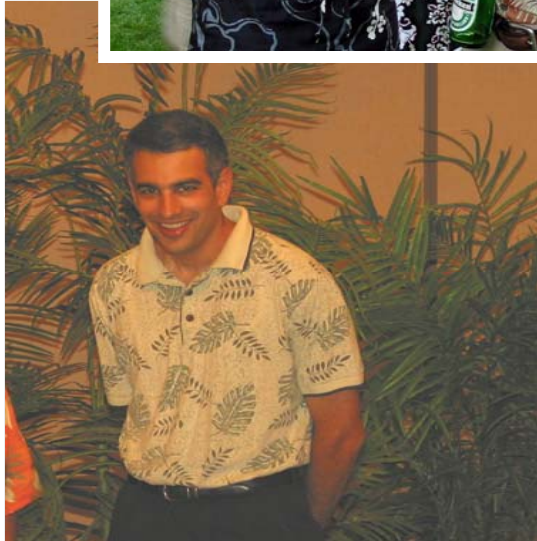
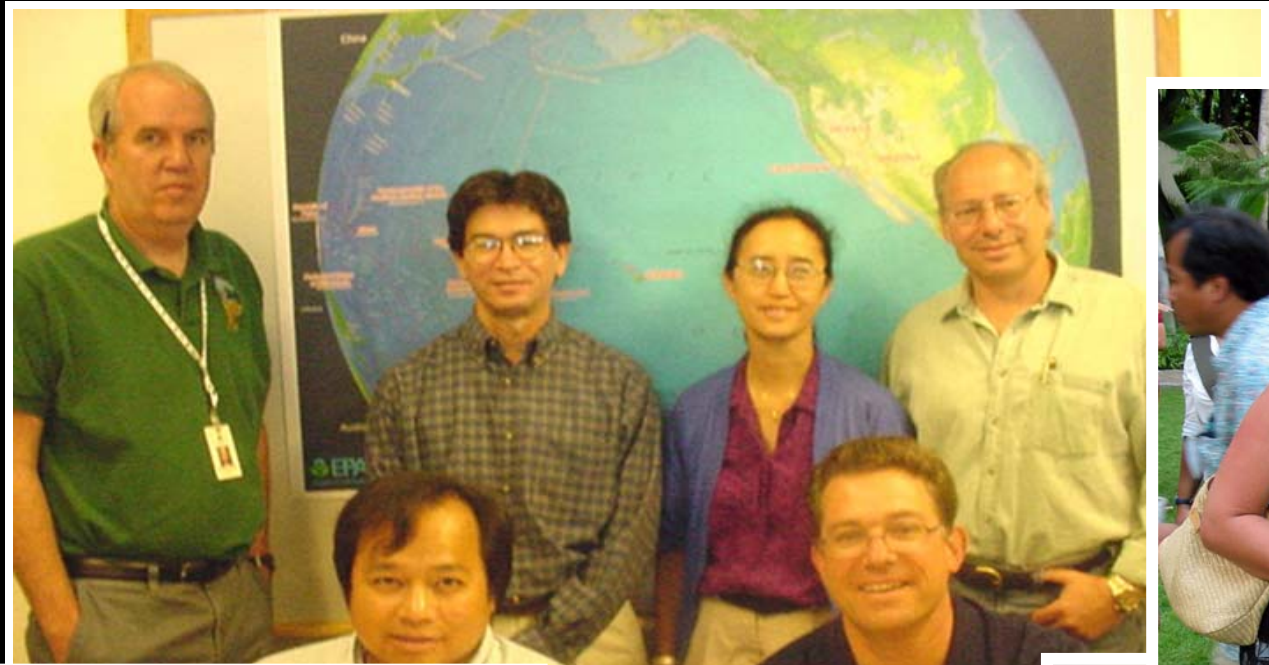
- **IGIA - Better interagency coordination**
- **Infrastructure Financing- workgroup to look at better ways**
- **Regional Recycling- seeds sown**
 - **APIL resolution**
- **Coral Reefs**
 - **Task Force Meeting in Saipan and Guam**
 - **Local Action strategies**
- **Capacity Building**
 - **New IPA's**
 - **Leadership training**

UPCOMING AREAS OF FOCUS

- Increase number of people with potable water
- Infrastructure Financing
- Coastal Zone & Coral Reef protection
- Regional recycling
- Better technical assistance in freely associated states
- Be more effective



EPA's PACIFIC ISLANDS OFFICE



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

● Where the job gets done

CNMI



GUAM



AMERICAN SAMOA



ULTIMATE GOAL

- Healthy environment for future generations



In Memoriam: Togipa Tausaga

