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**Fairchild Provider
C-123K/UC-123K
1972 - 1982**

C-123K = Agent Orange Poison!

**AGENT
ORANGE**

WWW.C123KCANCER.BLOGSPOT.COM June-July 2011

Seems like the Air Force didn't get around to notifying the aircrews and maintainers assigned to the C-123K at Westover and other Reserve bases that our aircraft were contaminated with **Agent Orange** residue left over from their last Ranch Hand spray missions during the Vietnam War!

There is **no** indication anything was known about the contamination during the years we flew the aircraft (1972-1982), but beginning in 1993 tests done on *Patches* (Tail 362) at the Air Force Museum established that the C-123s were "**heavily contaminated**" with every test sample proving positive for the poison dioxin.

Many more tests confirmed the toxicity of the airplanes. To solve the contamination, the Air Force finally had to shred all C-123Ks, melting them into scrap ingots! The Air Force decided to keep the information "in official channels" and **not** tell us! The full list of Agent Orange illnesses is at our blog:
www.c123kcancer.blogspot.com

Your Ad Hoc C-123K Agent Orange Committee (leaders invited)

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If you maintained or flew the "The Pig", aka Provider between 1972 and 1982, there is a strong chance you have been exposed to dioxin, the poisonous part of **Agent Orange**. The C-123K was modified into the UC-123K to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam, then the spray gear removed before we got the airplanes. But Agent Orange itself wasn't removed...it couldn't be because it had soaked into the paint, into the very metal of the airplane! No cleaning was ever going to remove the dioxin, the most carcinogenic poison ever known. And we were intensely exposed to that poison for a **full decade** flying the C-123K!

What now? First, we need to get the word out to all our aircrews, all the maintenance guys, aerial port, the ACMs, all the aeromedical evacuation folks that they may have been exposed. Next, everyone involved needs to call the VA Agent Orange Registry Hotline (1-800-749-8387)



and the operator can go over all the Agent Orange illnesses with you. Double-check your PSA numbers—**don't ignore them ever again!** Read the list of Agent Orange illnesses to see if you have any to be concerned about. The VA will arrange a physical if you wish, looking for any special problems. If you have one of the fourteen Agent Orange-presumptive illnesses, you can file a claim with the VA for service connection. If approved, this means treatment, and perhaps a disability pension and other benefits. Even if you are retired military, there are VA tax savings, state benefits, insurance, care such as hearing aids not provided by Tricare. Visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange>. Write Congress for pressure on the VA! Take care of yourselves!

We face a problem with the VA. They'll recognize illnesses caused by Agent Orange only for veterans who've had "boots on the ground" in Vietnam, which isn't our situation. They do have rules which allow veterans who can prove their exposure to Agent Orange and who have Agent Orange-type illness to be covered, but the VA prefers to deny claims for all non-Vietnam veterans **regardless** of exposure proofs. In our case, we have an unusual situation in that our C-123s have multiple Air Force tests certifying the aircraft as "**heavily contaminated**," "**extremely dangerous**," "**extremely hazardous**" and "**extremely contaminated**." Pretty hard for the VA to fight the Air Force's own tests! We also have had wonderful nation-wide newspaper stories about us, with more to come. We even have a university study saying that the Air Force tests themselves prove that the aircrews and maintenance people were "**most likely**" to have been exposed to dioxin. And we have leadership from the Vietnam Veterans of America and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs!