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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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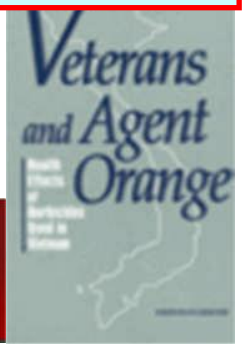
Authorizing Organizations:

Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides

Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE



This is from page 39 of the Official Government Book "Veterans and Agent Orange" 1994 Edition

Environmental Exposures

Domestic Use of Herbicides

Guam is Part of the United States

Spraying of herbicides in the United States has been a practice of farmers, foresters, railroads, utility companies, and certain government agencies, for many years. Farmers used 2,4,5-T to kill broadleaf plants in pasturelands. Foresters, including the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies having jurisdiction over national lands, forests, and parks, have used herbicides to keep down brush and undergrowth and to eliminate unwanted hardwoods in pine forests. Other reasons for using 2,4,5-T were to limit the growth of weeds along railroad tracks, next to power lines, and along highways.

In April 1970, the U.S. Surgeon General reported that the use of 2,4,5-T could be hazardous to human health (Lilienfeld and Gallo, 1989). This prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to suspend the use of 2,4,5-T around homes, recreation areas, lakes, and ponds, and it canceled registration for the domestic use of 2,4,5-T, except for pastures and range lands (Gough, 1986; Lilienfeld and Gallo, 1989). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally banned the use of 2,4,5-T in the United States on February 28, 1979. The two major environmental events leading up to the domestic ban of 2,4,5-T were (1) the dioxin contamination of several sites in Missouri and (2) public concern about possible health effects of the spraying of herbicides in forests around Alsea, Oregon (Dux and Young, 1980).