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## **U.S. military tested Agent Orange in Panama, accounts say.**

PANAMA CITY \_ The United States military conducted secret tests of Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides in Panama during the 1960s and '70s, potentially exposing many civilians and military personnel to lethal chemicals, according to documents and eyewitness accounts.

According to these accounts, which the U.S. military says remain unproven, hundreds of barrels of Agent Orange were shipped to Panama at the height of the Vietnam War, then sprayed on jungle areas in an effort to simulate the tropical battlefield conditions of Southeast Asia.

The Panamanian government has, for years, attempted to obtain proof from the United States that it used lethal chemical weapons and herbicides in the country, in an effort to obtain compensation for cleanup costs as well as possible damages.

Panama already is seeking as much as \$500 million from the U.S. military in damages and cleanup costs related to thousands of acres of rangeland used for weapons and ammunition tests since World War II. Officials in Panama say the addition of claims for Agent Orange-related exposure could cause liability claims against the U.S. government to skyrocket.

The U.S. military will complete a scheduled withdrawal from Panama on Dec. 31 as required under the 1979 Panama Canal treaties. The U.S. Southern Command, the operational authority in Panama, said it was not aware of any tests involving Agent Orange in that country.

``Our bottom line on our side is that we have no knowledge that it happened. We have no evidence that ...

[SOURCE](#)