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# Herbicide Agent Orange and Toxic Chemical use at Korat RTAFB and other Thailand Bases 1967-1972

The Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledges that herbicides, including Agent Orange, were used at several Thailand bases, including Korat RTAFB, in the 1961 to 1975 time frame. Unlike those assigned to Vietnam, the VA does not give presumption of exposure to those assigned to Thai bases. HOWEVER veterans who can show on a factual basis that they were assigned to a work area, physical fitness, or their living area was near the perimeter are also eligible for benefits. AFFECTED AREA AT KORAT RTAFB, per U.S. Army manual 3-3, dated 1971, ground sprayed herbicides, including Agent Orange, may drift up to 500 meters from the spray equipment. While the VA does NOT give presumption of exposure to those assigned to Thai bases, several claims have been approved on an individual basis to those who worked and lived near the perimeter.

Here is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) statement about Thailand Military Bases and Agent Orange Exposure. This VA page includes USAF and Army veterans assigned to Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base. I recommend every veteran who believes he or she may have health issues related to herbicide/Agent Orange exposure while assigned to Korat RTAFB, or another Thai base, review the information on this VA page. VA officers tell me the decision NOT to allow presumption of herbicide exposure to Thai based veterans comes from Congress. Added 10/07/10, updated 04/21/14.

For additional information about herbicide usage from the VA site view the official VA blog on the 10 things every veteran should know about Agent Orange. Learn the basics of VA's Agent Orange benefits and care. My thanks to Frank Cleary for letting me know about this official VA information source. Added 03/23/15.

Information from the Air Force Historical Research Agency about vegetation control at Korat RTAFB. IMPORTANT the 388th TFW was the primary unit at Korat RTAFB. USAF directives to use herbicide/Agent Orange for vegetation control were issued to the 388th Combat Support Group. These pages from the 388th TFW official history detail USAF directives for vegetation control at Korat RTAFB. File is about .9 meg. VERY IMPORTANT while directives were issued to the USAF 388th Combat Support Group to use herbicides/Agent Orange for vegetation control, the USAF requested that the U.S. Army at Camp Friendship perform the actual spraying. The Army then sent the Armed Forces Pest Management Board records of herbicide/Agent Orange spraying at Korat RTAFB. The Armed Forces Pest Management Board testified to the VA that they do NOT have records pertaining to herbicide/Agent Orange spraying at Korat RTAFB. See VA Citation 1028449, see paragraph on page 4 of 5, highlighted in yellow. This paragraph is testimony to the VA that the Armed Forces Pest Management Board did not keep records for herbicide usage at Korat RTAFB. The Armed Forces Pest Management Board recommends contacting the USAF, however the USAF did NOT perform the herbicide spraying, the Army at Camp Friendship did the spraying. Because no records remain, all the information on this Batcat Veterans homepage as to where herbicide/Agent Orange was sprayed at Korat RTAFB, and what areas of the base are affected by the spraying use the standard U.S. Army drift zone value of 500 meters (1,640 feet) as published in Army manual FM 3-3. See Part 4 - U.S. Army

Field Manual 3-3 Tactical Employment of Herbicides below. While this citation indicates herbicides were used in June 1972, official histories of the 388th TFW indicate herbicides/Agent Orange were used for vegetation control at least as early as September 1968. Added 04/21/14.

CHECO Report on Thai bases. Contemporary Historical Examination of Current Operations (CHECO) Report from the Air Force Historical Research Agency. This report details steps taken from 1961 to 1972 to protect USAF installations in Thailand. Includes details of terrorist attacks on USAF Thai bases during 1968 and 1969 and later. My thanks to Gil Jennings for providing this information. This document was one piece of the evidence used by the VA to approve the claim of Batcat John Wright. File is large, about 9.3 meg., Adobe PDF format. NOTE this is an updated copy of much better quality than the copy originally found here. Also some missing pages on the original are included with this copy. Added 07/21/10, updated 03/06/14.