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## Korat RTAFB Specific Information for the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing and 388th TFW

Presented here is information about the use of Herbicides and Toxic Chemicals at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in the 1967 to 1972 time period. This information is provided to help ALL veterans who served at Korat, and other Thailand bases, in this time period to better understand where toxic chemicals such as the "Rainbow" herbicides, including Agent Orange, as well as other toxic chemicals were used. Recommend you download all information and review the information provided. This data may help you with a Veterans Affairs claim.

- [Brett Watterson sent me this map of Korat RTAFB which he highlighted the full perimeter.](#) Map gives a good overview of Korat, and if you had duty at places other than what I marked on the detailed map above, this map can help. File is about 2.3 Meg, in JPG format. This is an image of an official Department of Defense map of Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base dated 1/1/1973. **Added 06/05/11.**
- This is the [Department of the Air Force Master Base Map of Korat RTAFB](#) dated January 1, 1973. This is the master base map of Korat RTAFB used to show the perimeter and drift zones in other places on this page. Map file is large, about 2.6 Meg, in PNG format. This is the highest resolution map I have of Korat RTAFB. **RECOMMENDATION** - download this file to a thumb drive, take to a blue print company, have that company print the file on large size paper, at least 17 x 22 inch. Yes you can print this file on your personal printer, however the larger size that a blue print company can print will make the building numbers and other information much easier to read. **Added 11/27/14.**
- Click here for a map of [Korat RTAFB showing the full base with 500 Meter herbicide danger drift zone.](#) Note that about 60% of Korat RTAFB fell within the U.S. Army specified herbicide drift zone. Color, JPG image format, about 883K. My thanks to [Michael Weldon](#) and [Bob Freitag](#) for this map showing the herbicide drift zone. **Added 04/01/12.**
- Several individuals have contacted me saying the VA has requested the **Korat RTAFB building numbers** where the veteran worked while stationed at Korat. While I was based at Korat it never occurred to me that keeping track of building numbers would be important. You may find the high resolution maps above give more detail of specifically what you need. This is what I have for building numbers at this time:
  - [Building numbers from the Welcome booklet](#), JPG image, about 541K which shows 553rd and other buildings at Korat RTAFB.
  - [Building map of Korat RTAFB](#), PDF format, about 962K. My thanks to [Dave Rindone](#) for this map.
  - **Added 06/19/14.**
  - [Danny Hildebrand](#) provided this image of the [388th Civil Engineering Squadron](#) compound was located near the Nitnoi theater. Building numbers 341-343-344-345-353 and 354. Color, about 607K. **Added 12/23/14.**
  - [Danny Hildebrand](#) provided this image of the [388th Civil Engineering Squadron Hootches](#). Hootch numbers were from 752 to 795. B&W, about 193K. **Added 12/23/14.**
- [Information packet from Bob Langenhan on toxic chemicals in Thailand.](#) Package includes references to recent legal decisions. References to the link below show with maps and photos areas affected by toxic chemicals. File is about 29K.

- [Information packet from Larry Westin on where at Korat RTAFB herbicides and toxic chemicals were used](#). Package includes detailed map of Korat perimeter in relation to work, physical training, recreation, living quarters and other areas which may have subjected you to herbicides or toxic chemicals. Includes pages from the VA homepage acknowledging that Agent Orange and other herbicides were used at USAF bases in Thailand. File is about 2.7 meg., Adobe PDF format, added 05/23/11, **updated 02/24/14**.
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- Per the VA for those veterans assigned to Thailand, including Korat RTAFB, "to receive benefits for diseases associated with herbicide exposure, those veterans must show on a factual basis that they were exposed to herbicides during their service as shown by evidence of daily work duties, performance evaluation reports, or other credible evidence." For those veterans assigned to the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing at Korat RTAFB, see the maps and other information from the "Information packet from Larry Westin on where at Korat RTAFB toxic chemicals were used" above, (PDF format, about 1.4 meg) which shows the relationship to work areas and living quarters where herbicides were used. Provided below is some of the successful claim information for Rick Dietly which may help others.
  - [VA BatCat 1.pdf](#), PDF format about 444K.
  - [VA BatCat 2.pdf](#), PDF format about 511K.
  - [VA BatCat 3.pdf](#), PDF format about 423K.
  - [VA BatCat 4.pdf](#), PDF format about 394K.

It is very important to file as early as possible, and don't give up! There is considerable information on this page to specifically help those assigned to Korat RTAFB. My thanks to [Rick Dietly](#) for providing his documentation. **Added 09/17/12**.

- [The Exclusion of Thailand Veterans Report](#). This PDF file provides considerable detail about herbicide use at all Thailand bases. I understand this report has been provide to Congress. My thanks to [Kurt Priessman](#) who sent me this copy. IMPORTANT - this is a BIG file, about 8.4 Meg in size. **Added 08/06/12**.
- [Melissa Headen](#) sent me some very important case information about VA approved claims for Thailand based veterans who could not prove "boots on the ground" in Vietnam. These cases include veterans from many different specialties. Well worth reviewing all these files, they aren't that big. Korat is in citations 6, 7 and 8, however the other Thai examples may well provide other critical information for your case. Note the yellow highlighted areas in each document.
  - [CitationNr01.pdf](#), about 35K.
  - [CitationNr02.pdf](#), about 34K.
  - [CitationNr03.pdf](#), about 35K.
  - [CitationNr04.pdf](#), about 30K.
  - [CitationNr05.pdf](#), about 30K.
  - [CitationNr06.pdf](#), about 33K.
  - [CitationNr07.pdf](#), about 36K.
  - [CitationNr08.pdf](#), about 31K.
  - [CitationNr09.pdf](#), about 118K, **Added 04/22/12**

The above citations are those which were approved. This information added 08/19/11, **updated 04/22/12**.

Thomas VonAchen was told by a V.A. service office that those whose military specialty did NOT assign them to the perimeter may still be eligible - **IF** - they can show evidence there was reason for them to be near the perimeter. For example it may be that a ball field, or running track, that was near the perimeter. If anyone has photographs of Korat RTAFB which show the perimeter it could be a help. Especially so if those photographs show some type of living area, recreation area or other area where others could logically have been near the perimeter, even if their specialty did not normally assign them to the perimeter. If you have photos of Korat taken in the 1967 to 1972 time frame which shows the perimeter, please send them to me. It may help. **Added 02/24/10.**

The major reason for presenting all this information is a disclaimer by the VA that those stationed in Thailand must show written orders that they worked at or near the perimeter. The documents and full map presented here show that virtually everyone stationed at Korat RTAFB fell within the zone affected by herbicides.

Bob Langenhan and myself (Larry Westin) urge you to read the above information carefully. We welcome your comments and criticisms. Please email us at [westin@westin553.net](mailto:westin@westin553.net) and [cavete.cattam@yahoo.com](mailto:cavete.cattam@yahoo.com) with your information. Data you provide may well help others. Thank You - Larry Westin and Bob Langenhan.