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Thailand Military Bases and Agent Orange Exposure

Vietnam-era Veterans whose service involved duty on or near the perimeters of military bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 may have been exposed to herbicides and may qualify for VA benefits.

The following Veterans may have been exposed to herbicides:



U-Tapao Air Base, Thailand, 1972
The National Archives

- **U.S. Air Force Veterans** who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases at U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
- **U.S. Army Veterans** who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
- **U.S. Army Veterans** who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the Army Veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned an MP military occupational specialty whose duty **placed him/her at or near the base perimeter**.

To receive benefits for [diseases associated with herbicide exposure](#), these 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.

Report on defense tactics in Thailand

A recently declassified Department of Defense (DoD) Report written in 1973, "[Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report: Base Defense in Thailand 1968-1972](#)," (8.3 MB, PDF) contains evidence that there was a significant use of herbicides on the fenced-in perimeters of military bases in Thailand to remove foliage that provided cover for enemy forces.

VA determined that herbicides used on the Thailand base perimeters may have been tactical and procured from Vietnam, or a strong, commercial type resembling tactical herbicides.

VA benefits

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including an [Agent Orange Registry health exam](#), [health care](#), and [disability compensation](#) for diseases associated with exposure. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits.

Learn more about [benefits related to Agent Orange exposure](#).

Need help determining exposure?

VA will help determine exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service when you file a claim for [disability compensation](#) or [survivors' benefits](#).

Veterans may be eligible for an [Agent Orange Registry health exam](#). You don't have to file a disability compensation claim to receive the exam. Contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) about getting an Agent Orange Registry health exam.