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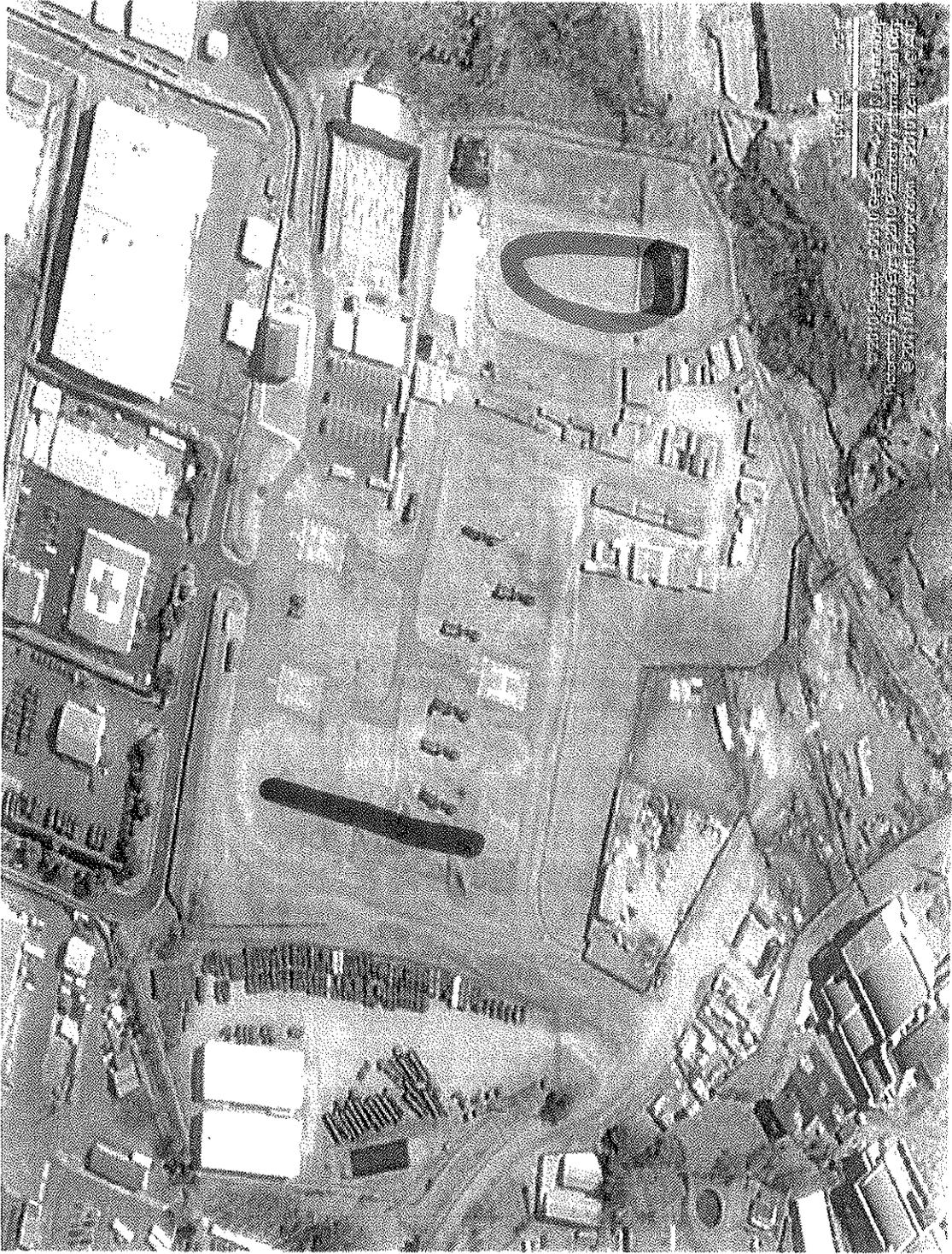
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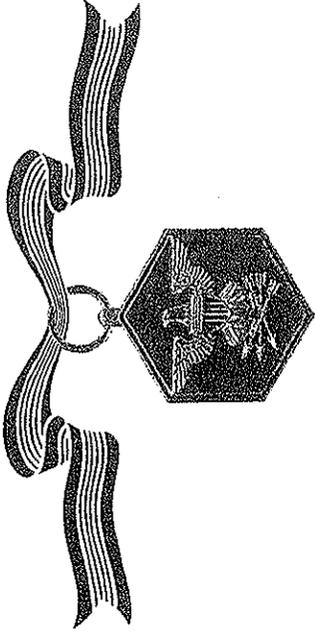
MR. [REDACTED] b6

Satellite Photos of Camp Carroll, Circa Probably 2008

○ - Potential Location

● - MR. HOUSE POTENTIAL LOCATION

1701



# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS AWARDED

## THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

TO

(THIRD OAK LEAF CLUSTER)  
CAPTAIN [REDACTED]

UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE AS ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OFFICER AND OFFICER IN CHARGE, LB DETACHMENT, 5TH PREVENTIVE MEDICINE UNIT FROM JULY 1978 TO NOVEMBER 1980. HE DEMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ABILITY WHILE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMAND ON HANDLING OF CHEMICALS RECOVERED FROM A LANDFILL IN HIS AREA OF OPERATION. THROUGH HIS EFFORTS ALL COMMAND ELEMENTS SUPPORTED HAVE A NEW AND RESPECTED APPRECIATION OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. CAPTAIN [REDACTED] MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IS IN KEEPING WITH THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIM, THIS COMMAND, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON  
THIS 20TH DAY OF JANUARY 1981

*J.A. Wickham, Jr.*

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.  
GENERAL, USA  
COMMANDER  
USFK/EUSA



*Cygnal E. Albrecht, Jr.*

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

1702

# USAG Daegu

Camp Carroll Update

21 May 11

INTERVIEW WITH

b6

MR.



26 MAY 2011

1703



Q1: WHERE  
WAS THE  
TANK TESTING  
PITS  
- DEEP ONE  
- shallow  
one

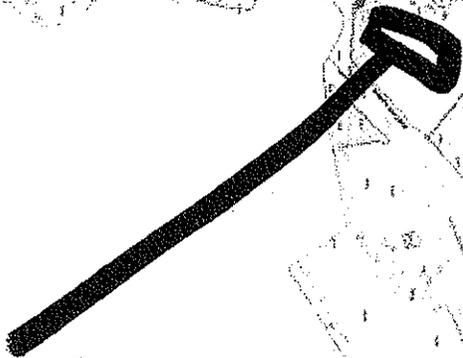
Q2: WHERE  
WAS GATE  
To HLZ



Satellite Photos of Camp Carroll, Circa Probably 2008

1705

**DRUMS  
STORAGE**



1706

Camp Carroll Map, May 2011

# USAG Daegu

Camp Carroll Update

MR. STEVE HOUSE  
INTERVIEW

23 MAY 2011

1707

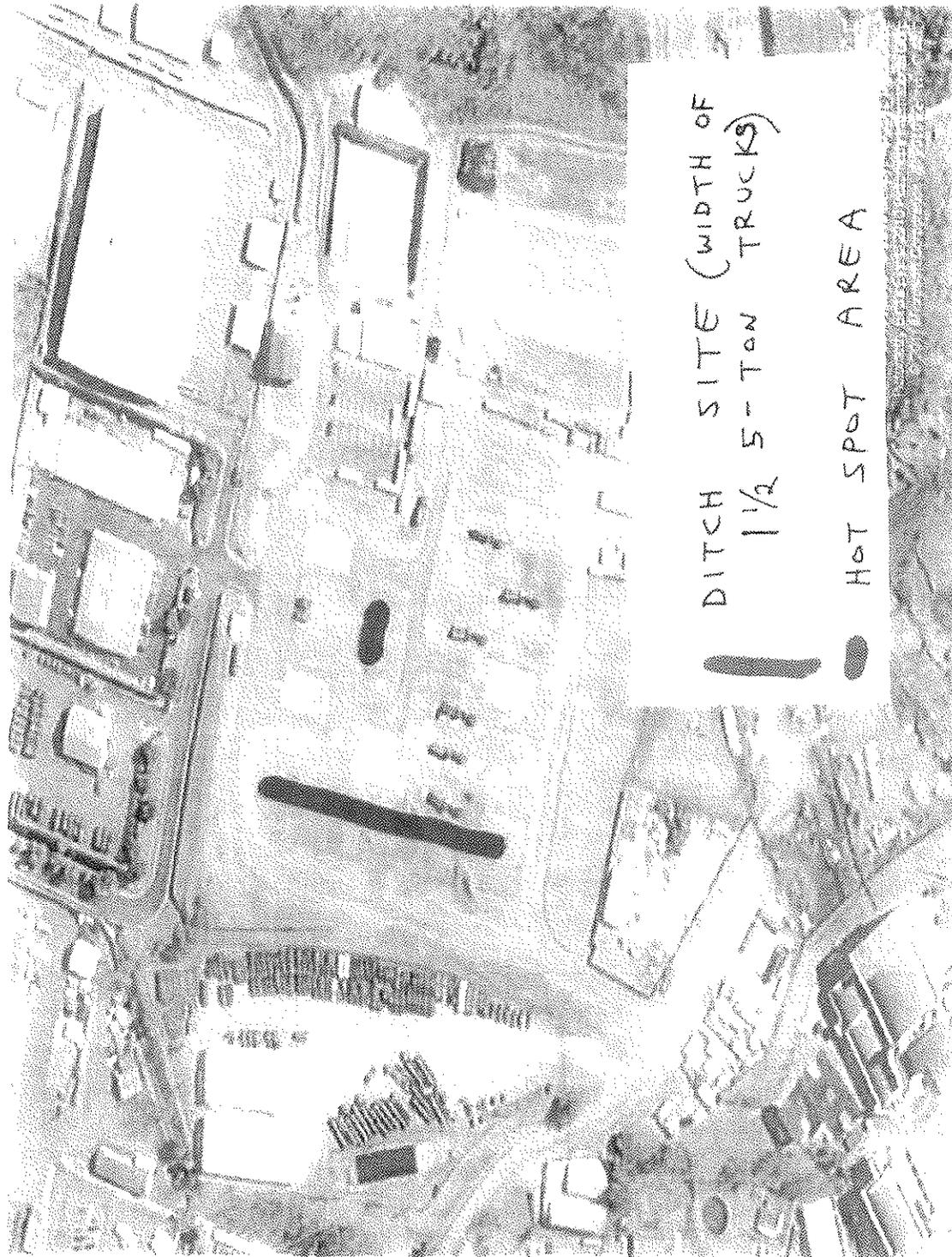


SOIL MOVED TO THIS SITE  
FROM EXCAVATION OF  
DITCH SITE

DITCH SITE AND  
AREA WHERE POSSIBLE  
HOT SPOT AREA

Satellite Photos of Camp Carroll, Circa Probably 2008

SLIDE 1 of 3



Satellite Photos of Camp Carroll, Circa Probably 2008

SLIDE 2 of 3

1709



Satellite Photos of Camp Carroll, Circa Probably 2008

1710





**Camp Carroll  
Initial  
Investigation Results**

1713

UNCLASS//FOUO

As of 7 JUN 2011

# INVESTIGATION RESULTS



## Scope of Effort:

- MON, 23 May 11: Interviewed Mr. Stephen House, Equipment Operator
- WED, 25 May 11: Interviewed MAJ (R) Scott Rowden, LB Detachment, PM
- THU, 26 May 11: Interviewed Mr. Ed March, Equipment Operator
- FRI, 27 May 11: Interviewed Mr. Robert Travis, Truck Driver
- SAT, 28 May 11: Interviewed Mr. Ronald Bishop, CDR, Pacific Env. Engr Health Agency
- TUE, 31 May 11: Interviewed Mr. Ku, Cha Yong, Equip Opr/Driver, DPW, 20<sup>th</sup> Spt Cmd
- TUE, 31 May 11: Interviewed Mr. Robert Chung, Technician, LB Detachment, PM
- THU, 9 Jun 11: Interviewed Dr. Roland Langford, LB Detachment, PM

## Status:

- AEC Representative arriving today to aid in future interview process

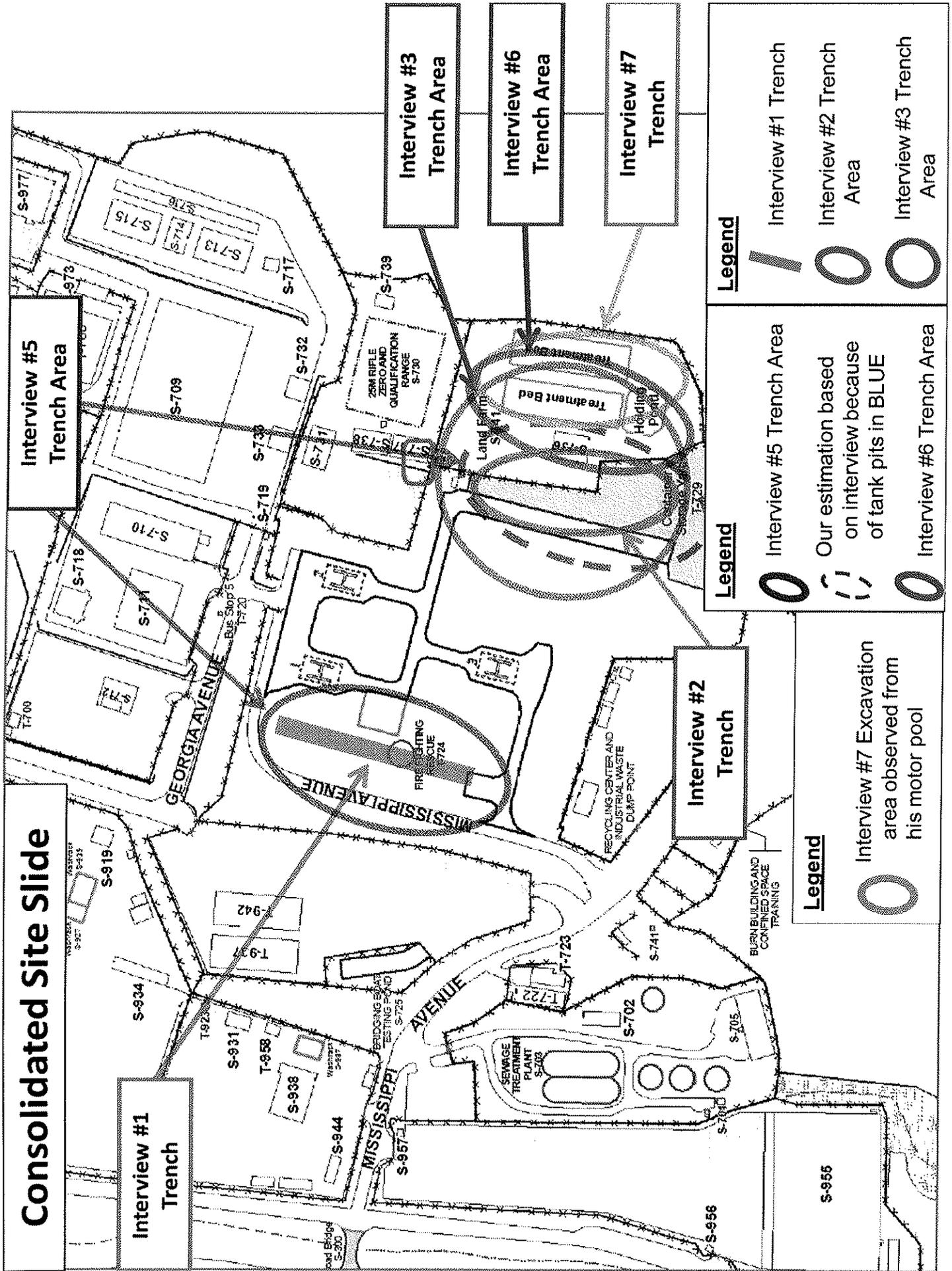
## Future Actions:

- Developing summary packet with narrative and slides
- IMCOM-K/AEC assume lead on continued investigative actions
- COL Gavle assumes lead as the Investigation LOO – developing a collection plan and updated battle rhythm

Issues: Investigation support requirements TBD

1714

# Consolidated Site Slide



Interview #1  
Trench

Interview #5  
Trench Area

Interview #3  
Trench Area

Interview #6  
Trench Area

Interview #7  
Trench

Interview #2  
Trench

**Legend**



Interview #7 Excavation area observed from his motor pool

**Legend**



Interview #5 Trench Area



Our estimation based on interview because of tank pits in BLUE



Interview #3 Trench Area

**Legend**



Interview #1 Trench



Interview #2 Trench Area

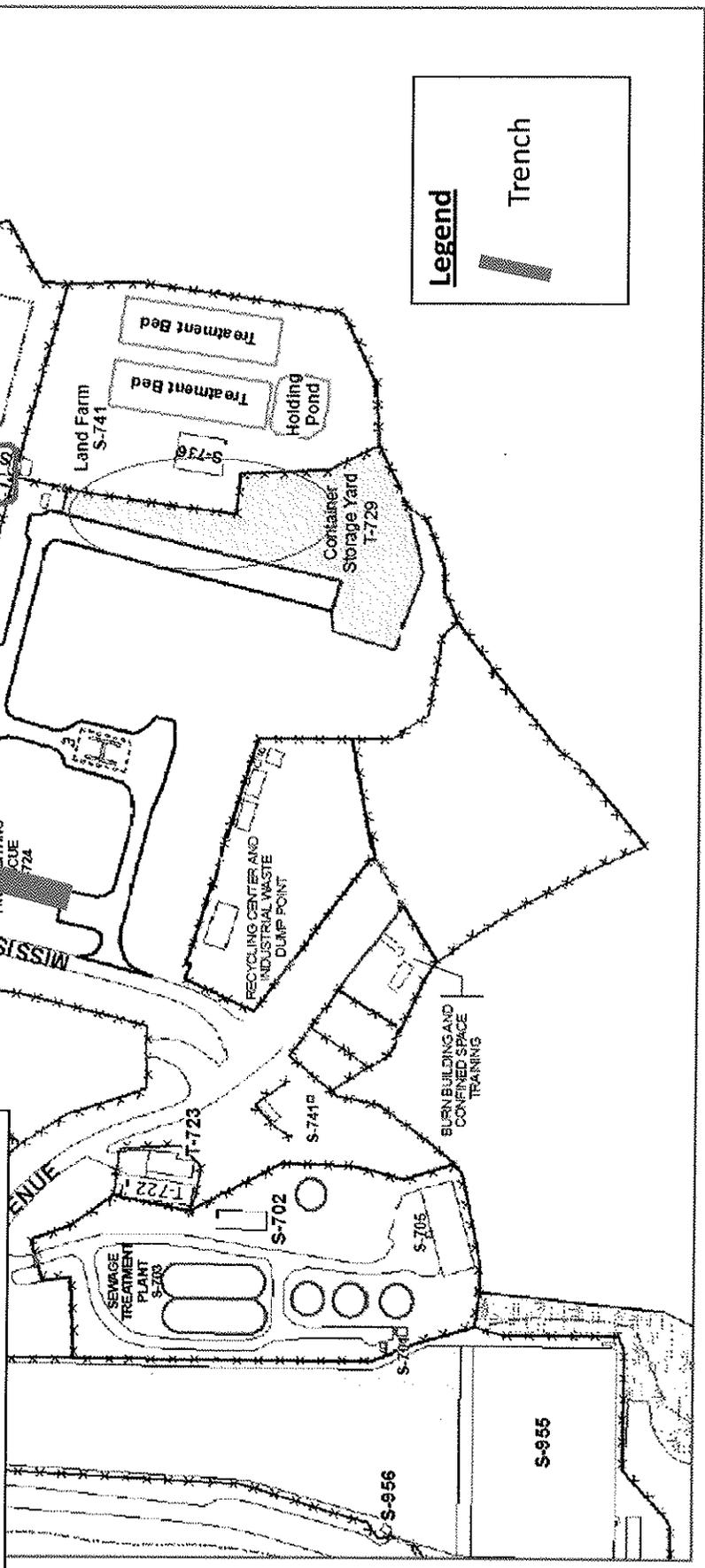


Interview #3 Trench Area

5111

**Mr. Stephen House Interview**  
**Monday, 23 May 2011**  
**Equip. Operator, Camp Carroll, 1978**

Mr. House and his attorney, Mr. Jarvi, were very open and honest. We took pictures, taped and conducted the interview. Mr. House pointed out that he dug the trench during the Spring of 1978 using a scraper/pan and a D8 dozer. The trench was similar to a tank trench and dug the width of about 1 1/2 5-ton trucks; wide enough to take a Pan through and Dozer and probably 15 feet deep; deep enough that water seeped up from the earth into the bottom of the trench. He wore a protective mask each day while digging the trench and only US Soldiers dug the trench. Mr. House also dumped approx. 250 drums into the trench using a Front End Loader. trench remained open and was subsequently used for various other disposal items, to include to his recollection, a trailer with canary yellow drums atop. Also, two NMC fuel pods attached to trailers. Mr. House stated the drums were OD Green in color with orange other colored bands, some stating "Province of Vietnam." Also, Herbicide Orange. Majority of the drums were leaking.

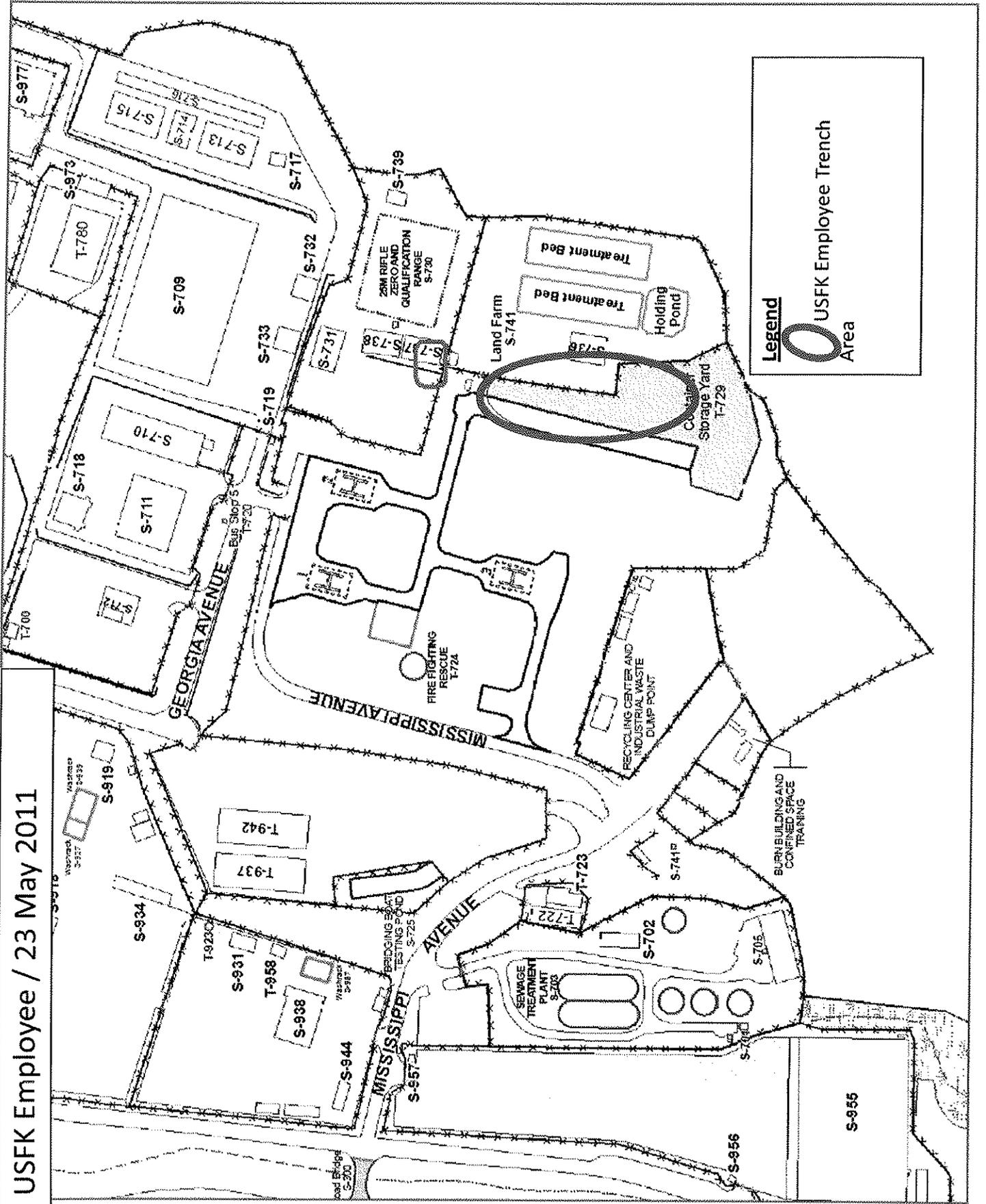


**Legend**

 Trench

1716

USFK Employee / 23 May 2011

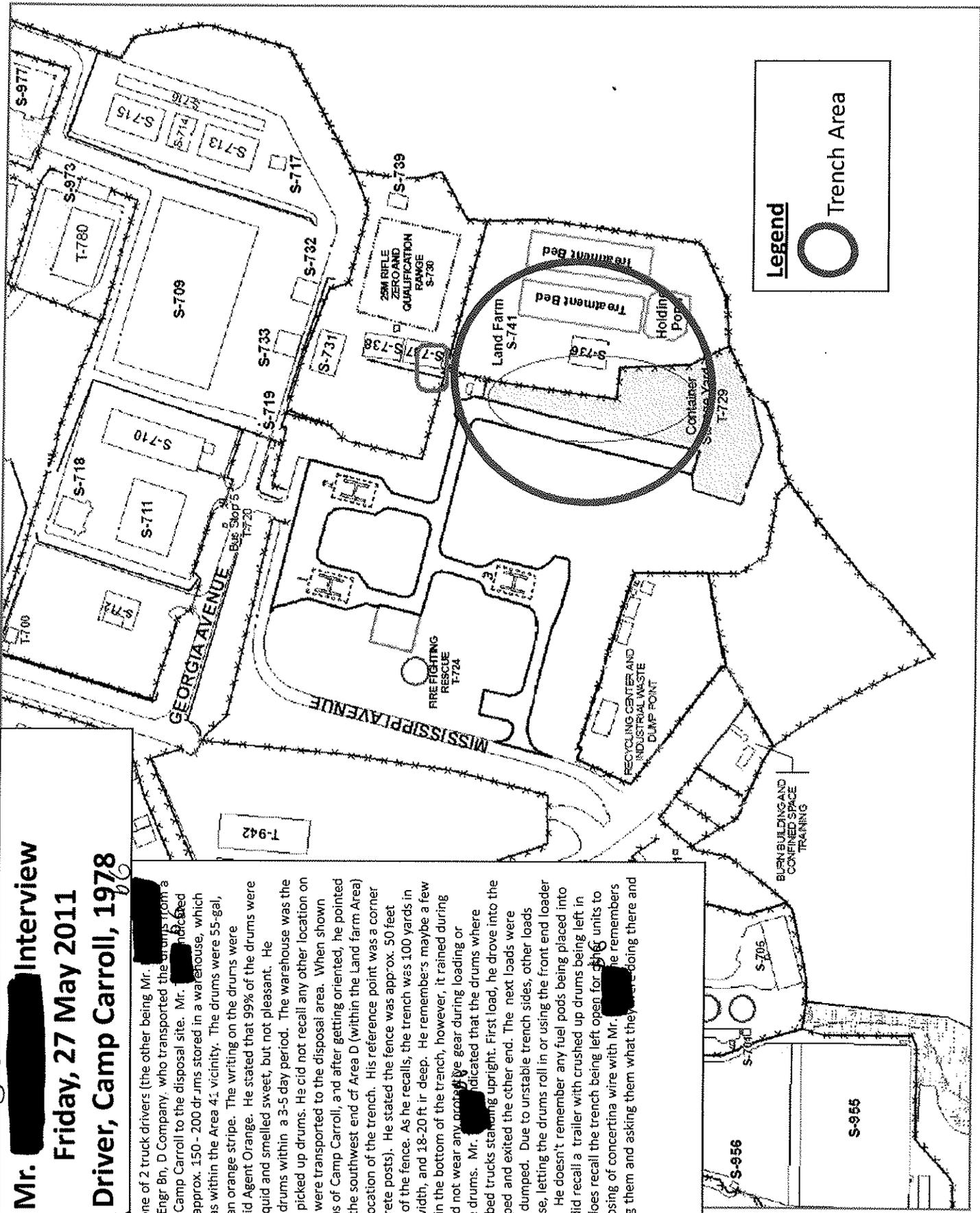


1717

56

**Mr. [REDACTED] Interview**  
**Friday, 27 May 2011**  
**Truck Driver, Camp Carroll, 1978**

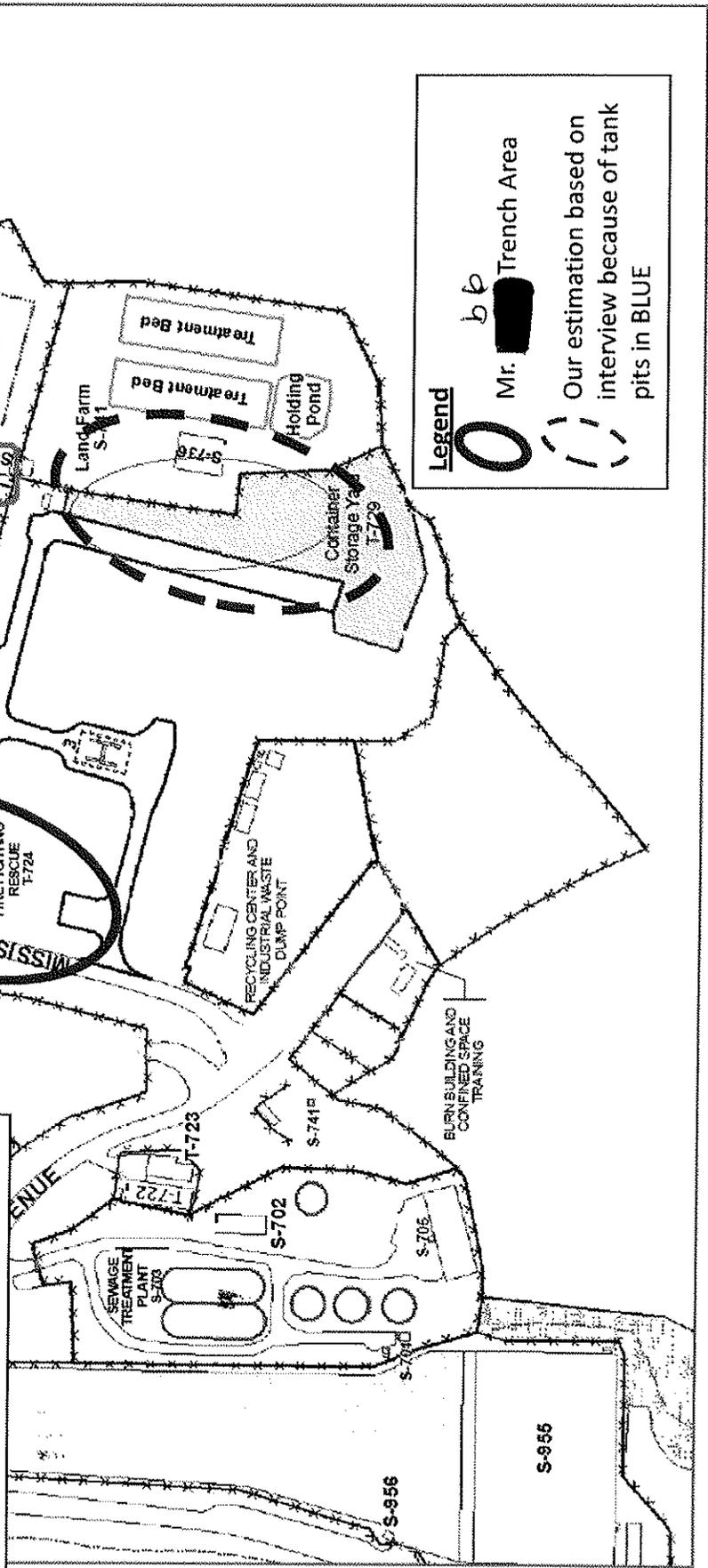
Mr. [REDACTED] was one of 2 truck drivers (the other being Mr. [REDACTED] with the 2nd Engr Bn, D Company, who transported the drums from a storage area on Camp Carroll to the disposal site. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he loaded approx. 150-200 drums stored in a warehouse, which he pointed out as within the Area 41 vicinity. The drums were 55-gal, OD green, with an orange stripe. The writing on the drums were stenciled and said Agent Orange. He stated that 99% of the drums were leaking a clear liquid and smelled sweet, but not pleasant. He transported the drums within a 3-5 day period. The warehouse was the only location he picked up drums. He did not recall any other location on post that drums were transported to the disposal area. When shown current day maps of Camp Carroll, and after getting oriented, he pointed to an area near the southwest end of Area D (within the Land Farm Area) as the possible location of the trench. His reference point was a corner of a fence (concrete posts). He stated the fence was approx. 50 feet from the corner of the fence. As he recalls, the trench was 100 yards in length, 15 ft in width, and 18-20 ft in deep. He remembers maybe a few inches of water in the bottom of the trench, however, it rained during that time. He did not wear any protective gear during loading or unloading of the drums. Mr. [REDACTED] indicated that the drums were loaded onto flatbed trucks standing upright. First load, he drove into the trench and dumped and exited the other end. The next loads were backed into and dumped. Due to unstable trench sides, other loads were backed close, letting the drums roll in or using the front end loader to push them in. He doesn't remember any fuel pods being placed into the trench, but did recall a trailer with crushed up drums being left in the trench. He does recall the trench being left open for other units to use. When disposing of concertina wire with Mr. [REDACTED] he remembers MPs approaching them and asking them what they were doing there and then left.



8171

**Mr. [REDACTED] Interview**  
**Thursday, 26 May 2011**  
**Equip. Operator, Camp Carroll, 1978**

The interview with Mr. [REDACTED] was overall good and he was very open and cooperative, although he could not confirm the exact location of the trench. He believes it to be in the area similar to that highlighted by Mr. House, but he could not confirm. He did confirm a storage location of OD green drums in an open warehouse area not in Area 41. His job was only to dig the trench and he only recalls drums being placed in the trench hearing it from other Soldiers in the Plt. He said the trench was a city block in length, 10 to 12 feet deep, width of a scraper, and after constructed there was no standing water in the trench. US Soldiers and KATUSAs dug the trench and no one wore protective masks or clothing. He did not hear about any equipment or trailers in the trench. He was assigned to Korea for one year and did not hear of any clean-up. The trench was dug in the vicinity of the existing Tank Test Pits. He did not smell any unusual odors at the site.



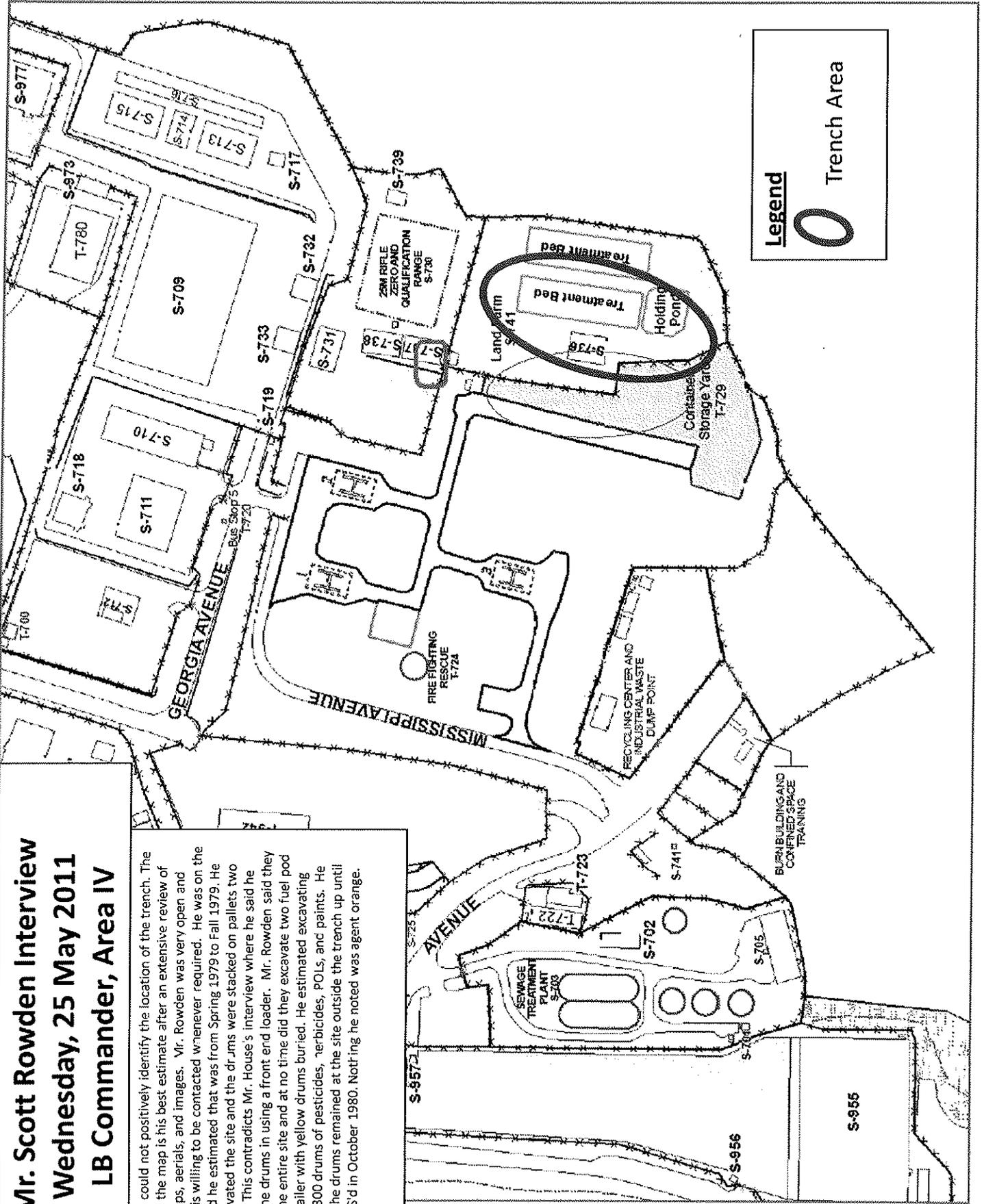
**Legend**

- b6 Mr. [REDACTED]
- Trench Area
- Our estimation based on interview because of tank pits in BLUE

1719

**Mr. Scott Rowden Interview  
 Wednesday, 25 May 2011  
 LB Commander, Area IV**

Mr. Rowden could not positively identify the location of the trench. The red circle on the map is his best estimate after an extensive review of pictures, maps, aeriels, and images. Mr. Rowden was very open and helpful and is willing to be contacted whenever required. He was on the clean-up and he estimated that was from Spring 1979 to Fall 1979. He said he excavated the site and the drums were stacked on pallets two pallets high. This contradicts Mr. House's interview where he said he "dumped" the drums in using a front end loader. Mr. Rowden said they excavated the entire site and at no time did they excavate two fuel pod trailers or trailer with yellow drums buried. He estimated excavating upwards of 300 drums of pesticides, herbicides, POs, and paints. He also stated the drums remained at the site outside the trench up until when he PCS'd in October 1980. Nothing he noted was agent orange.



1720

**Mr. [REDACTED] Interview**  
**Tuesday, 31 May 2011**

b6  
 Mr. [REDACTED] dug both holes back in the Spring of 1972 or 1973 - not totally sure, and another team came and dumped into the hole in the vic of the BOQs and the Fire Station the following, the same for each hole: 40-50 ea black in color 55 gal drums, 20-30 ea 5 gal cans, and 20-30 ea dark brown glass jars. No odor and no leaking drums. Mr. [REDACTED] had no side effects and is in good health today at 72 yrs of age. He stated did what he was told. He dug both holes the size of a tennis court and about 30 feet deep. Once the drums were placed in the holes he started to cover the BOQ hole when it caught on fire and he had to go to the hospital for smoke and some hair that was damaged. He came back after maybe a week to find the BOQ hole filled in and later he filled the Fire Station hole in. He used the same soil he excavated from the hole to cover the drums. b6  
 The accounts in the article are accurate to what Mr. [REDACTED] can recall. He did witness some of the excavation of the 1978 site and recalls it being by the fence line. He remembers a crane lifting a front end loader after the excavation and a fire hose truck washing the piece of equipment down.

He is willing to come to Korea, if necessary.

BOQ Area

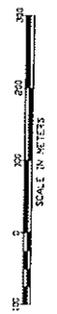
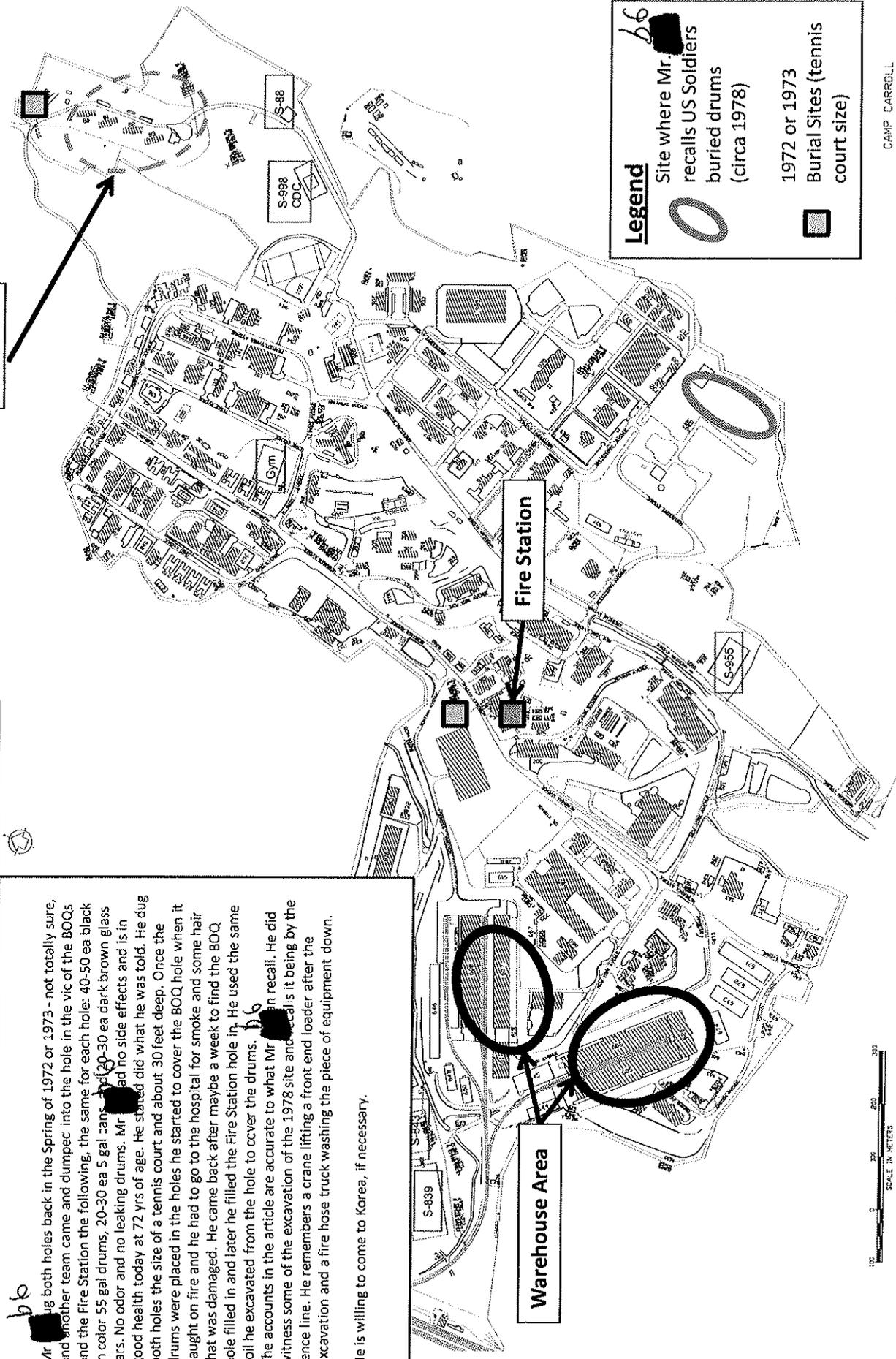
Fire Station

Warehouse Area

b6

**Legend**

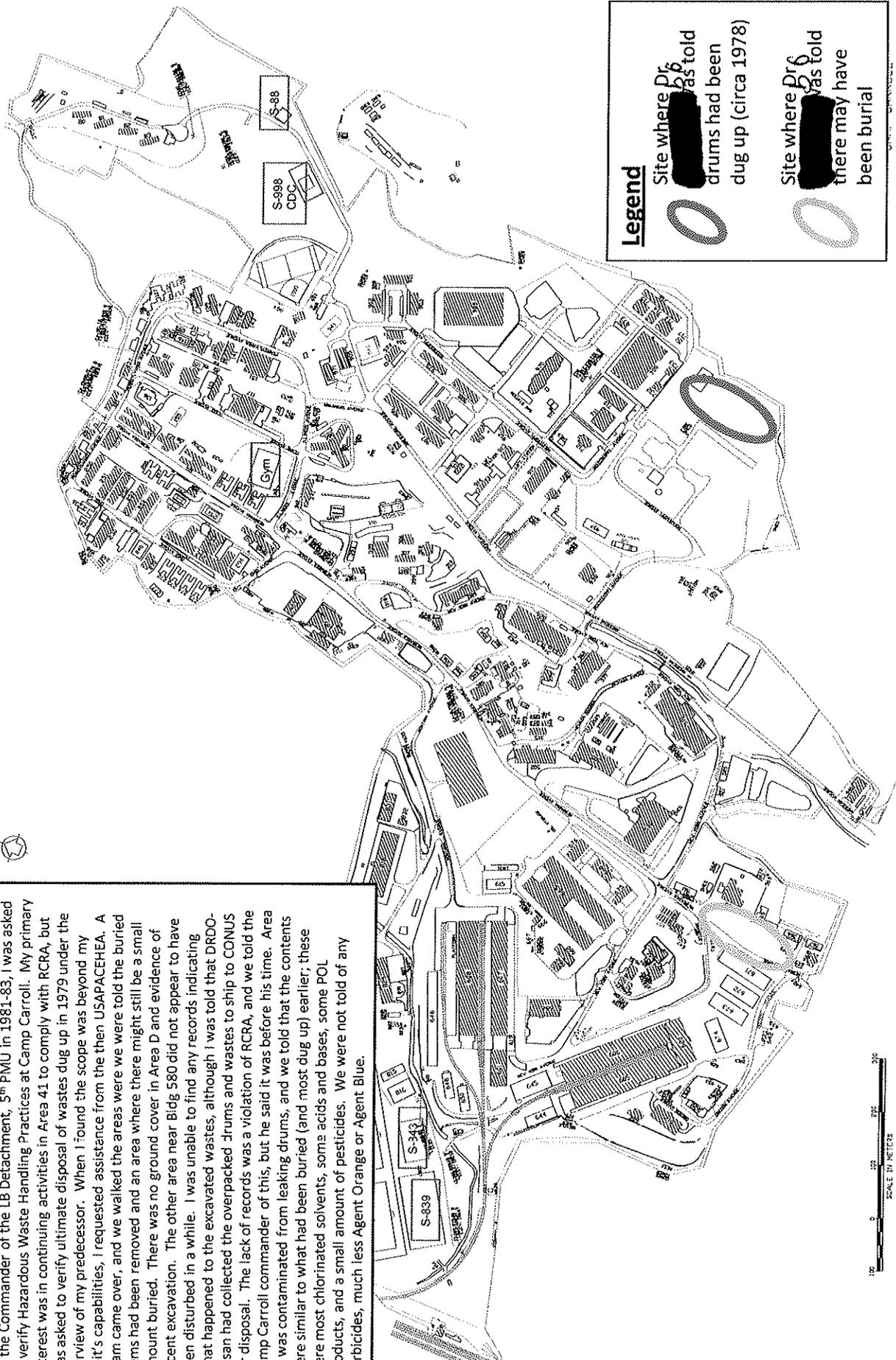
- Site where Mr. [REDACTED] recalls US Soldiers buried drums (circa 1978)
- 1972 or 1973 Burial Sites (tennis court size)



1721

Dr. [REDACTED] Interview  
 Thursday, 9 June 2011

As the Commander of the 1st Detachment, 5th PMU in 1981-83, I was asked to verify Hazardous Waste Handling Practices at Camp Carroll. My primary interest was in continuing activities in Area 41 to comply with RCRA, but was asked to verify ultimate disposal of wastes dug up in 1979 under the purview of my predecessor. When I found the scope was beyond my unit's capabilities, I requested assistance from the then USAPACEHEA. A team came over, and we walked the areas where we were told the buried items had been removed and an area where there might still be a small amount buried. There was no ground cover in Area D and evidence of recent excavation. The other area near Bldg 580 did not appear to have been disturbed in a while. I was unable to find any records indicating what happened to the excavated wastes, although I was told that DROO-Pusan had collected the overpacked drums and wastes to ship to CONUS for disposal. The lack of records was a violation of RCRA, and we told the Camp Carroll commander of this, but he said it was before his time. Area 41 was contaminated from leaking drums, and we told that the contents were similar to what had been buried (and most dug up) earlier; these were most chlorinated solvents, some acids and bases, some POL products, and a small amount of pesticides. We were not told of any herbicides, much less Agent Orange or Agent Blue.



**Legend**

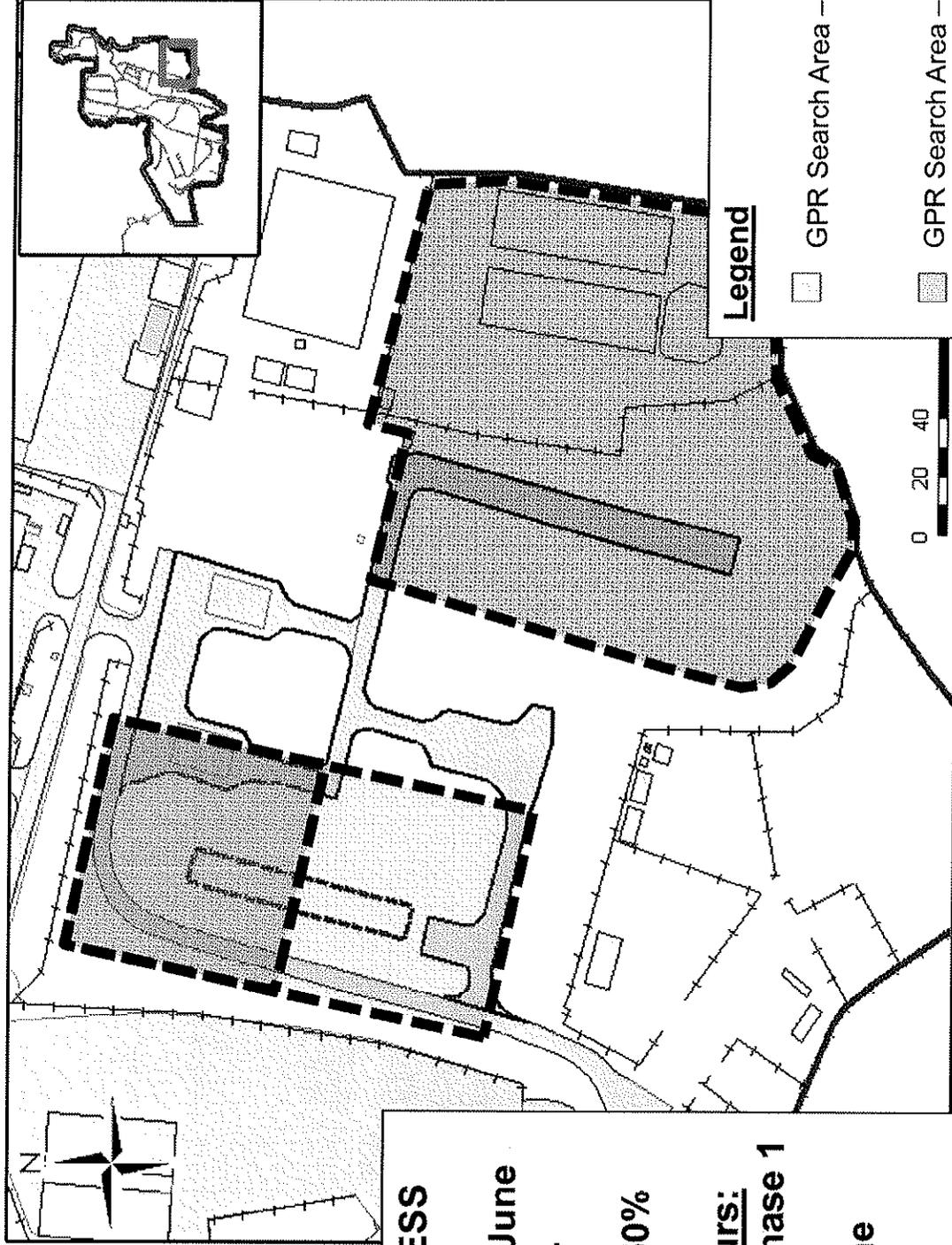
Site where Dr. [REDACTED] was told drums had been dug up (circa 1978)

Site where Dr. [REDACTED] was told there may have been burial

1722

# TESTING & EVALUATION

## GPR Survey Areas



**Legend**

 GPR Search Area – Phase I

 GPR Search Area – Phase II

**PROGRESS**

**Planned: 8 June completion.**

**Executed: 50%**

**Next 24 Hours: Continue Phase 1**

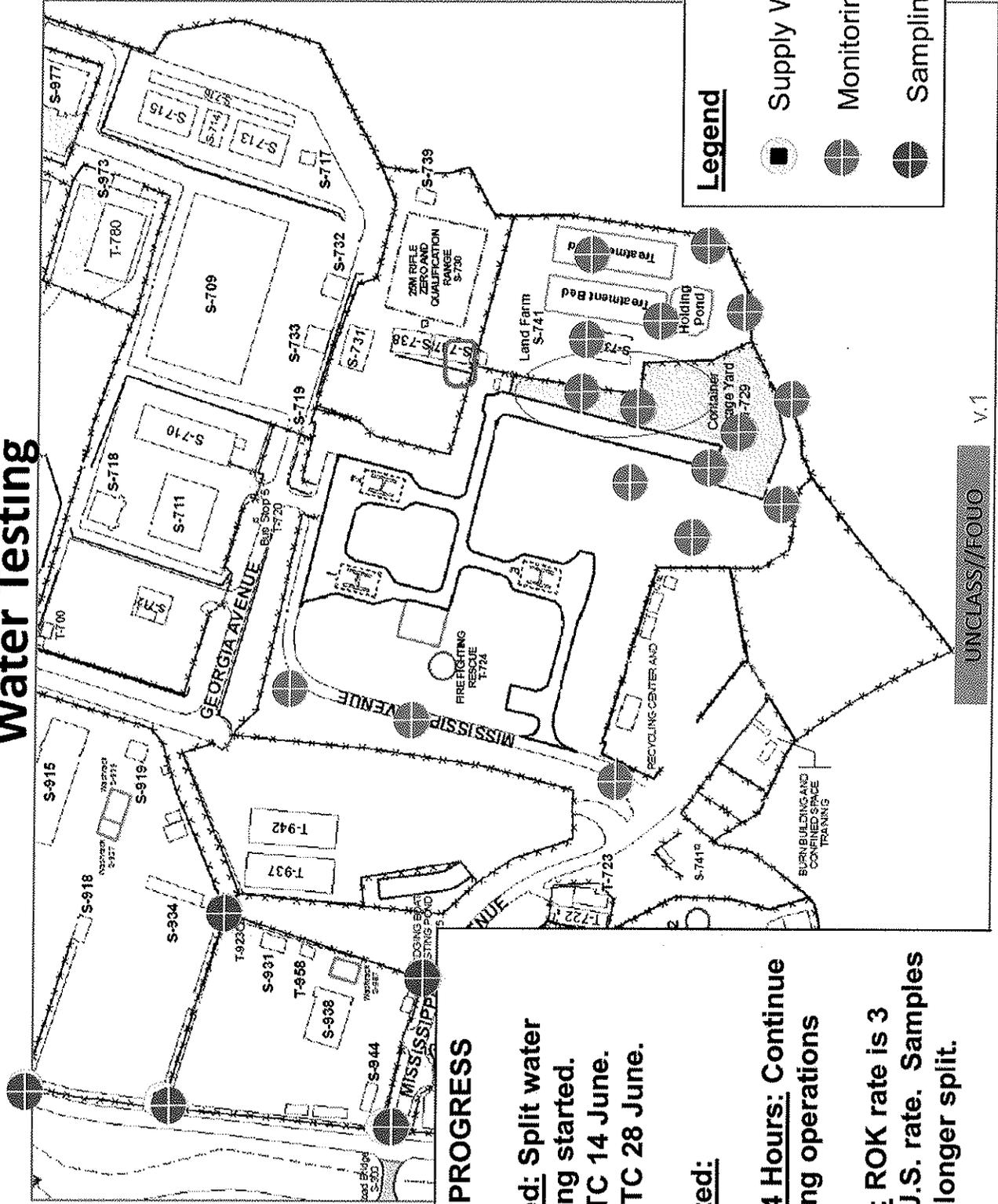
**Issues: None**

1723

# TESTING & EVALUATION



## Water Testing



### Legend

- Supply Well
- Monitoring Wells
- Sampling complete

### PROGRESS

**Planned:** Split water sampling started. U.S. ETC 14 June. ROK ETC 28 June.

### Executed:

**Next 24 Hours:** Continue sampling operations

**Issues:** ROK rate is 3 times U.S. rate. Samples are no longer split.

1724

# Consolidated Interview Update

1. When did you arrive at Camp Carroll, when did you leave?
2. What was your unit, rank, duty position?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
I was Assigned to Camp Walker Oct/Nov 1979 to Nov/Dec 1980.	February 1978 thru February 1979	Arrived October/December 1978. Departed October/November 1980	January 1978 to January 1979. Stayed entire year, did not take leave.	Late December 1978 thru Early December 1979	COL Bishop was not stationed at Camp Carroll - he did visit in 1978	1968 - 2001	was assigned to Camp Walker Dec 1981 to Dec 1983.
SFC, NCO In Charge of LB Detachment, Daegu, Korea	D Company, 802nd Platoon, Spec 4, MOS 62L-20 (Heavy Equipment Operator)	1LT and CPT, OIC of LB Det (Prev Med), Daegu, Korea	802d Engineering Bn, D Co, E-4, 62L (equipment operator)	802d Engineering Bn, D Co, 802nd Platoon, E-1 to E-3, Truck Driver	CDR Pacific Envi Engineering Health Agency, Japan	DPW/20 <sup>th</sup> SPT Grp truck driver and equipment operator	LB Detachment, 5 <sup>th</sup> PMU, Daegu, Korea, CPT, Commander

1725

# Consolidated Interview Update

3. Do you remember your chain of command? (Platoon leader, company commander....up to highest rank)

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. Robert Travis	Dr. [REDACTED]
CO - CPT Scott Rowden	SL - [REDACTED] b6 PL - 2LT [REDACTED] b6 CO: CPT [REDACTED] b6 1SG: [REDACTED] b6 Doesn't recall any higher ranked officers	SL: Sgt. [REDACTED] b6 PL: LT [REDACTED] b6 CO: CPT [REDACTED] b6	SL: [REDACTED] b6 PSG: SEC [REDACTED] b6 1SG: [REDACTED] b6 CO: CPT [REDACTED] b6 Doesn't recall any higher ranked officers	CO - COL Daniel Berliner

1726

The following had no input to this question: Mr. Rowden, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 b6 Mr. [REDACTED]

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 4. Please describe what was disposed of at Camp Carroll? And when?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
<p>Not sure of what or when items were disposed. CPT Rowden and a crew of 10-12 worked for a number of months to recover the items buried in the trench. USFK Employee was present when BG Pendleton directed CPT Rowden to remove the items. CPT Rowden never mentioned any herbicides being found. Samples were taken and sent to Japan for testing USFK Employee left Daegu for a new assignment at HQ 5th Preventive Medicine Seoul in December 1979, before testing and final disposal was completed. Left Korea in Summer 1980, CPT Rowden was still in Daegu</p>	<p>a. Disposal took place between Spring 1978 (April/May) and Fall 1978                      b. Material was in 55 gallon drums and delivered by truck</p>	<p>Not sure when disposed (not involved with disposal). The outgoing officer in charge told Mr. Rowden (incoming officer in charge) chemicals were buried at Camp Carroll. A couple of months after arriving, Mr. Rowden asked the engineer in the area about the burial of any chemicals. There was a pregnant pause then the engineer said 'let me get back to you'. Mr. Rowden then met with the deputy commander. Inquiry stopped there. After a week, Mr. Rowden said things started happening                      - List of drum chemicals provided -                      Destruction certificate produced -                      Location was found - BG Pendleton asked what needed to be done -                      Rowden said they needed removed -                      Pendleton said OK - A DAC from Pine Bluff (couldn't remember name) and Rowden put together a plan, included protective gear and heavy equipment.                      - 10-12 GI's started hand excavation                      - Trench was several hundred feet long                      - Pallets neatly stacked 3-4 pallets wide and 2 high - Set up temporary containment area - Sandbags and rubberized protection - Pulled drums out and put them in the containment area - Wore respirators, eye protection, rubber gloves, coveralls, and tox boots.</p>	<p>a. Mr. [REDACTED] was asked by Sgt. [REDACTED] to place some spent, rusted, concertina wire in trench. Mr. [REDACTED] was not present during any other burial activities; however, Sgt. [REDACTED] indicated that the trench was built to dispose of used motor oil.                      Scuttlebutt on post was that Agent Orange was buried there.</p>	<p>55 Gallon drums</p>	<p>Not sure of what or when items were disposed as this was before my time; however, my predecessor, CPT Rowden, and a crew of 10-12 worked for a number of months to recover the items buried in a trench in Area D. In my talks with him, CPT Rowden never mentioned any herbicides; he said most were solvents, some acids and bases, some POL oils, and small amount of pesticides. He told me that there were drums in fairly good shape.</p>

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED] b6

1727

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 5. Please describe what it looked like, where it was located, what the area looked like.

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. Scott Rowden	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
<p>Did not see any drums that had orange markings or bright yellow bands on the frequent visits to the site to consult with CPT Rowden about the work, Rowden was doing and other unit missions. CPT Rowden spent much of his time at Camp Carroll. As NCOIC of the PM Detachment USFK Employee took over the supervision of daily mission activities for Preventive Medicine from south of Taejon to Busan ROK.</p>	<p>- Lots of writing on drums in bright yellow or orange - Bright yellow or orange bands on the drums - Some said 'for province of Viet Nam' - 4 drums to a skid - Air Force delivered additional drums to the area - OD Green 55 gallon drums (looked brand new) - Same type of markings as described in 'b' above</p>	<p>a. Dirt area - not much vegetation in the area. Small, sloped hill. Trench was cut into hillside. Excavation/recovery of drums was at one end using front end loader and hand tools. b. Couldn't describe soil type...just regular soil. c. Rowden not 100% sure of location, but believes it was near fence line (within a couple hundred feet)(Area D did not come to mind)</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] was one of several equipment operators who excavated the trench. Length was 3/4 to 1 city block or roughly 100-150 yards. Width of 290 feet. Area were trench was constructed, sloped downward towards the</p>	<p>a. Drums were picked up at warehouse - Mr. [REDACTED] referred to warehouse as "War Surplus Area" b. Drums - All were OD Green - Orange stripes on the drums - Most drums were leaking - Writing on drums: 1. 1967-1968 for Republic of Viet Nam 2. Agent Orange painted in yellow</p>	<p>in 1981, I was asked to verify the ultimate disposal of the excavated wastes at Camp Carroll. I walked the locations were I was told the drums had been dug up (Area D) uphill and up from the helipad and observed what seemed to be recent excavation work. I also walked another smaller area where I would told there may have been buried chemicals, near Bldg 580. This area was denuded of grass, but I was told there had been a fire there earlier; there was no obvious evidence of recent digging. I also visited Area 41 (the subject of main concern at the beginning); there were deteriorating and leaking drums and ground contamination. There was no evidence that these drums were the one which had been dug up from Area D.</p>

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED]

1728

# Consolidated Interview Update

6. Can you point out where it was disposed? Did it have a special name? Are you aware of the reason why it was disposed?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
See Maps, Do not recall any special name for the area. Someone told the CMD to get rid of the items from inventory.	See maps	<p>a. Mr. Rowden wasn't 100% sure of the area, but did point to an area at the current Land Farm as the likely area. No recall of any special name. No recall on why disposed.</p>	<p>a. After reviewing Mr. House's photographs and the maps provided by COL Degidio, Mr. [REDACTED] indicated he thought the trench was located west of the helipads, in the general area identified by Mr. House. See attached maps which depict the area identified by Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] clearly remembers 2 water pits (1 small, 1 large) for tank water proof tests. The distance from the water pits to the trench was roughly 150 yds. See attached maps which depict the area identified by Mr. [REDACTED].</p>	<p>a. Truck loads were taken to trench b. No special name for the disposal area c. Told they were moving the barrels because they were damaged or leaking (solvents, oils, pesticides, etc.).</p>	<p>See map, I was told it was "Area D" with a small burial site "near Bldg 580". I was told the chemicals were similar to those at Area 41 in 1981 (solvents, oils, pesticides, etc.).</p>

1729

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED]

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 7. How long did the transportation and disposal take?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. Scott Rowden	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]
<p>a. Ditch was surveyed – someone brought into area to survey</p> <p>b. Ditch was dug w/ramps on either end</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- About 1-1/2 semi-trailers wide</li> <li>- Approximately ¼ city block long (including ramps)</li> <li>- About 30 feet deep</li> <li>- Original intent was to back dump trucks into the trench and dump the loads</li> <li>- Sides were unstable so drums were dumped into the ditch from the berm</li> <li>- Water was present at approximately 3-4' in depth at bottom of ditch</li> </ul>	<p>a. Does not know.</p>	<p>Unaware. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that during PT runs he would run by a storage area containing 55-gallon, OD Green drums. The storage area was located in the Depot area. The drums were stacked on their sides, pyramid style, 6-foot high. See attached maps which depict the drum storage area identified by Mr. [REDACTED]</p>	<p>a. Transportation took approximately 4 days</p> <p>b. Ditch was dug w/ramps on either end</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approximately ¼ city block long including ramps (about 300 feet)</li> <li>- About 15 feet deep</li> <li>- Original intent was to back dump trucks into the trench and dump the loads</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First load was driven into the trench – dumped – and truck drove out other side</li> <li>2. Loads after that for next 3-4 days were backed into the trench then dumped</li> <li>3. After 3-4 days, sides of trench were unstable – trucked backed as far as possible, dumped drums, drums were rolled rest of the way into the trench</li> <li>4. Drums were not on pallets nor were they neatly stacked in the trench</li> </ol> <p>Trench was wet, but unsure if from underground water seepage or from rain – heavy rain early in the disposal process. Approximately 3-4" standing water.</p>

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED]



# Consolidated Interview Update

## 9. Where did the containers originally come from?

<p>Mr. Stephen House</p> <p>a. PFC [redacted] Driver and SGT [redacted] Truck Driver drove the drums into the dump site. Mr. House does not know where they came from.</p>	<p>Mr. [redacted]</p> <p>a. Mr. Rowden thought that some of the containers came from a pesticide shop (Site 41 did not ring any bells). Many not known</p>	<p>Mr. [redacted]</p> <p>Mr. [redacted] stated that during PT runs he would run by a storage area containing 55-gallon, OD Green drums. The storage area was located in the Depot area. The drums stacked on their sides, pyramid style, 6-feet high. See attached maps which depict the drum storage area [redacted] identified by Mr. [redacted]. [redacted] noticed during a PT run (subsequent to the building of the trench), that the drums were no longer present in the storage area. He also noticed that the trench was filled in.</p>	<p>Mr. [redacted]</p> <p>a. War Surplus Area (Area 41) - Drivers were escorted anytime they went to this area to pick up drums</p>	<p>Dr. [redacted]</p> <p>[redacted] was told there had been in Area 41, but were removed for burial. From the nature of the materials in Area 41 in 1981, most were from shops (e.g., solvents, oils, waste acids and bases, a few pesticides).</p>
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1732

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted]

# Consolidated Interview Update

10. Where were they stored prior to disposal? Did it have a special name? Any other locations where they were stored?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
a. Mr. House did not know	a. See above.	See attached maps which depict the drum storage area identified by Mr. [REDACTED] b6	a. War Surplus Area b. Area 41 c. No known
In 1981, I was told they had been in Area 41.			

1733

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 11. What was the condition in storage?

<p>Mr. Stephen House</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p>	<p>Dr. [REDACTED] b6</p>
<p>a. Mr. House did not know</p>	<p>a. Does not know.</p>	<p>He didn't recall the condition of the drums. While on post, he observed flatbed trucks loaded with drums. The flatbeds were lined with rubber sheets. Mr. [REDACTED] did not see the drums being placed in the trench.</p>	<p>a. Drums were damaged and/or leaking</p>	<p>I do not know; however, in 1981 there were deteriorating drums in Area 41 with subsequent soil contamination. Yet, CPT Rowden told me the drums he excavated were intact and not leaking.</p>

1734

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 12. How were they moved?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
a. Flatbed truck	a. Does not know.	While on post, he observed flatbed trucks loaded with drums and flatbed was lined with rubber sheets.	a. Dump truck and Flatbed truck	do not know.

1735

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6  
 Mr. [REDACTED] b6



# Consolidated Interview Update

14. Describe the containers (all the same, any markings)?

<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p>	<p>Dr. [REDACTED] b6</p>
<p>a. Does not know.</p>	<p>Couldn't tell if they had any colored bands, or couldn't read writing on drums. He described the drums located in the storage area and on the flatbed trucks as 55-gal, OD Green, steel drums.</p>	<p>do not know.</p>

1737

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. House, Mr. [REDACTED] b6  
 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 14a. What where they made of?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
Pails and other small containers were metal - small containers contained: Lindane; malathion; technical grade DDT; diazanon; paint; greases; oils; POL; and adhesives. A lot of 55 gallon drums.	Steel 55 gallon drums	Removed from excavation - steel drums painted OD Green - did not see Herbicide Orange (or any other herbicide type) markings on any of the drums - his point of reference is drums of Herbicide Orange he saw while working at Eglin AFB, Florida. Pails and other small containers were metal - small containers contained: Lindane; Malathion; technical grade DDT; Diazanon; paint; greases; oils; POL; and adhesives. Possibly some off-color drums.	55-gallon, steel OD Green drums.	Steel 55 gallon drums	I do not directly know; I was told 55-gallon steel drums. However, in 1981, chemicals in Area 41 were in plastic, steel, and glass containers.

1738

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]

# Consolidated Interview Update

14b. If leaking, what did the substance(s) look like/ smell like?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
Chemical smell, some smelled like Malathion.	Smelled similar to creosote and/or ether - strong chemical smell.	Chemical smells	No odors during trench excavation. Was at trench site after nearly covered, and did not recall any smells or anything unusual about the site.	Smelled sweet and not pleasant.
				do not know.

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]

# Consolidated Interview Update

14c. If leaking, what percentage of the containers do you think were leaking? Where was it leaking? How much was leaking from the containers?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
Some were crushed or dented, some were rusted a bit and others were in near to new condition.	Doesn't recall	Some crushing had occurred, but many were in fact. Some leaking and degradation of containers, as well.	Unaware.	Most were leaking.	[REDACTED] do not know, however, in 1981, perhaps 10% of the drums and containers in Area 41 were leaking.

1740

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED] b6  
 Mr. [REDACTED] b6  
 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

14d. If leaking, what did you do with the material that leaked both during transportation and disposal?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
Soil was removed and containerized for disposal.	Doesn't recall	Excavated impacted soil placed in drums.	Mr. [REDACTED] was not involved in the transportation and disposal of drums.	Doesn't recall	do not know.

1741

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED], Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 15a. Length of trench, width, and depth of burial.

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
Length - About 300 feet long, Width - About 15 feet wide, Height - 15-25 feet.	Length - About 300 feet long, Width - About 15 feet wide, Height - 15-25 feet.	1/4 city block long, 1-1/2 semi trailers wide, 30 feet	Length - About 300 feet long, Width - About 15 feet wide, Height - 15-25 feet.	Wasn't involved in any disposal of drums. Mr. [REDACTED] was ordered to build a trench. Length of trench built was 3/4 to 1 city block or roughly 100-yards. Width of 290 scrapper. Depth 10-12 feet.	1/4 city block long, 1-1/2 semi trailers wide, 15 feet	The obviously excavated area in 1981 was about 300 feet long by about 30 feet wide. I was told that the excavation had gone 20-30 feet beyond the last drum in every direction. I have no knowledge of the depth.

1742

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED] b6 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 15b. Were they still leaking?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
Yes and some were crushed in the disposal process	No knowledge.	Yes - most were leaking	I have no knowledge.

1743

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. Rowden, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 15c. How were the containers arranged in the trench?

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
Drums were on pallets and neatly stacked 2 pallets high.	Dumped into the trench - no specific arrangement	Drums were on pallets and neatly stacked 2 pallets high	Doesn't have firsthand knowledge, however, he remembers hearing that the drums were stack 2-high and thinks they were set in the trench with a loader and not dumped.	Dumped either directly into trench after driving or backing into it or dumped at entrance to the trench and rolled into trench.	I have no direct knowledge, but was told by CPT Rowden that there were neatly arranged on pallets, 2 tiers high.

1744

The following had no input to this question: Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]

# Consolidated Interview Update

15d. What type of soil was excavated? What did you do with the excavated soil?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
After breaking through initial cap of hard soil, soil consisted of pea gravel and sand. Excavated soil was for berm and used to back fill trench after drums were dumped.	Excavated impacted soil drummed and stored onsite in contained area.	Sandy soil. Excavated soil was placed on side of trench using scraper.	Was not involved in the excavation, but soil was sandy and unstable	In 1981, the soil in Area D was sandy to gravely without grass cover and with evidence of recent excavation. I have no other knowledge.

1745

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6, Mr. [REDACTED] b6, and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 15e. How did you cover?

Mr. Stephen House	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>Trench was filled in after drums/etc. were removed because of safety reasons - too deep. Confirmation soil samples collected/analyzed from bottom of excavation.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>Unaware. Mr. [REDACTED] b6 was not involved with the covering of the trench.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>Not involved with covering the trench</p>	<p>Dr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>In 1981, the trench had been filled in with local soil, but had no grass yet.</p>
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1746

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

15f. Were you there long enough to notice if any vegetation grew back?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
No	Not applicable.	No noticeable dead vegetation in the area. Lots of scrub grass. Also remembers that ringed-tailed pheasants were in the area.	Area never had vegetation – it was always bare dirt	In 1981, there was still no grass cover over the trench area.

1747

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

16. Are you aware if the containers were removed after they were buried?

Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Mr. [REDACTED] b6	Dr. [REDACTED] b6
No	Not applicable.	No	No.	In 1981, I was told by CPT Rowden and my staff who were involved in the excavation that all containers were removed from Area D, but there were no records of transport or ultimate disposal. I was told there may be a few still buried near Bldg. 580.

1748

The following had no input to this question: USFK Employee, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 and Mr. [REDACTED] b6

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 17. Other notes from the interview:

USFK Employee	Mr. Stephen House	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Mr. [REDACTED]	Dr. [REDACTED]
<p>USFK Employee did not visit the site daily maybe every week or so for 30 minutes. Recalls the Colonel Robert E, Lees, QM CDR USAG Busan was a investigating officer and spent several days talking to Rowden about what was found and how the recovery was done.</p>	<p>a. Mr. House stated he received some chemical burns on his legs from kick-up of dirt while compacting back-fill of ditch b. Mr. House stated he discovered ditch had not been completely back-filled in Fall 1978. He noticed thick yellow foam leaching from open end of ditch into soil and crossing road. He also noticed dead birds and grass in the affected areas. He reported through his chain of command as was directed to close the ditch. Closing ditch took approximately 1/2 day. c. Mr. House also reported suspect area between helpads (see map). The soil looked discolored.</p>	<p>a. Took about 6 months to get it all containers removed from disposal area. b. Excavation was started with front end loader. c. Equipment operators were from Camp Carroll.</p>	<p>a. Mr. [REDACTED] noticed the trench had been nearly filled with exception to the north side of the trench. b. Mr. [REDACTED] was asked by Sgt. [REDACTED] to place some spent, rusted, concertina wire in an open end of the trench (north end of trench). During the placement of the wire in the trench, Mr. [REDACTED] observed 2 jeeps and a Crown Victoria sedan entering the gate. MPs approached Mr. [REDACTED] asking "Are you aware of what's buried there". Mr. [REDACTED] said "yes" and the MPs left the site. c. Mr. [REDACTED] asked if the south gate (gate leading into helpads area) has moved since the 1970's. This gate and water pits were his reference for the location of the trench he excavated.</p>	<p>a. After leaving Korea, Mr. Travis was stationed for 3 years at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. His job was driving shuttle bus between APG, MD and Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), Washington, DC. On one of his shuttle runs, Mr. [REDACTED] saw Mr. [REDACTED] other driver during the [REDACTED] disposal). Mr. [REDACTED] said he was being treated at WRAMC for injuries to his feet he received during the disposal. According to Messrs [REDACTED] House and [REDACTED] there is no mention of Mr. [REDACTED] being treated at WRAMC for anything. Mr. [REDACTED] calls 2 helpads, not 3. Mr. [REDACTED] recalls taking some surplus dirt from trench area to bridge they were building. This is similar to Mr. House's recollection.</p>	<p>COL Bishop was the Commander of the Pacific Env. Eng. Health Agency (part of current day Public Health Command). His unit was comprised of: 9 military, 3 civilians, and 1 Korean LN. While stationed at Camp Zama, Japan from 1977-1980, COL Bishop visited Camp Carroll in 1978 (prior to MAJ Scott Rowden being there), and contained in the silver halides reduced to silver and contained in the gelatin matrix; however, if they were expired films and unprocessed, they might contain soluble silver halides.</p>	<p>There may have been other chemicals buried near Bldg 580. I was also told, but could not confirm, that medical x-ray films had also been buried at Camp Carroll - location not specified or could be located in 1981. Any developed films would have had the silver halides reduced to silver and contained in the gelatin matrix; however, if they were expired films and unprocessed, they might contain soluble silver halides.</p>

# Consolidated Interview Update

## 17. Other notes from the interview:

<p>Mr. Stephen House</p> <p>Fumes coming from the soil caused burning in throat. He reported having several chest X-rays as a result of this exposure. He reported having several chest X-rays as a result of this exposure.</p> <p>d. Mr. House reported that in addition to the barrels, a trailer with bright yellow barrels with a tarp on it along with two old fuel pod trailers were buried at the site.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>- Started sampling liquids from containers in the Fall of 1979:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Used pipettes and disposable paddles</li> <li>2. Sent for environmental testing in Japan - COL Ron Bishop was commander of lab in Japan - he may still be consultant with Health Sciences Academy (AMEDD C&amp;S?)</li> <li>3. Difficult unknowns liquids were sent to Edgewood Arsenal for further testing.</li> <li>4. Trench was left open while testing was being done.</li> <li>g. Expanded search to confirm nothing further buried.</li> <li>h. When Rowden PCS's in Fall 1980, the drums which were stored onsite in an contained area were still there.</li> </ol>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>d. He was enrolled in class 7 of the NCO academy, 1978.</p> <p>e. He doesn't recall any helpads being near the trench he built or any special names for the area. b6</p> <p>f. Mr. [REDACTED] operated the equipment to build the trench. It took no more than a week to build. It was completed in the Fall 1978. Doesn't recall wearing any special protective gear during construction of the trench. b6</p> <p>g. Did not observe water in the bottom of the trench.</p> <p>h. No discoloration of soil was observed or odors. b6</p> <p>i. When asked, Mr. [REDACTED] did recall a fence being nearby the trench.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>Mr. [REDACTED] does not recall any drums in outdoor storage. Said there could have been drums in outdoor storage, but he's not sure. Mr. [REDACTED] believes trench was partially filled after their disposal ended, but part of it remained open to allow other units to dump barrels into it. Mr. [REDACTED] was in the ditch moving the barrels as they were dumped - Mr. [REDACTED] believes this is how Mr. [REDACTED] was injured. Mr. [REDACTED] was on profile for injury and wore white tennis shoes. Mr. [REDACTED] is unaware of Mr. [REDACTED] being medevac'd out of Camp Carroll. Mr. [REDACTED] believes the people working the War Surplus Warehouse were Korean Nationals.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>CPT [REDACTED] area of expertise while in Korea was in water and waste water area. COL Bishop does not believe CPT [REDACTED] was involved with the excavation of the site, only in testing material from the site.</p> <p>The lab in Japan had only basic equipment for testing. According to COL Bishop, the items they could identify were not out of the ordinary - no herbicides were found. The unknown items were sent to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD for testing. COL Bishop does not recall any herbicides found in this testing either.</p>
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# Consolidated Interview Update

## 17. Other notes from the interview:

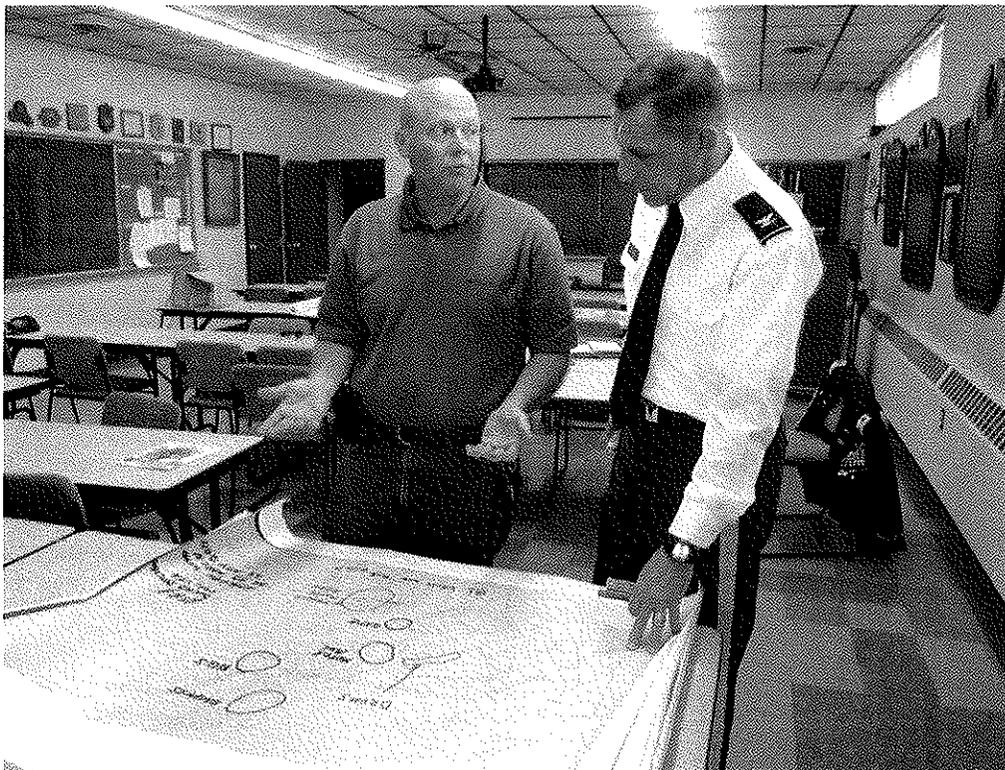
<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>. Delay in excavated containers disposal to allow time to identify contents and arrange transportation</p> <p>. Excavated soil (drums) and excavated drums possibly went to Utah or Nevada (Mr Rowden thinks Utah makes the most sense)</p> <p>k. Mr. Rowden wasn't 100% sure of the location of the trench but did point to an area at the current Land farm as the likely area.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>. Mr. [REDACTED] b6 heard that Mr. [REDACTED] b6 was on profile "wearing tennis shoes" because chemicals were spilled on his feet. He also had heard that Mr. House had chemicals spilled on his lower legs. He doesn't recall Mr. [REDACTED] b6 being evacuated from Camp Carroll.</p>	<p>Mr. [REDACTED] b6</p> <p>COL Bishop said the common practice for disposing of chemicals in the 1970s was to dig a trench, place items to be disposed of in trench, back fill trench with soil removed to create the trench, compact the area and spread rest of soil around.</p> <p>To clean up a dump site, soil was removed and placed on impermeable tarp. Items from trench were removed, soil was analyzed to determine proper way to dispose. Contaminated dirt is usually incinerated.</p>
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## Interview Photos

1. Mr. Stephen House, Equipment Operator
2. Mr. <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] Equipment Operator
3. MAJ (R) <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] en, LB Detachment, PM
4. COL(R) Ronald Bishop, CDR, Pacific Env. Engr Health Agency
5. Mr. <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] Equip Opr/Driver, DPW, 20<sup>th</sup> Spt Cmd
6. Dr. <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] LB Detachment, PM
7. Mr. <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] *Truck Driver, Not Available*
8. *USFK Employee, Not Available*



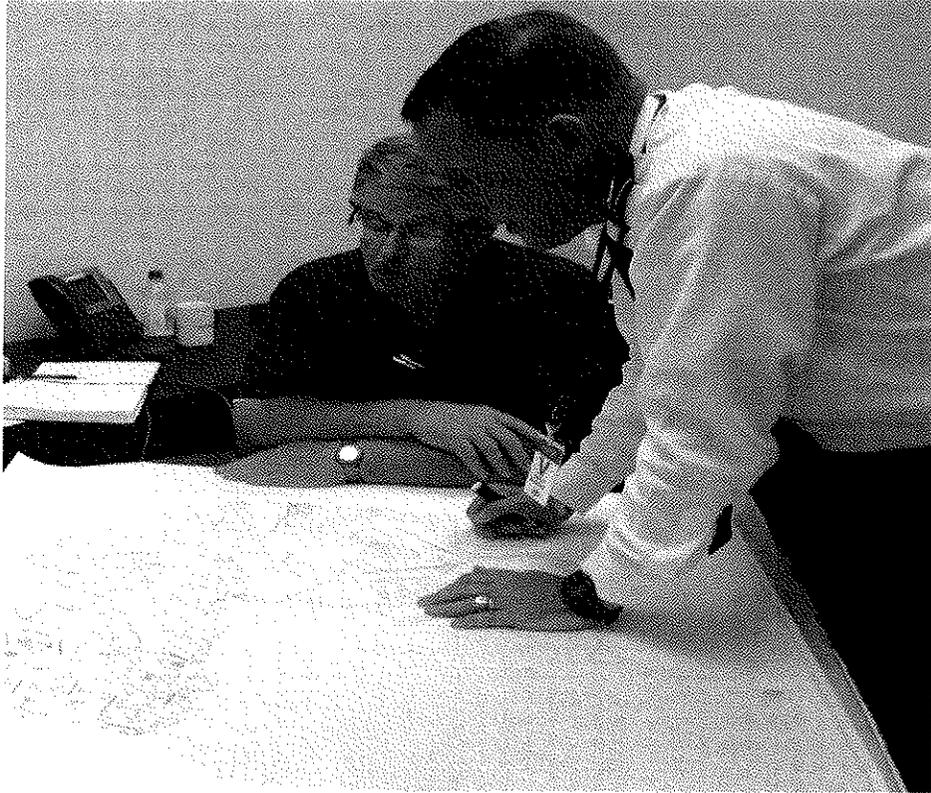
Mr. Stephen House, Equipment Operator



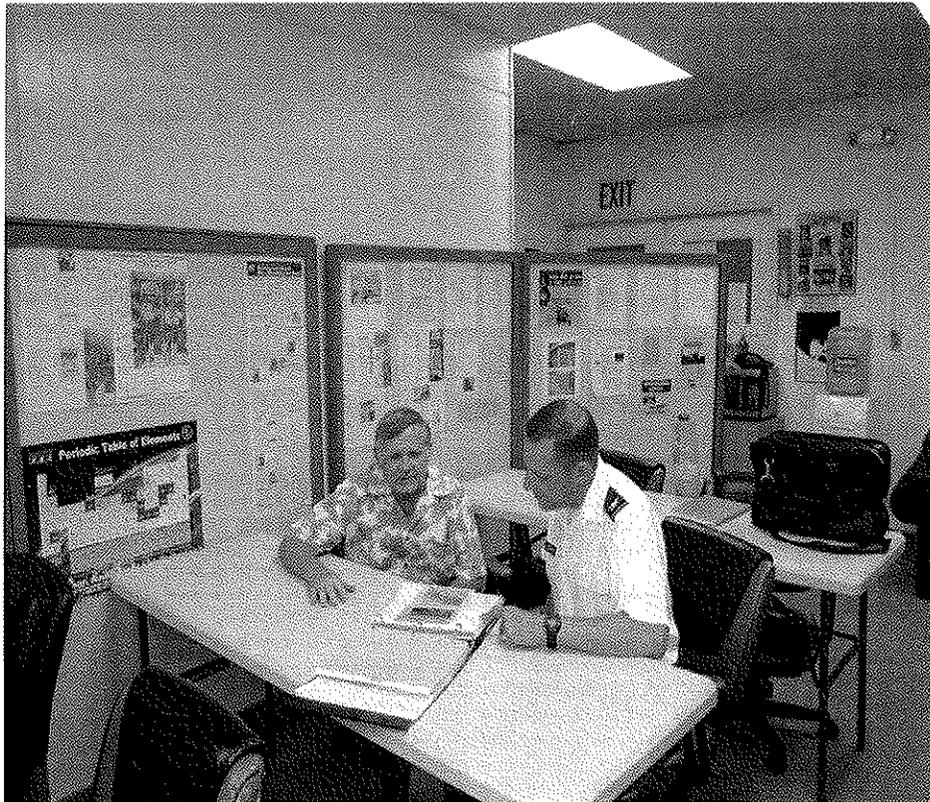
Mr. [REDACTED] Equipment Operator

b6

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MAJ (R) [REDACTED] LB Detachment, PM  
26

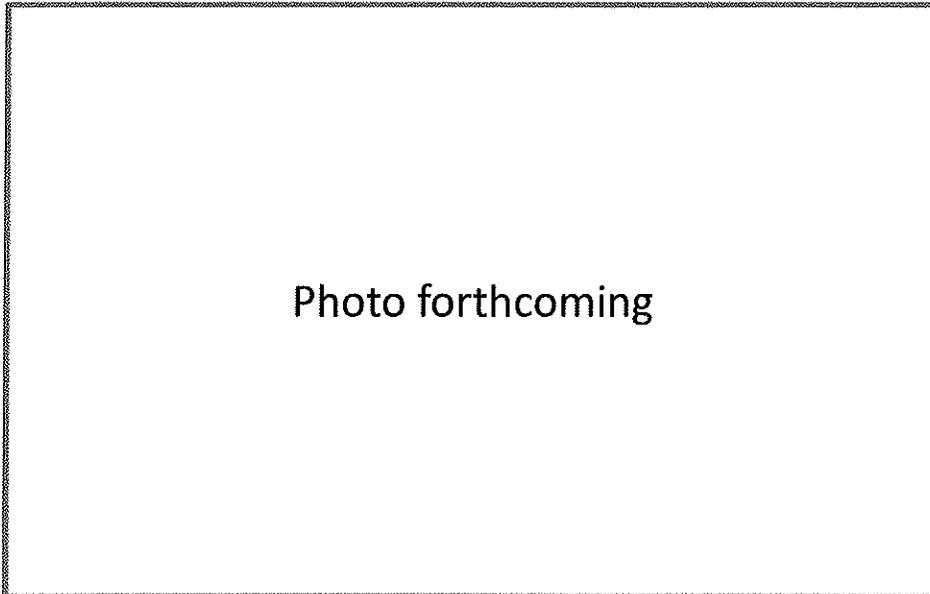


COL(R) Ronald Bishop, CDR, Pacific Env. Engr Health Agency  
1754



Mr. [REDACTED] Equip Opr/Driver, DPW, 20<sup>th</sup> Spt Cmd

b6



b6

Dr. [REDACTED], LB Detachment, PM

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## Camp Carroll Site Questions

23 May 2011 (v1)

1. When did you arrive at Camp Carroll, when did you leave?
2. What was your unit, rank, duty position?
3. Do you remember your chain of command? (Platoon ldr, company commander....up to highest rank)
4. Please describe what was disposed of at Camp Carroll? and when?
5. Please describe what it looked like, where it was located, what the area looked like.
6. Can you point out where it was disposed? Did it have a special name? Are you aware of the reason why it was disposed?
7. How long did the transportation and disposal take?
8. How much was disposed? In same location?
9. Where did the containers originally come from?
10. Where were they stored prior to disposal? Did it have a special name? Any other locations where they were stored?
11. What was the condition in storage?
12. How were they moved?
13. Who was involved with the transportation and disposal?
14. Describe the containers (all the same, any markings)?
  - a. What were they made of?
  - b. If leaking, what did the substance(s) look like/ smell like?
  - c. If leaking, what percentage of the containers do you think were leaking? Where was it leaking? How much was leaking from the containers?
  - d. If leaking, what did you do with the material that leaked both during transportation and disposal?
15. Describe how you disposed of the containers?
  - a. Length of trench, width, and depth of burial.
  - b. Were they still leaking?
  - c. How were the containers arranged in the trench?

- d. What type of soil was excavated? What did you do with the excavated soil?
  - e. How did you cover?
  - f. Were you there long enough to notice if any vegetation grew back?
16. Are you aware if the containers were removed after they were buried?

1757

T JAKVI



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office  
3333 N. Central Ave  
Phoenix AZ 85012-2402

RECEIVED  
DEC 31 2010  
BY \_\_\_\_\_

DEC 29 2010

STEPHEN F HOUSE  
1030 N DELAWARE DR  
LOT 36  
APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85120

In Reply Refer To: 345/post/bb  
CSS [REDACTED]  
HOUSE, S F

Dear Mr. House:

We made a decision on your claim for service connected compensation received on March 26, 2009.

This letter tells you about your entitlement amount and payment start date and what we decided. It includes a copy of our rating decision that gives the evidence used and reasons for our decision. We have also included information about additional benefits, what to do if you disagree with our decision, and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

**Your Award Amount and Payment Start Date**

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason For Change
\$389.00	Dec 1, 2006	Compensation Rating Adjustment
398.00	Dec 1, 2007	Cost of Living Adjustment
421.00	Dec 1, 2008	Cost of Living Adjustment

We are paying you as a veteran with one dependent. Your payment includes an additional amount for your spouse, Susan. *Let us know right away if there is any change in your marital status (for example, death, divorce, annulment).*

*It is also your responsibility to notify us of any changes to your address or direct deposit. Failure to do so could result in disruption of your monthly VA Benefit.*

**You Can Expect Payment**

Your payment begins the first day of the month following your effective date. You will receive a payment covering the initial amount due under this award, minus any withholdings,

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CSS [REDACTED]  
House, S F

in approximately 15 days. Payment will then be made at the beginning of each month for the prior month. For example, benefits due for May are paid on or about June 1.

### What We Decided

We determined that the following condition was related to your military service, so service connection has been granted:

Medical Description	Percent (%) Assigned	Effective Date
[REDACTED] (FULL GRANT)	30%	Nov 9, 2006

Your overall or combined rating is 30%, effective November 9, 2006. We do not add the individual percentages of each condition to determine your combined rating. We use a combined rating table that considers the effect from the most serious to the least serious conditions.

We have enclosed a copy of your Rating Decision for your review. It provides a detailed explanation of our decision, the evidence considered, and the reasons for our decision. Your Rating Decision and this letter constitute our decision based on your claim received on March 26, 2009. It represents all claims we understood to be specifically made, implied, or inferred in that claim.

We enclosed a VA Form 21-8764, "Disability Compensation Award Attachment-Important Information," which explains certain factors concerning your benefits.

### What Do We Need From You To Complete A Claim For Dependents?

Veterans who have service-related conditions with a combined evaluation of 30 percent or more may receive an additional allowance for their dependents. Dependents include:

- spouse
- dependent parents
- unmarried children under 18
- unmarried children between 18 and 23 who are attending an approved school
- unmarried children who were permanently incapable of self-support before age 18

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CSS [REDACTED]  
House, S F

Before we can pay additional benefits for dependents, other than your spouse, send us the following:

- VA Form 21-686c. Please fill out every blank which applies to you. *You must*
  - State the exact relationship of any children, such as stepchild, adopted child or natural child. You must also provide the city and state of their birth.
  - Provide at least the month, year, city and state of each marriage and divorce
- If your children do not live with you, provide the name and address of the person who has custody.
- The Social Security number for all dependents.

### **When And Where Do You Send The Information Or Evidence?**

Send the information or the evidence to the address at the top of this letter. Please put your full name and VA file number on the evidence.

We may be able to pay you from the date we received your claim, if we receive the information or evidence within one year from the date of this letter and we decide that you are entitled to VA benefits. If we do not receive the evidence within one year from the date of this letter, we can only pay you from the date we receive the evidence.

### **How Do You Start Direct Deposit?**

Your money may be deposited directly into your checking or savings account. This is the safest and most reliable way to get your money. For more information about Direct Deposit, please call us toll free by dialing 1-877-838-2778.

### **Are You Entitled to Additional Benefits?**

You may be eligible for government life insurance if you

- were released from active duty after April 25, 1951,
- are in good health (except for any service connected conditions), and
- apply within two years of this notification of your disability rating.

If you are totally disabled, you may be eligible to have your government life insurance premiums waived. The Insurance is called Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), and you should receive a package within two weeks. This package will contain information about the insurance and an application. If you do not receive an S-DVI package, please contact the Insurance Center to request additional information. Call the Insurance toll free number,

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1-800-669-8477, or visit the Insurance web site, <http://www.insurance.va.gov>, for further information about Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance.

You may be eligible for medical care by the VA health care system for any service connected disability. You may apply for medical care or treatment at the nearest medical facility. If you apply in person, present a copy of this letter to the Patient Registration/Eligibility Section. If you apply by writing a letter, include your VA file number and a copy of this letter.

### REDUCE OR ELIMINATE YOUR MEDICAL CO-PAYMENTS

If you receive care at a VA medical facility, **please call our Health Benefits Call Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or notify your local VA medical center** of this change in your compensation benefits. This rating decision may reduce or eliminate your co-payments for your VA-provided medical care. You may also be eligible for a refund based on this rating decision. Information regarding VA health care eligibility and co-payments is available at our website [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).

You should contact your State office of veteran's affairs for information on any tax, license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible as a veteran (or surviving dependent of a veteran). State offices of veteran's affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

You may be able to receive vocational rehabilitation employment services. The enclosed VA Form 28-8890, "Important Information About Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits," explains this benefit completely. To apply for this benefit, complete and return the enclosed VA Form 28-1900, "Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation."

### **What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision**

If you do not agree with our decision, you should write and tell us why. You have *one year from the date of this letter to appeal the decision*. The enclosed VA Form 4107, "Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision," explains your right to appeal.

### **If You Have Questions or Need Assistance**

If you have any questions, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

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CSS [REDACTED]  
House, S F

If you	Here is what to do.
Telephone	Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833.
Use the Internet	Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at <a href="https://iris.va.gov">https://iris.va.gov</a> .
Write	Put your full name and VA file number on the letter. Please send all correspondence to the address at the top of this letter.

In all cases, be sure to refer to your VA file number [REDACTED] b6

If you are looking for general information about benefits and eligibility, you should visit our website at <https://www.va.gov>, or search the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <https://iris.va.gov>.

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative, Law Offices of Theodore Jarvi, whom you can also contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED] b6  
Veterans Service Center Manager

Email us at: <https://iris.va.gov>

Enclosure(s): Rating Decision  
VA Form 21-8764  
VA Form 21-686c  
VA Form 28-1900  
VA Form 28-8890  
VA Form 4107

cc: Theodore Jarvi

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Phoenix Regional Office  
3333 N. Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

STEPHEN F. HOUSE

VA File Number  
[REDACTED]

Represented by:  
LAW OFFICES OF THEODORE JARVI

Decision Review Officer Decision  
December 13, 2010

### INTRODUCTION

The records reflect that you are a veteran of the Peacetime. You served in the Army from December 29, 1975 to December 13, 1979. We received a Notice of Disagreement from you on March 26, 2009 about one or more of our earlier decisions. **You have requested a De Novo review of the claim for which a Notice of Disagreement has been filed.** This review shows:

### DECISION

Service connection for anxiety disorder, not otherwise specified (previously rated as post traumatic stress disorder) is granted with an evaluation of 30 percent effective November 9, 2006. **(FULL GRANT)**

### EVIDENCE

- Your military discharge document

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- Article by [REDACTED] titled "S. Korea alleges Agent Orange use", received with your initial claim filed in November 2006
- Article titled "A Visit Back to Korea" and additional letter addressed to DMZ Vets by [REDACTED], received with your initial claim filed in November 2006
- Copies of photographs, received with your initial claim in November 2006
- Copy of your Letter of Appreciation dated February 22, 1979 from [REDACTED] CPT, received with your initial claim in November 2006
- Copy of DA form 348 documenting your Official Qualifications and Performance Record from May 1976 to July 1979, received with your initial claim in November 2006
- Letter dated October 30, 2006 from Dr. [REDACTED]
- Letter from [REDACTED] dated October 20, 2006, received with your initial claim filed in November 2006
- VA form 21-526, Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension, received on November 9, 2006
- VA letter to you dated February 22, 2007
- Service treatment records from October 28, 1975 through September 13, 1979
- Your military personnel records
- Treatment reports, Dr. [REDACTED] from July 6, 2006 through March 14, 2007
- We requested your records from Dr. [REDACTED] but they did not submit your records
- Treatment reports, Dr. [REDACTED] from September 6, 2006 through October 10, 2007
- Letter from [REDACTED] received on October 31, 2007
- Psychological Evaluation dated November 1, 2007 from Dr. O'Leary
- Letter dated July 23, 2007 from Mark [REDACTED] received on August 24, 2007
- Letter dated March 3, 2008 from [REDACTED] Colonel, US Army (Retired)
- Letter dated February 14, 2008 from [REDACTED] C-NP
- Email correspondence dated May 17, 2008 received from VA Central Office regarding verification of Exposure to Agent Orange Along the DMZ in Korea
- Letter dated February 14, 2008 from [REDACTED] C-NP
- Response received on June 3, 2008 from the United States Armed Services Center for Unit Records Research (USASCRUR) regarding evidence of exposure to Agent Orange in Korea
- VA Mental Health examination, Detroit VAMC, dated September 18, 2008
- Rating decision dated October 7, 2008 and notification letter to you dated October 9, 2008
- Your Notice of Disagreement filed on March 26, 2009
- VA letter to you dated April 20, 2009
- Correspondence from your attorney representative, Theodore Jarvi, dated April 23, 2009 indicating you elect the Decision Review Officer (DRO) review process for your appeal and that you were requesting a DRO hearing

- Report of General Information dated October 23, 2009 noting that a DRO hearing was held on that date
- Your statement dated February 14, 2007
- Your letter dated October 11, 2009 to Senator John McCain
- Memorandum of Facts and Law submitted by your attorney representative, Theodore Jarvi, dated October 23, 2009
- Treatment reports, Phoenix VA Medical Center, from February 23, 2010 through October 28, 2010
- Letter dated June 30, 2010 from [REDACTED], Ph.D. b6
- Letter dated March 23, 1978 addressed to Franklin House from [REDACTED], CPT, CE Commanding b6
- Your personal statement dated July 6, 2010
- Memorandum of Facts and Law submitted by your attorney representative, Theodore Jarvi, on July 2010
- Photographs presented at your DRO hearing in July 2010
- Your letter dated July 1, 2010 to Senator John McCain
- Transcript of Hearing dated July 9, 2010
- VA Mental Health examination dated August 30, 2010 at the Phoenix VA Medical Center

### REASONS FOR DECISION

#### Service connection for anxiety disorder, not otherwise specified (previously rated as post traumatic stress disorder).

Review of your service treatment records provides no evidence of complaints, treatment, or diagnosis of [REDACTED] in service. Your service treatment records do provide evidence of [REDACTED] in July 1976.

Review of your military personnel file shows you served from December 29, 1975 to December 13, 1979. Your records further show you served in Korea from February 24, 1978 to February 23, 1979 with the 802nd Engineer Battalion.

On your initial claim filed in November 2006 you claimed service connection for [REDACTED] because you were exposed to Agent Orange in service and are always waiting for cancer or some other life changing diagnosis to occur.

You submitted a letter from [REDACTED] in support of your claim. Mr. [REDACTED] reports he served with you in Korea and that during the summer of 1978 you were required to dispose of barrels labeled "Chemical Agent, Type: Orange". Mr. [REDACTED] reported these barrels were rusted and leaking. You also submitted a copy of a Letter of Appreciation dated February 22, 1979 from [REDACTED] in which Cpt. [REDACTED] reported you were

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part of D Company 802nd Engineer Battalion. In addition, you submitted a letter and article from David Benbow and an additional article by [REDACTED] b6 These articles and letter discuss the use of toxic defoliants used along the Korean Border in the 1960's.

Your private treatment records from Dr. [REDACTED] b6 and Dr. [REDACTED] b6 were received and reviewed. However, these records provide no evidence of complaints or treatment of any [REDACTED].

A "buddy statement" was received from [REDACTED] b6 in support of your claim. Mr. [REDACTED] states he served with Delta Company, 802nd Engineer Battalion in August of 1978. Mr. [REDACTED] states he put barrels in an excavation site as part of his duties. Mr. [REDACTED] b6 does not make any reference to your duties in service in his statement. A statement was received from Mr. [REDACTED] b6 Mr. [REDACTED] states he supervised you in August 1978 and further states it was part of his duty to initiate the construction of a trench and that he witnessed numerous fifty gallon drums being disposed of in this trench. He also notes that many of these drums were leaking and that he recalls you had come in contact with the contents of the drums, although he does not make a statement as to what was contained in the barrels.

An additional statement was received from Stephen Massey, Colonel, US Army (Retired), dated March 3, 2008. Colonel Massey reports he was the commander of D Company, 802nd Engineer Battalion from August 1978 to March 1979. He further notes being tasked with excavation of a large ditch in the Spring of 1979 and that you were among the heavy equipment platoon that help in this excavation. Colonel Massey states he does not recall ever being told what was going to be buried in the excavation.

You submitted a Psychological Evaluation completed on November 1, 2007 from Dr. [REDACTED] b6 Dr. [REDACTED] report documents your symptoms of [REDACTED] b6 that occurred while you were in the United States Army. Dr. [REDACTED] states these experiences have become more pronounced as you have experienced a significant increase in medical symptoms that you believe are associated with exposure to Agent Orange while in Korea. At this exam, you reported several incidents of trauma while in service. You reported a truck accident which occurred in 1976; you reported you were exposed to Agent Orange in service; you reported you have feelings of guilt regarding your participation in the burial of the Agent Orange in Korea; and you also reported witnessing the accidental death of a Korean worker when a tire exploded. At this exam, you denied any other sources of trauma. The examination report states you were married with two grown children and have remained steadily employed. The examiner noted you were clear and cogent in your thoughts and were socially appropriate in your manner with good grooming and a consistent presentation. The examiner noted there were no unusual behavioral mannerisms. Dr. [REDACTED] administered Psychological Testing and provided an Axis I diagnosis of [REDACTED] b6 Dr. [REDACTED] indicated there was no Axis II diagnosis and did not address a full Axis V diagnoses. b6

VA attempted to find corroborating evidence in support of your claim of exposure to Agent Orange in Korea during your military service. However, a response received from the VA Central Office regarding exposure to Agent Orange in Korea states that VA has recognized the use of herbicides on the Korean DMZ from April 1968 to July 1969. The response further notes your service time was ten years after the time frame of acknowledgement of Agent Orange use in the DMZ and further reported that all Agent Orange use in Southeast Asia had been shipped to Johnston Island in the Pacific and destroyed with incineration by the time you were in service. Additionally, the response indicates records of Agent Orange use in Korea shows that only Korean soldiers applied Agent Orange and it was done with a pellet form and not with barrels.

Further attempts to corroborate your statements was made through a request to the United States Armed Services Center for Unit Records Research (USASCRUR). The response received from this department states they researched the 1978 unit history of the 802nd Engineer Battalion and note that it was located at Camp Carroll, Waegwan near Taegu. The response notes the history documented a containment berm for an oil storage area was started on October 24, 1978 and that the project included a collector basin, water-oil separator and sluice gate. The history did not document or mention unit members handling Agent Orange or being exposed to herbicides. The response concluded they were unable to document any trench being used for the disposal of barrels of Agent Orange. Additionally, the department noted herbicides were used in Korea between 1967 and 1969 at the southern boundary of the DMZ by Republic of Korea Armed Forces as part of counter-infiltration operations. The herbicides were applied using hand sprayers and a trailer mounted decontamination apparatus. No United States personnel were known to have been actually involved in the application of herbicides in that area. The records state that Agent Orange was used in this area from April to August 1968 only.

A VA mental health examination was conducted in September 2008. The examiner acknowledged review of your claims file and medical record. The examiner was asked to evaluate for the presence of [REDACTED] related to your documented stressor related to your truck accident as this was the only verified stressor noted in the file. At the examination, you reported to the examiner that you were exposed to Agent Orange in service while excavating trenches near Camp Carol and that you believe this accounts currently for your significant medical ailments. You also reported you were involved in a "close call" motor vehicle accident in 1976 but were not injured. The examiner reported you downplayed the seriousness of the accident during the evaluation and that that the other experiences in service play on you and that you feel that your health has declined significantly as a result of your experiences there. The examiner noted in addition to the evaluation, he reviewed collateral statements from friends who wrote on behalf of your stressors. You reported experiencing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You denied any feelings of impatience, irritability or feared loss of control. You denied any significant anxiety or psychotic symptoms such as delusions, hallucinations or feelings of persecution or paranoia. The

[REDACTED]

was appropriate to the content of discussion. Your memory appeared unimpaired. The remainder of the exam was unremarkable. The examiner diagnosed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The rating decision dated October 7, 2008 denied service connection for [REDACTED] and we received your Notice of Disagreement with this decision on March 26, 2009. The records indicate you elected the Decision Review Office (DRO) review process and that a hearing was initially held on October 23, 2009. A Report of General Information dated October 23, 2009 notes you were also claiming [REDACTED] related to your truck accident in service.

On October 22, 2009 we received your letter sent to Senator [REDACTED] b6 in which you describe your duties in service and in particular, describe your duties of burying 55 gallon barrels in a ditch while in Korea. You state in your letter that these barrels were filled with chemicals and that they would burst and splash chemicals on your uniform. You state in your letter that you discovered that you were burying Agent Orange and other unidentified chemicals. You further report that you have developed multiple medical issues over the years and that you also suffer from [REDACTED] which you believe was caused, in part, by the knowledge that you participated in the cover-up of toxic chemicals.

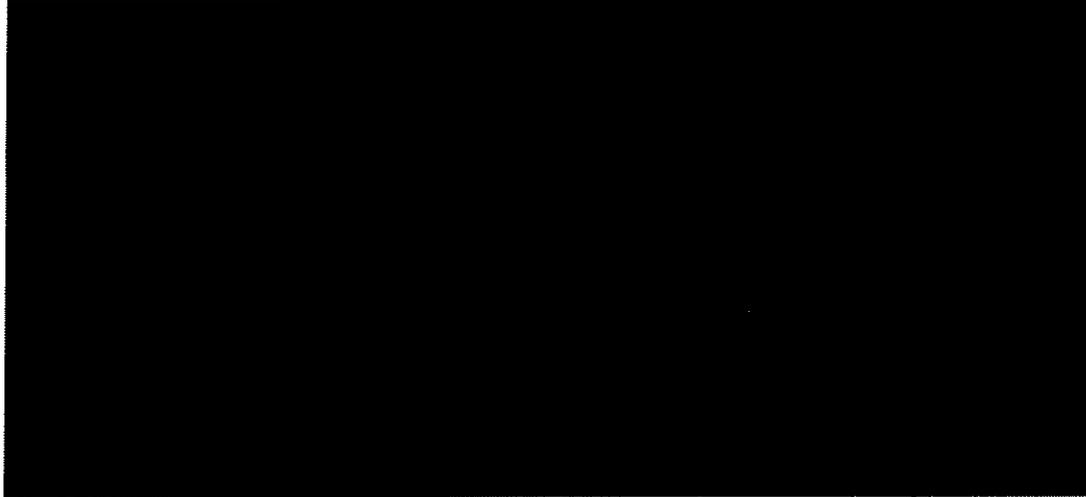
A letter dated June 30, 2010 was received from [REDACTED] b6 Ph.D., which states he b6 was treating you for symptoms related to [REDACTED] Dr. [REDACTED] does not discuss any stressors related to your symptoms nor does he provide a full Axis V diagnosis.

A letter addressed to your father, Franklin D. House, dated March 1978 was submitted in support of your claim. The letter was from [REDACTED] b6 CPT, CE Commanding, and states you had been assigned to Company D 802nd Engineer Battalion and briefly described your duties. In addition, you submitted a statement dated July 6, 2010 in which you provided additional details of your duties while in Korea, emphasizing the duties surrounding the ditch and the burying of the barrels in the ditch.

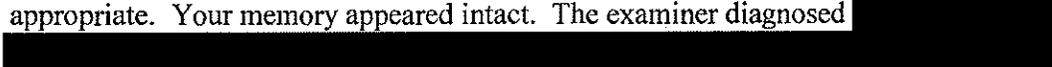
On July 9, 2010 an additional DRO hearing was held. At the hearing, you provided additional testimony of your duties in service related to construction of the ditch and disposal of the 55 gallon barrels. You provided photographs of the area for review. You reported that most of the barrels that were disposed of contained Agent Orange. You also provided testimony about your truck accident in service. You reported you still have [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, you reported you continue to experience a lot of guilt and worry about the people still in Korea that consume the water where the barrels were buried.

Based on your testimony at your hearing, a new VA mental health exam was ordered. The examination was conducted on August 30, 2010 at the Phoenix VA Medical Center. The examiner noted review of your claims file and medical records. At the exam, you



disability from your job as a plant operator. You reported you stopped working last October. You reported you have been married for 28 years and have two children. You reported your relationship with your wife was great and your relationship with your children was also good. You reported your daily activities consist of running errands and that on weekends you enjoy taking small trips. You reported you have some friends and enjoy riding your motorcycle. You were able to complete all activities of daily living independently. You denied any pending legal problems. The mental status exam showed you were alert and fully oriented. You were on time and adequately groomed. Your overall mood appeared slightly anxious. Your eye contact was good and your speech was moderate in rate and tone. Your thought process was logical and goal oriented. You denied any current suicidal or homicidal ideation. There was no evidence of a psychotic disorder. Your judgment and insight were moderate and your impulse control was appropriate. Your memory appeared intact. The examiner diagnosed



physical struggles. The examiner provided a current global assessment in functioning score of or school functioning. The examiner indicated you were considered to be competent for VA purposes. The examiner further indicated you did not meet the DSM IV diagnostic criteria for because you did not endorse the required symptoms needed for a diagnosis of. The examiner did state, however, that your current anxiety is at least as likely as not a result of the documented truck accident in service and your perception of the results of your exposure to toxic chemicals which you believed to have been Agent Orange even though your exposure to Agent Orange has yet to be established on a factual basis.

Your VA outpatient treatment records dated February 2010 to October 2010 were reviewed and show you have [REDACTED] which you believe resulted from exposure to Agent Orange. The records further document your frustration with dealing with your medical issues and your belief that your medical conditions occurred as a result of exposure to Agent Orange.

The evidence of record shows during your service in Korea in 1978 your duties included digging a trench and disposing of barrels in this trench. This is supported by your own personal statements, supporting statements from multiple people who served with you, and your military personnel file. Your statements clearly show you believe you were exposed to Agent Orange from these barrels and that you feel your current medical issues have resulted from this exposure. The evidence of record does not support any exposure to Agent Orange in Korea in 1978. However, the VA examiner's opinion provided at your exam in August 2010 states that your [REDACTED] is at least as likely as not related to your perception that you were exposed to Agent Orange in service and that your medical issues are caused from this exposure. In addition, the examiner indicated your [REDACTED] is at least as likely as not related to the documented truck accident in service. Therefore, based on the VA examiner's diagnosis and opinion that your anxiety disorder is related to in-service events, service connection for [REDACTED] is granted. **This is considered to be a full grant of benefits sought on appeal for this issue.**

Where there is a question as to which of two evaluations shall be applied, the higher evaluation will be assigned if the disability picture more nearly approximates the criteria required for that rating. Otherwise, the lower rating will be assigned.

Based on your symptoms of [REDACTED] but with satisfactory social relationships and history of satisfactory occupational functioning, your disability picture more nearly approximates the criteria for a 30 percent evaluation. Therefore, a 30 percent evaluation is assigned from November 9, 2006 which is the date you initially filed your claim for service connection for a mental health condition, (originally claimed as [REDACTED]) because you have continuously prosecuted your claims since that date. A higher evaluation of 50 percent is not warranted unless there is reduced reliability and productivity due to such symptoms as: flattened affect; circumstantial, circumlocutory, or stereotyped speech; panic attacks more than once a week; difficulty in understanding complex commands; impairment of short- and long-term memory (e.g., retention of only highly learned material, forgetting to complete tasks); impaired judgment; impaired abstract thinking; disturbances of motivation and mood; difficulty in establishing and maintaining effective work and social relationships.

**REFERENCES:**

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief contains the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs which govern entitlement to all veteran benefits. For additional information regarding applicable laws and regulations, please consult your local library, or visit us at our web site, [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

<b>Decision Review Officer Decision</b>		<i>Department of Veterans Affairs Phoenix Regional Office</i>		Page 1 12/13/2010	
NAME OF VETERAN STEPHEN F. HOUSE		VA FILE NUMBER [REDACTED]	SOCIAL SECURITY NR [REDACTED]	POA LAW OFFICES OF THEODORE JARVI	COPY TO

ACTIVE DUTY			
EOD	RAD	BRANCH	CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE
12/29/1975	12/13/1979	Army	Honorable

LEGACY CODES			
ADD'L. SVC CODE	COMBAT CODE	SPECIAL PROV CDE	FUTURE EXAM DATE
	1		None

**JURISDICTION:** Notice of Disagreement Received 03/26/2009

**ASSOCIATED CLAIM(s):** 174; DRO Decision; 09/09/10

**SUBJECT TO COMPENSATION (1. SC)**

9413

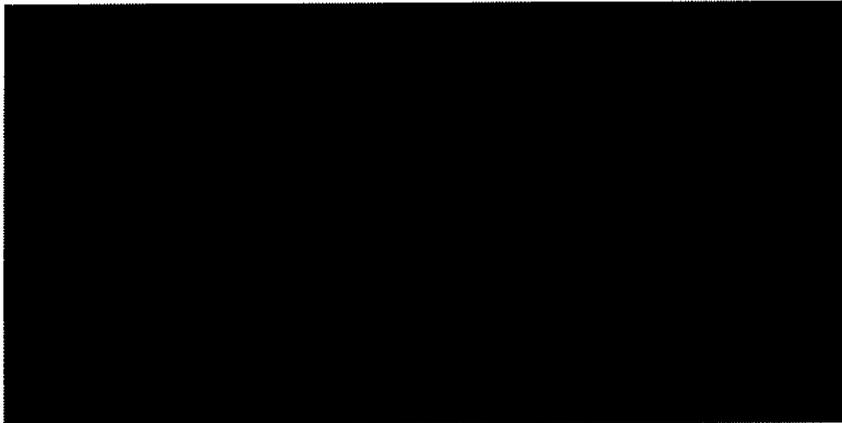


Service Connected, Peacetime, Incurred  
Static Disability  
30% from 11/09/2006

**COMBINED EVALUATION FOR COMPENSATION :**

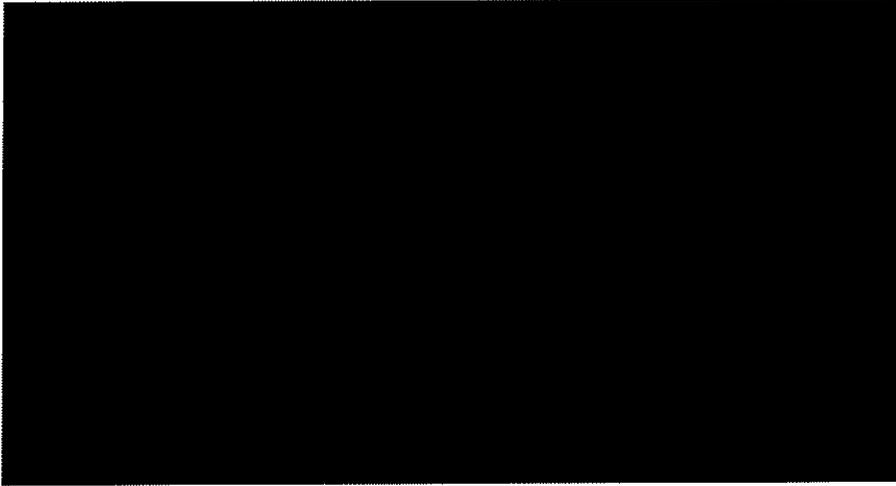
30% from 11/09/2006

**NOT SERVICE CONNECTED/NOT SUBJECT TO COMPENSATION (8.NSC Peacetime)**



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<b>Decision Review Officer Decision</b>		<i>Department of Veterans Affairs Phoenix Regional Office</i>		Page 2 12/13/2010	
NAME OF VETERAN STEPHEN F. HOUSE	VA FILE NUMBER [REDACTED]	SOCIAL SECURITY NR [REDACTED]	POA LAW OFFICES OF THEODORE JARVI	COPY TO	



b6  
[REDACTED] DRO  
b6

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After careful and compassionate consideration, a decision has been reached on your claim. If we were not able to grant some or all of the VA benefits you asked for, this form will explain what you can do if you disagree with our decision. If you do not agree with our decision, you may:

- appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (the Board) by telling us you disagree with our decision
- give us evidence we do not already have that may lead us to change our decision

This form will tell you how to appeal to the Board and how to send us more evidence. You can do either one or both of these things.

**NOTE:** Please direct all new evidence to the address at the top of our letter. Do not send evidence directly to the Board until you receive written notice from the Board that they received your appeal.

### WHAT IS AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS?

An appeal is your formal request that the Board review the evidence in your VA file and review the law that applies to your appeal. The Board can either agree with our decision or change it. The Board can also send your file back to us for more processing before the Board makes its decision.

### HOW CAN I APPEAL THE DECISION?

**How do I start my appeal?** To begin your appeal, write us a letter telling us you disagree with our decision. This letter is called your "Notice of Disagreement." If we denied more than one claim for a benefit (for example, if you claimed compensation for three disabilities and we denied two of them), please tell us in your letter which claims you are appealing. *Send your Notice of Disagreement to the address at the top of our letter.*

**What happens after VA receives my Notice of Disagreement?** We will either grant your claim or send you a Statement of the Case. A Statement of the Case describes the facts, laws, regulations, and reasons that we used to make our decision. We will also send you a VA Form 9, "Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals," with the Statement of the Case. You must complete this VA Form 9 and return it to us if you want to continue your appeal.

**How long do I have to start my appeal?** You have one year to appeal our decision. *Your* letter saying that you disagree with our decision must be postmarked (or received by us) within one year from the date of *our* letter denying you the benefit. In most cases, you cannot appeal a decision after this one-year period has ended.

**What happens if I do not start my appeal on time?** If you do not start your appeal on time, our decision will become final. Once our decision is final, you cannot get the VA benefit we denied unless you either:

- show that we were clearly wrong to deny the benefit *or*
- send us new evidence that relates to the reason we denied your claim

**Can I get a hearing with the Board?** Yes. If you decide to appeal, the Board will give you a hearing if you want one. The VA Form 9 we will send you with the Statement of the Case has complete information about the kinds of hearings the Board offers and convenient check boxes for requesting a Board hearing. The Board does not require you to have a hearing. It is your choice.

### Where can I find out more about appealing to the Board?

- You can find a "plain language" booklet called "How Do I Appeal," on the Internet at: <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/pamphlet.htm>. The booklet also may be requested by writing to: Mail Processing Section (014), Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.
- You can find the formal rules for appealing to the Board in the Board's Rules of Practice at title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. You can find the complete Code of Federal Regulations on the Internet at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>. A printed copy of the Code of Federal Regulations may be available at your local law library.

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**Can I get someone to help me with my appeal to the Board?** Yes. You can have a veterans' service organization representative, an attorney-at-law, or an "agent" help you with your appeal. But you are not required to have someone represent you. It is your choice.

- Representatives who work for accredited veterans' service organizations know how to prepare and present claims and will represent you. You can find a listing of these organizations on the Internet at: <http://www.va.gov/vso>.
- A private attorney or an "agent" can also represent you. If applicable, your local bar association may be able to refer you to an attorney with experience in veterans' law. VA only recognizes attorneys who are licensed to practice in the United States or in one of its territories or possessions. An agent is a person who is not a lawyer, but who VA recognizes as being knowledgeable about veterans' law. Contact us if you would like to know if there is a VA accredited agent in your area.

**Do I have to pay someone to help me with my appeal to the Board?** It depends on who helps you. The following explains the differences.

- Veterans' service organizations will represent you for free.
- Attorneys or agents can charge you for helping you under some circumstances. Paying their fees for helping you with your appeal to the Board is your responsibility. If you do hire an attorney or agent to represent you, one of you must send a copy of any fee agreement to the following address within 30 days from the date the agreement is executed: Office of the General Counsel (022D), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. See 38 C.F.R. 14.636(g). If the fee agreement provides for the direct payment of fees out of past-due benefits, a copy of the agreement must also be filed with us at the address at the top of our letter. See 38 C.F.R. 14.636(h)(4).

### **CAN I GIVE VA ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE?**

Yes. You can send us more evidence to support a claim whether or not you appeal to the Board. **If you want to appeal, though, do not forget the one-year time limit!**

If you have more evidence to support a claim, it is in your best interest to give us that evidence as soon as you can. We will consider your evidence and let you know whether it changes our decision. Please keep in mind that we can only consider new evidence that: (1) we have not already seen and (2) relates to your claim. You may give us this evidence either in writing or at a personal hearing.

***In writing.*** To support your claim, you may send documents and written statements to us at the address on the top of our letter. Tell us in a letter how these documents and statements should change our earlier decision.

***At a personal hearing.*** You may request a local hearing with us at any time. This hearing is separate from any Board hearing you might ask for later if you appeal. We do not require you to have one. It is your choice. At this hearing, you may speak, bring witnesses to speak on your behalf, and hand us written evidence. If you want a hearing, send us a letter asking for a hearing. Use the address at the top of our letter. We will then:

- arrange a time and place for the hearing
- provide a room for the hearing
- assign someone to hear your evidence
- make a written record of the hearing

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GIVE VA EVIDENCE?**

We will review the record of the hearing and other new evidence, together with the evidence we already have. We will then decide if we can grant your claim. If we cannot grant your claim and you appeal, we will send the new evidence and the record of any local hearing to the Board.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office  
3333 N. Central Ave  
Phoenix AZ 85012-2402

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AUG 19 2010  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

August 18, 2010

THEODORE C. JARVI  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1050 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE  
SUITE G-3  
TEMPE AZ 85282

In Reply Refer To: 345/Privacy Act/FOIA  
CSS [REDACTED]  
HOUSE, Stephen F.

Dear Mr. Jarvi:

As you requested, we are enclosing a copy of the DRO Transcript of Hearing for July 9, 2010, with Mr. House.

We hope this will assist you.

Sincerely yours,

b6

[REDACTED]  
Veterans Service Center Manager  
Email us at: <https://iris.va.gov>

1776



**THEODORE C. JARVI**

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August 13, 2010

FOIA ADMINISTRATOR  
Department of Veteran's Affairs  
Phoenix Regional Office  
3333 N. Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Re: Stephen F. House  
C#: [REDACTED] b6  
Attorney Accreditation No. 8906

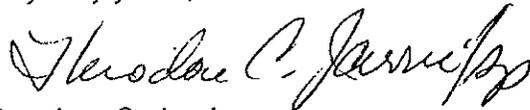
**REQUEST FOR DRO HEARING TRANSCRIPT**

Dear Sir/Madam:

On July 9, 2010, Mr. House and I attended a DRO Hearing. This letter is a request for a copy of the transcript of that hearing.

This request is in accordance with the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Very truly yours,



Theodore C. Jarvi  
Attorney at Law

TCJ/sp  
Dictated but not read  
cc: Mr. House

1777

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

CSS [REDACTED]  
HOUSE, STEPHEN F.

July 9, 2010  
Time not provided  
345/21HO

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: You may begin.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay, this is a continuation of a hearing that occurred October 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2009, and for whatever reason we weren't able to get a transcript of that hearing, so we're...we're reconvening it and according to the DRO, Mr. [REDACTED] here, the oath that Stephen House took in...on October 23<sup>rd</sup> is still in effect, so all his testimony here is as truthfully as...as if he were still under oath at that time, or not as truthfully, it is truthfully because it's under oath at that time.

I have prepared a...another memorandum of facts involved. There's already one in the file, this one, however, is somewhat more complete and it contains a sworn statement from the Veteran regarding his claim, and it's in...perhaps anticipation of any other problems, but the testimony...but his testimony will flesh out that.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Okay.

This is your revised memorandum of all the facts involved.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Right, and you will find there are additional items of evidence with it, although a lot of...of what you'll see there is the same. There are some additional items of evidence, include...including the Veteran's notarized statement. Just to sort of make things complete here, Stephen, why don't you go ahead and tell us your name and...and address.

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VETERAN: My name is Stephen Franklin House, and I live at:

1365 North Delaware.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Steve, as we had discussed in the hearing previously, you spent a period of time in Korea, is that correct?

VETERAN: Correct.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And there was some question at some point that...whether you were even in Korea or not, and I'd like to show you what...what we've now marked as Item 8, Page 5, a letter from the Army to your dad. Can you tell me where you got that?

VETERAN: That was a letter that was sent to my parents when I arrived at my unit, DEO Company in Waegwan, South Korea. I was stationed there and the commanding officer on Camp Humphreys (ph) sent the letter out just explaining to my parents if they need to get a hold of me in an emergency situation, how to go about doing so, and also just saying that...you know...to write often...you know...because of the distance and you get homesick...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: What I found particularly interesting about that letter was that it described your duties in Korea as a Heavy Equipment Operator. Was that an accurate description that he put in there about what your duties would be?

VETERAN: Yes, and he also...you know...explained...(inaudible)...that I'd be under a pretty heavy workload. I believe there's also the original copy...the original envelope with the postmark...I got it, too.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: He talks about you being assigned to an earth...(inaudible)...moving platoon as a Senior Wheel Tractor...(inaudible)...Operator. Is that right?

VETERAN: Correct.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And that is at what station in Korea?

VETERAN: That was...it was a depot, Camp Carol. It was outside of Waegwan, closest...(inaudible)...within Taegu.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay. You've used two names here that we'd kind of like to get the spelling on. The first one is Waegwan?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Can you spell it?

VETERAN: (W-A-E-G...) I'm not for sure exactly how it's spelled right now, but the other one was Taegu...was probably about 45 miles or less.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And that's (T-A-E-G-U)?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay.

VETERAN: But Waegwan was the town that the base was actually located near.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Um...there's an initial item of evidence which is not in the memorandum that we have recently received, and it's called "Progress Notes" printed on May 6, 2010. Can you tell me what those are?

VETERAN: Yes. I signed a...signed to get into the Agent Orange Research Program down at the clinic...(inaudible)...and they scheduled me for a physical at the VA Hospital, Downtown Phoenix, where I underwent a full Agent Orange protocol physical. This is the doctor's report.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And it discussed the conditions that you have...that would be related to Agent Orange once we are showing...once we have showed exposure?

VETERAN: Yes, the side effects, the diabetes, the neuropathy, the other medical issues that I've having right now.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Mr. [REDACTED] <sup>to</sup>we...we're going to submit that, too, although I realize that you probably have that. I think it's very pertinent to his...the number of different claims he has arising from diabetes and his exposure to Agent Orange.

You were in Korea from...over what month?

VETERAN: It was from '78 to '79.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay. September '78?

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VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Um...this...well, it was earlier that September '78?

VETERAN: It was earlier that that, yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And when did you leave? Do you recall?

VETERAN: It was in the spring of '78...'79...spring of '79.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Now, we've attached a statement called, "The Statement of Stephen House," but it's not written in your...(inaudible)...in your words. Can you tell us how it was written?

VETERAN: I sat down with you and went through everything and tried to get a timeline of...you know...the buddy letters and everything....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay....

VETERAN: ...that I've submitted to the VA.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...and you got to read that that was written up...

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...then as a result of that discussion?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And you have adopted that statement as your own and you had an opportunity to correct any inaccuracies in the statement?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And so it's your testimony now that you have...you adopt this statement as your own?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Explain how you were assigned to dig a big ditch out there in Camp Carol.

VETERAN: Sometime early spring, the first year I was there, after morning formation they called myself and I believe it was five of the other operators...several bulldozer operators and...(inaudible)...operators...drivers. I was...(inaudible)...there and I was with the EM Platoon, which is Earth Movers, and told that we would be assigned to...well, Lieutenant [REDACTED] (ph) was our platoon officer...and himself and another lieutenant from some other unit, and we would be doing a job. At the time we were told we were just going to be digging what they called a "Disposal ditch," and this ditch was to be dug up on a area called, "D-Area." It was on a ridge on the backside of the base. I was a...(inaudible)...area where the big Chinooks would come in and unload freight, and we dug this pretty large ditch at the base of the....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Could you give us the rough dimensions, please?

VETERAN: Well, it was over two-pans wide, and it was as wide as a semi, and....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And referring to...(inaudible).

VETERAN: ...scrapper...(inaudible)...big earthmovers were called a pan or a scrapper. I got photographs...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay...(inaudible)...me to show you the first photograph.

VETERAN: This is the actual ditch as we were filling it towards the end of the job. There's...don't know if you make it out, but those are some pallets and an old oil tank of some sort that they brought on. That was towards the end of the job though, and....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay.

After you dug the ditch, was the dirt from the ditch just put off to the side?

VETERAN: As we dug the ditch on the back backside of the...we build a big...(inaudible)...and then as the trucks would come in we would unload it with either forklifts or pull up a bucket motor. Some of the stuff...the first stuff was in great shape, it had been stored indoors apparently, and later on in the summer,

the stuff that came in had been outside. It looked like it had been exposed to the elements.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Now, these photographs that we're now presenting, where'd they come from?

VETERAN: These were pictures that I took. I got photo albums. I took pictures of about every job I ever did while I was over there. They came off that little... (inaudible)... Sure Shot, they called a 35-millimeter disposable camera, and I... you could wear one and keep your... you would still be able to button your tee pocket closed. In fact, the pictures are dated if you look at them back when they developed them there.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: A couple of them are, but not all.

VETERAN: Yeah, on post they would develop the pictures.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Well, let's go ahead and get these things in... into the file. Why don't you go through them one at a time and tell him....

VETERAN: Okay, this....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...tell us what we're seeing.

VETERAN: ...photograph here was taken from my motor pool.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: What's the date on the side of it?

VETERAN: And that is April of '78, and that is D-Area across the valley. In fact, there's a Chinook landing on the... on the site right now in this picture.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: You talking about a Chinook helicopter?

VETERAN: Helicopter, right, and that's D-Area on the other... so it's on the other sight of the base from where my motor pool was, and this next picture is an actual picture of one of the pans as we're digging.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Can we get an I.D. on that picture? Maybe out a figure... a number and initials or something so that we can identify it easier? Just right on the back of it... one... one or two-word description and your initials. Okay.

VETERAN: And this other one....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: What did...what did you write on it?

VETERAN: I just wrote, "The job site," and then I put my initials.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay.

VETERAN: Again, this is...now, I got the original of this photo. I can show it...(inaudible)...and it has Bob Travis's hand landing on the back...(inaudible)...it was...this was part of....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, this...this is a copy of a picture that you have?

VETERAN: Yes, it's...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay. Would you write on the back of it what you...what we're seeing?

VETERAN: Again, this is just the....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Don't put the same words.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: This picture looks like the trench is full of water.

VETERAN: On one end of it, it was. We did the...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Steve, what did you write on that?

VETERAN: I just wrote on this one, "This is the loader on the jobsite."

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And what are...what does the picture show?

VETERAN: It shows one of the...(inaudible)...loaders when we were moving the dirt and stuff around on the backside of the...the ridgeline, and then this here is a picture that was given to me by [REDACTED] b6

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, this isn't...the one you're talking about now is not a picture that you took?

VETERAN: <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] No, these were pictures that were given to me by [REDACTED] when he wrote my buddy statement.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Will you write on the back of that, <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] picture number one?" And what does that show?

VETERAN: This shows the depot area at Camp Humphreys, and that was where my main unit was that he went...him and two...him and another truck driver went down and brought several loads of the Agent Orange back from Camp Humphreys also.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] And now, Mr. <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] we have a statement already in the file from Mr. [REDACTED] stating that he observed...he gave specific numbers of barrels and descriptions of barrels that came from that depot, and the last photo?

VETERAN: This last photo is just a photograph of the...the back gates of one of the jobs that I worked on over there. We built an overpass, it was a creek that ran through the middle of the base, and to get to D-Area you had to go all the way to the back gate and go around the...come down the backside of the river where we built that overpass, and this is just a picture of the road going down the back gates.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay, but...

VETERAN: This is where the...when the trucks would come in they would wait for somebody to escort them up to the jobs so....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, this is <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] picture number two?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Can you write that on there? After you dug the ditch, did you go back to it every day?

VETERAN: No, the...it took us about two weeks to get everything ready for...to start the job, actually dug the ditch, then once we got the ditch dug, it was...maybe a week or so passed, and then they finally get to start bringing 55-gallon drums. It was four to a skid, and Mr. <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] even...in his letter states:

*The first few loads that first week, the drums were on-base there in our depot area, stored...storage area near somewhere.*

I was never on that section of the base, but he describes the barrels. In fact, he remembers 250 barrels, originally....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Now....

VETERAN: ...and then after that it started coming... (inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...in understand that you were... you were working on this overpass, and then from time to time you would be called to go out to the ditch?

VETERAN: The rest of that summer. Yeah, I stayed pretty much at the base. A few times I... (inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: About how often... how many time, say per month, per week....

VETERAN: Probably....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...were you called to go to the ditch?

VETERAN: Maybe once every couple of weeks, so apparently it was after the bulk of the job, maybe another ten times....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And what would happen when you... when you were called to go to the ditch....

VETERAN: Well, what happened was after the bulk...

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...or what are the steps?

VETERAN: ...after the bulk of the job was done, the stuff was on the base. After that, what they did was they left one bulldozer, which I was assigned to, and a three-yard bucket loader, and I had a five-yard bucket on it, or I'm sorry, a three-yard bucket loader, and there was also a forklift attachment to switch them off back and forth and just... (inaudible)....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: They left those at the ditch?

VETERAN: ...and they left the dozer and one bucket loader and one dozer at the ditch and a fuel tank... a fuel... (inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay, when you were...and then when you were called to do something about that ditch, where would you start out?

VETERAN: They'd usually call me out of...you know...after the end of the 4:00 in the morning roll call to fall out, and a First Sergeant or my Platoon Sergeant or Lieutenant Commander would...(inaudible)...inform me that a couple truckloads came in or was going to come in and I needed to go down to the motor pool and sign out a Jeep and then go up to the jobsite...(inaudible)...my motor...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And where would you meet the barrels?

VETERAN: Sometimes there'd already be a ditch, or I'd have to go down at the back gates and they'd be waiting, and I would escort them up to the jobsite and start unloading the truck. Depending on the condition of the skits or the drums, then we'd figure out at the time how we were going to unload the truck, either with a forklift, or pulling the bucket loader up to the of the truck and filling the barrels into the bucket.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: You've testified that as you began, most of the materials that got buried came from...came what...from local?

VETERAN: The first...like I said, the first couple of weeks here the stuff came in from on-base, they had it stored there.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: When you say, "On-base," were you talking about Carol and Humphrey?

VETERAN: No, just Camp Carol there, but the first stuff that came was from Camp Carol and had been stored indoors, it was in bad shape, and then....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: It was or was not?

VETERAN: It was in bad shape. The drums looked like...you know...it's already been out of the elements.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And could you see what was written on those barrels?

VETERAN: Yes. I remember Bob <sup>b6</sup> [REDACTED] had mentioned...and one day actually, when the first couple of loads came in, we were standing there waiting for instructions on what to do next, and he pointed out to me that the barrels were OD green, and that the writing was bright yellow or orange-ish [sic],

and they just had all kinds of numbers and writing, and...and it said, "Compound Orange," or something to that effect, and then also, some of the drums had, "Republic of Vietnam," on the drums.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Did any of them have another compound?

VETERAN: Some of them...some of the first barrels, purple...agent.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Compound purple?

VETERAN: Compound or Agent Purple, yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay, and those were the barrels that came right from your local area?

VETERAN: Yes.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And when you got them up to the side of the ditch, how were they put in the ditch?

VETERAN: Um...what we did is we either took them off with the forklift or some of the stuff...we would pull a bucket loader up to the side of the...(inaudible)...flip them off the skids and roll them and drop them in a bucket, two to three barrels at a time, and take them to the side of the ditch and just roll and drop them.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Was that a little rough on some of the barrels?

VETERAN: Yeah, we had a couple of them bust. That's when I was exposed and splashed, and then when we'd start to bury them, what I would do is once we got the barrels in the ditch, then I would back up and start cutting...taking what they called, "Horseshoe cuts," out of the side of the...(inaudible)...we had built on the backside, and pushing off dirt to where I can finally start going all the way across the ditch. I was running a big D-8, and from time to time I could actually feel the ground shake as the drums would burst under the weight of the dozer.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: That's when the D-8 and the dirt were on top of the barrels?

VETERAN: Yes, and then the chemical actually...on some occasions, well, quite a few, it would percolate to the top or the...you know...the sand...and then sand would get wet, stained, like oily, and then....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Well, let's talk about that material for a minute. What was the material that the ditch...that came out of the ditch and that went...eventually went back into the ditch. What was the consistency of that earth?

VETERAN: It had a real strong chemical smell to it.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: No, I mean the earth, itself. What was the earth? Was it sand, was it....

VETERAN: It was sand. It was pure sand, in fact, you can see in the photo, I'm coming to...(inaudible)...and like I said, we hit the...(inaudible)...'cause the water...it actually had a current running through it and the bubbles would float...just drift all the way to the other side and you can see the water seep....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, this...this earth that you were moving was very permeable, it was very....

VETERAN: Yes....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay.

VETERAN: ...but...and then as I would push, the sand would become wet, and the tracks of the dozer would flip the clumps...you know...anywhere from marble to golf-ball-sized clumps of sand and dirt would fly up and hit me from like the waist down as I was sitting the and...(inaudible)...the controls of the dozer. My pants were stained with oil blotches, and at the end of the day I'd have almost like a...I'd call it a raspberry...the skin...red blotches.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Did...eventually, did the barrels start coming from other places?

VETERAN: Yeah, and that's when it got more sporadic, and that's when I left my equipment on the jobsite, sometimes maybe once a week, and then sometimes I wouldn't hear anything for two weeks, and they...and then they...(inaudible). That went on pretty much until late into the fall.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay. What would happen? How could you tell whether it was coming from off-base or...or on-base?

VETERAN: Well, on occasion I'd talk to the truck drivers and I remember on one occasion we did another batch of stuff that was in a pretty good

condition, and it looked like they'd stored indoors, and then driver told me that he picked it up on the other side of...(inaudible)...on some shipyard, sometimes if the guys would be from somewhere that stored outdoors or somewhere up along the DMC.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Were...were the barrels always in good condition?

VETERAN: No. A lot of them you could tell had been sitting outside in the elements. They were rusty, weathered...you know...dungy...you know...they weren't pristine...I mean, those...those skids were around them.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Were any of them, like, leaking?

VETERAN: Some of them were leaking...sweating chemical through the...through the...and the pallets were soaked. In fact, a lot of the...from time to time that I wouldn't be informed they'd been out to the ditch, but when I'd go up to bury a load, somebody had been up there, and I was informed that they'd dumped in waste materials in the ditch, and I'd go up there and there would be rubberized tarps, and pallets, and stuff in the ditch, and so....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Not covered?

VETERAN: Not covered, just...just laying there and where'd they'd come, or who, or what, or where it came from, I had no idea, but there'd be...they said they'd be throwing contaminated materials in the ditch from time to time.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: When you were moving the...the barrels from the flatbeds to the ditch, that was one of your jobs? Is that correct? To move....

VETERAN: To unload the trucks, yeah, I assisted in getting that stuff off the truck.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Did you have a...a like...a fork...forklift type of device?

VETERAN: Right. If the pallets weren't too rotted out or dry rotted. Like I said, some were pretty weathered. You'd try to move them and they'd start to break or crack, and so instead of taking a chance on busting one of the drums, we would pull the bucket loader up to the side. If I...depending on the load, it only takes a few minutes to switch out from the fork attachment to the bucket attachment.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Were the barrels that came from the other side...did they have the same kind of writing on them as the barrels you saw from Camp Carol?

VETERAN: For the most part, yes. On a couple of occasions they were tarped [sic], and so I'd just take them off the truck, tarp and all, and just dump the whole skid into it.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: When you say, "tarped," can you explain what you mean?

VETERAN: They were heavy canvas tarps or they were rubberized canvas tarps, and they had the black bungees...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Would they cover the entire barrel or....

VETERAN: For...for most...on most times, yeah, you'd only maybe see a quarter of the barrel or something. I'd just....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Did they barrels look similar to the barrels that had...that had come in that did not have tarps on them?

VETERAN: For the most part, they were all the OD greed, except for one load in particular.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay, that's the particular load. Let's talk about that load. How were you first made aware of it?

VETERAN: This was way late in the fall. It was pretty much...probably about the last time I'd been out to the ditch...the last I went out to the ditch until that following spring.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: The last time in '78?

VETERAN: Yes, and I was told to fall out and go to the motor pull and sign out a jeep and go to the jobsite, that...if I remember right, it was a Monday morning, and they told me to go up to the jobsite, that they had a truckload of materials that had come on during the night, and they wanted me to get up there and get it buried, and I...so that's what I did.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, was the truck already up there?

VETERAN: When I got there, the truck was sitting there, and it was a...one of the smaller...it was the five-ton...a five-ton tractor trailer. I think at one time they said it was a ten-ton, but it was a five-ton, but...a flatbed, and it had...I believe it was either four or five...probably ten to eight skids, four barrels to a skid, and when I got there....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Were those barrels tarped?

VETERAN: These barrels were tarped. They looked almost like brand new...pretty clean condition. What was funny about these drums and what...that they were bright yellow, and I can only see the last quarter...you know...the barrels usually have like three gridlines...raised rings around them. From the bottom ring down I couldn't see any identifying marks or....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And these...this...this flatbed was accompanied by an officer and a couple of enlisted men?

VETERAN: Right, and when I got to the jobsite, the lieutenant that was...run this job...for whose name I cannot remember, but he was already there and his jeep was gone. He was there with the truck and that was kind of odd, 'cause usually this black E-6 and this corporal...or a white corporal that were with him most of the time...the stuff was all documented. When I'd get there a lot of times they would have clipboards that you'd take the serial numbers and stuff off of every drum before putting it in the ditch, and they weren't there when I got to the jobsite. It was just the lieutenant, and I remember walking over to the edge of the ditch, and I was looking down range at the truck, and I noticed these barrels were different. They were bright yellow, and just out of curiosity I remember I...at the time I still smoked and I lit a cigarette and was standing there looking down at the ditch where the last spot I had...where I'd pushed dirt, and there was some new debris there, probably five or six little pallets, and some old crushed cans, drums, and stuff....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay, what did the....

VETERAN: ...and I said, "So, how's it going, sir?" And he said, "All right," and I said, "So, what are we burying today?" And he said, "Well, House, that's need-to-know basis," and he said, "You don't need to fucking know." Those were his exact words. He said...the next thing he said was, "You know how to back up a semi-trailer?" And I go, "Yeah," and he goes, "Then do me a favor." He said, "Back the thing down into the ditch, and crank down the dollies," and he said, "Bury it," and I through I'd misunderstood him, or...and so I said, "You want to start unloading?" He goes, "No, read my lips." He said, "I didn't stutter." He said, "Back it into the ditch," and he said, "Disconnect the trailer," and he said, "Bury it as is in place," and the other odd

thing I noticed about it when I got to get into the truck, there was no markings on the truck whatsoever. Usually the truck was OD green and...what unit...serial numbers.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And did you do what you were told?

VETERAN: Yes, I did.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Was there any popping that time?

VETERAN: Yeah, I did feel some of the barrels let go.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Was there any...did you notice any moisture on the sand at that time?

VETERAN: I noticed a little strange odor. It was different from the other drums.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And then the next time you went to the ditch was the following spring?

VETERAN: Yeah, as far as I can remember, that was the last time I was actually up at that jobsite until that following spring when Captain [REDACTED] b6 called me into his office and I was getting pretty short...(inaudible).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Who is Captain [REDACTED] b6

VETERAN: He was my CO at the time, and....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: We has pointed out now that there's a letter that we have produced from captain...now retired, Colonel [REDACTED] b6 about the fact that Mr. House worked for him and was a reliable worked.

Go ahead. You went out.

VETERAN: So anyways, Captain [REDACTED] b6 called me into his office in the afternoon after the end of the day, and I went in...(inaudible)...and he had me sit down and...you know...light him up...(inaudible)...it was a real relaxed meeting, and he informed me that due to everybody was ETS'ing out and they weren't getting a lot of new guys in, they were going to be real short and had a lot of jobs coming up, and asked me if I'd be willing to hand-pick some Kotusas to train...run the bulldozers.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: That's Korean soldiers?

VETERAN: Korean soldiers, Kotusas, and you had the Korean Nationals where there...they'd live and eat with us and everything at the...(inaudible)...if I'd be willing to forego going to high school for my GED.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, trying to move this along, you did agree to do that?

VETERAN: Right.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And you found yourself up at the ditch with the Kotusas?

VETERAN: Right, because it was a big open area and it was blacktop all the way around, I...I took the Kotusas up to the job...up to the D-Area, had cones set up and was letting them practice backing up the pans and everything.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And what did you observe about the site at that time?

VETERAN: Well, once I got them started in doing their thing, I took a walk and I walked down the ridge, and when I got down to the ditch, I realized that we never finished capping off and filling the last quarter of the ditch, and....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: How did it appear?

VETERAN: ...the ditch was about...not close, maybe a little less than halfway full of water. It was a thick yellow foam floating on top of the water, and all the way down the ridgeline from the backside to the front side of the ditch down, everything was dying or dead. The grass was all brown, there was dead pheasants, and mice and stuff.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: What had been there before?

VETERAN: In what? In that ditch area?

POWER OF ATTORNEY: In...in that area that you're describing as being dead.

VETERAN: It was just a long...long sloping coming off to the mountain down into...all the way to the little creek.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Had vegetation in it?

VETERAN: Oh, yeah. It was all green. That part that they used wasn't developed. Now, from what I've seen from photographs, that whole area has been developed....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay.

VETERAN: ...but...

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, there was no more life in that area, south, down...down hill from the ditch?

VETERAN: No...no, and then like I said, there was a lot of dead mice, and pheasants, and birds, and stuff, and so when I seen that I just went, "Holy crap." I said, "This ain't good," so when I got done that day, I went in and asked the First Sergeant Top if I could talk to the CO. I told him...I told Top, I said, "We have a problem." I said, "I thought the ditch was finished."

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay. By this time, was [REDACTED] still there?

VETERAN: No. Captain [REDACTED] had ETS'd out and 'cause it was getting toward the end of my...(inaudible)...it was a 13-month tour of duty. Captain [REDACTED] as already gone, and so, I went in and reported to the new CO and I informed....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Do you remember who that is?

VETERAN: I can never remember his name....

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Okay.

VETERAN: ...and so I told him...I said, "We got a problem up on the ridgeline." I said, "I thought that ditch was capped," 'cause they'd told us they would either take care of it or they would inform us when they were done throwing debris in the ditch, and the other thing, there was a bunch of stuff in the ditch that had been...it wasn't a bunch, maybe two small dump truck loads of just old pallets and old tarps and stuff, and some crushed 55-gallon drums.

So anyways, I informed the CO that the ditch was full of water and it was killing everything down on the bridge, and so he went up and checked it out, and then the next day they told me to get up there, get a driver, get a dozer loaded, and go up and take care of it. So, I went up, finished filling the ditch. I was probably up there for three or

four hours, and then I took a...this time I took a push blade down to...(inaudible)...and I dressed every...(inaudible)...I sat on the back blade and scooped everything out and put it back the way...you know...it was before we did the job, and did the best...you know...to dress it up, and that was the last time I was up there other than training the Kotasas as far as working at the jobsite.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Steve, you went on Google Maps and got picture?

VETERAN: Yeah.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Do you have it with you?

VETERAN: Yeah, one of the fellows that wrote me a buddy letter is that one that told me about it. He was looking up stuff about Camp Carol and everything, and he found that there was actually a satellite. You could Google it by the satellite, and I was kind of shocked 'cause me called me and told me that the ditch was visible to this day, and sure enough, it is. If I can show you...(inaudible)...Mr. [REDACTED] b c

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I...I don't think...okay.

VETERAN: No, I just want to show you what he's look...

POWER OF ATTORNEY: All right.

VETERAN: ...this is...this was submitted...(inaudible)...this is from the motor pool, okay. That motor pool is right about here, looking this way, and that's what you're looking at right here, is this helipaD-Area, and if you look...I just quickly gotta turn around...motor poll right here, but anyways, here's the three helipads. This gray blemish right here is where the ditch was.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Just draw...go ahead and draw a circle around it.

VETERAN: That rectangle right here...I'll just draw an arrow...(inaudible)...to this rectangle right there. That's the actual ditch, and then you see these black streaks all through the dirt. That's where it was leaching down the here and here. None of this was here; this was all just open. Like I said, this...they got creek...(inaudible)...you can't see it run through here, and it was running all down the ridge and what scared me...and like I told you before, was...you see these round circles here? That's the water purification plant for the entire base, and then all these black lines and...that's all where the grass area is still being affected where it's leaching out of the soil, and then right here at the base, if you look at the...where is it? Right here

at...(inaudible)...bottom of the ridge, they've...there's some kind of fenced-off area there. They got a...what appears to be some kind of containment property right here in this area...(inaudible)...got it...it looks like, and it's fenced off. There's all kinds of...(inaudible)...that's the...that's the jobsite.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: So, is there any doubt in your mind that you got some of the material that was in those barrels, on you?

VETERAN: Oh, on quite a few occasions. Like I said, it would flip up off the tracks, and then at one point I got a statement in there from my platoon sergeant, ██████████ (inaudible)...and he states right in his statement that at one point we were loading some of the drums that had come in that were really in bad shape, and one of them burst at the base, and I got splashed from the waist down, and there was a water truck there...you know...they used to spray water to keep the dust down, and I said, "Well, ██████████ got that shit all over me," and he informed me...he says, "Go over and hose yourself down," and then I hosed myself down. In fact, he hosed me down, and then I jumped in the...the jeep and run up to the barracks and changed into fresh uniforms because it was giving me...it was burning my skin. I had a burning sensation...my skin was getting red.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Were there other occasions when your uniform was stained or made unusable as a result of....

VETERAN: When it was percolating, it would percolate up to the top of the soil and it would flip up off the dozer tracks and hit me from the waist down. I had big oil blotches like chemical on my pants...on my fatigue pants.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Did those come out from washing?

VETERAN: The stain wouldn't come out and I just...I sent them out and had them laundered, but they'd still have the oil stains on them.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: That's all I'm going to ask about the...this part. I want to go on to the ██████████ part briefly....  
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DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Okay. Good.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: ...unless you have some questions.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Well, maybe I could cover this part. I made some notes. ██████████ gave a very specific number...250 barrels. How do you think he was able to come up with a number like that?

VETERAN: Bob is just one of them guys that has one hell of a memory. He...to this day he still can give you names and dates...(inaudible)...people, and because he was the driver that was assigned to the other drivers, he was one of the red teams driver, and he originally went down to the depot and then he told them, "Well, this is what you're going to be doing. This is where you're going to be picking it up, and unloading it in the heat." Just remembering the details, I was shocked myself to the details, and the...he remembered in pictures that he gave me and on top of the pictures I already had.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: With...with each...when you go to the...I think it was the toxic waste site....

VETERAN: That's basically what it is, yes.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: ...when you got there, someone would take the serial number of each of those barrels?

VETERAN: This lieutenant that was running the job, the one in...I don't know if he was from the depot or where he was from. I was just told that I'd be working under his command or Lieutenant [REDACTED] b6. A lot of times Lieutenant [REDACTED] b6 wasn't even at the jobsite. This guy would be there with his two guys, and they did inventory everything before it went into the ditch or had already inventoried. A lot of time I'd get up there and they'd be walking around with clipboards, you know what I mean?

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Okay.

VETERAN: They'd inventory everything that went into that ditch for their...whatever reasons, I don't know.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: So, Mr. [REDACTED] b6 said...he made a statement that you would have...you would have to move...hand move them and then they were dumped in a hole or the landfill, 55...(inaudible)...a 55-gallon drum is pretty heavy. I...

VETERAN: (Inaudible).

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: ...I have a hard time picturing you moving those things around.

VETERAN: Oh, no...no, have you ever rolled a drum?

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: I suppose you can roll one, but I would never attempt to lift one.

VETERAN: Oh, I can do it now. I mean, and it's called "Walking a drum." You just tip it back at about a 12-degree angle and you roll it...you can roll it.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Okay. All right, pushed it.

VETERAN: That's what we did. We'd just walk them off this...(inaudible).

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: By 'hand moving,' he means you...you....

VETERAN: We'd pull them.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: ...you'd move them but they...but you didn't lift them and you...they had contact....

VETERAN: Oh, no...no...no. We would pull the bucket loader up to the side of the vehicle...the flatbed...you know...(inaudible)...they're only this high off the ground. We'd pull the bucket loader up and tilt the bucket until it was level with the...or slightly elevated, and then we'd just flip the barrel into the...and we could usually get two to three barrels in the bucket, and the reason we did that sometimes is because the skids were too wobbly or....

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: The pallet...or you couldn't lift it with the pallet? I mean, that...that would be the first choice.

VETERAN: That was the first choice that we did when we could.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: You wouldn't...you wouldn't automatically move each of those barrels.

VETERAN: Depending on the condition of the materials. Some of it wasn't on skids. Some of it they had just rolled on and was sitting flat on the truck. Not all of it was on skids, so that's why we had to use that method of unloading the...they would have it strapped off with binders.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Okay, the...this...you<sup>be</sup> I'm trying to make sure I understand the...the timeline here. Apparently, I think Mr. [REDACTED] said it was this 250 barrels was late spring or early summer, and then I think there's another statement that sort of narrowed it down to like August of '78. Is that....

VETERAN: Well, the actual job started in the spring, and then it went...like I said, it was sporadic after that first couple of weeks. It took us a couple weeks to get the jobsite prepared.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Let me ask a questions, if I may, that may clarify that. The barrels that Travis is talking about were the barrels that were on Camp Carol?

VETERAN: These were the barrels that were stored in the depot area of Camp Carol.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: And then the materials that got dumped in later in the summer?

VETERAN: Were coming from in-country and other locations where...I can't tell you.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: You're not claiming that all of...all the material that you dumped in there was a tactical herbicide. You're saying at least in one instance, Mr. [REDACTED] identified it. It was an Agent Orange or Agent Purple, and on reflection, you recall that you saw the same thing?

VETERAN: Yes.

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: Is that...so you're not claiming that every barrel that went in there was...was Agent Orange, it could've been some other...(inaudible)?

VETERAN: Everything that had come off was Agent Orange or Purple, and then....

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: So, you're claiming everything that went in there was tactical herbicide?

VETERAN: ...some of the stuff wasn't, some of it I was...wasn't...couldn't see 'cause it was tarped. Some of it was...I was told it was just waste, toxic, or...and just waste materials that they wanted to dispose of the way they had this...(inaudible).

DECISION REVIEW OFFICER: All right.

VETERAN: So, for the most part, yes, it was Agent Orange...(inaudible).