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Agent Orange at JSA

Agent Orange Exposure / Agent Orange at Joint Security Area

From December 1965 until April 1966, Sp4 Robert Vivona states he and his four man MP unit (escort team) with two gun jeeps (mounted M-60s) went to Munsan-ni and met up with South Korean National's to escort them over Freedom Bridge to the Joint Security Area (JSA) Compound.

Upon arrival the team would watch South Koreans load their truck with 55 gal drums of defoliants for use on the DMZ. (The 55 gal drums were stored in the motor pool storage area of the JSA Compound.)

Mr Vivona testified that the drums had the markings of the skull and cross bones (symbol on Agent Orange containers).

After the Korean nationals loaded their truck with the drums the team escorted workers to the different locations on the DMZ where they proceeded to spray the contents of the containers.

The team would position their jeeps on each side of the workers with their machine guns facing the North Koreans. The unit also had 45 cal pistols with 15 rounds each and one shotgun per vehicle at their disposal.

Mr. Vivona states, "During the spraying his team would remain with the workers throughout the day." He further states, "The MPs were normally down wind from the spraying and that their faces, hands and uniforms were saturated with particles from the chemicals.

At the time the men thought nothing of the dangerous chemicals.

Mr Vivona also testified he has a buddy statement from Donald Turner was stationed on the JSA Compound at the time and witnessed the storage of the 55 gal drums of Agent Orange at the motor pool storage area.

Mr Turner also observed MPs and Korean nationals transporting the drums off the JSA Compound in 1965 and 1966.