

Agent White, Blue, Purple, Pink, Green & Orange *the Rainbow herbicides*

Agent Orange was one of a class of color-coded herbicides that U.S. forces sprayed over the rural landscape in Vietnam from 1961 to 1971 to defoliate trees and shrubs and kill food crops that were providing cover and food to opposition forces. It was a 50/50 mixture of two herbicides: 2, 4-D and 2,4,5-T. It remained toxic for only days or weeks and then degraded, but it had a toxic contaminant, dioxin, that did not degrade as readily and is still causing health problems in Vietnam.

About Dioxin: Its chemical name is 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-para-dioxin, or TCDD. It is a persistent organic pollutant that contaminated Agent Orange and some of the other color-coded herbicides when the production of one of their components (2, 4, 5-T) was accelerated during wartime. TCDD is the most toxic of about 419 types of similar toxic compounds, which include PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). The chemical companies that produced the Vietnam-era herbicides say they were unaware how toxic the dioxin contaminant was.

Agent Orange/Dioxin Use in Vietnam: About 60 percent of the herbicides used in Vietnam was Agent Orange. More than 43 million liters (11.4 million gallons) of it were used from 1962-1970. **More than 30 million liters (about 8 million gallons) of Agent White, Blue, Purple, Pink and Green were also sprayed.** The concentrations were 20 to 55 times normal agricultural use for killing plants. Estimates of the amount of dioxin in the herbicides vary because each manufacturer and each batch of 2, 4, 5-T had different levels of the dioxin contaminant.

The first test spraying occurred August 10, 1961. The U.S. Air Force aerial spraying program, Operation Hades (later renamed Operation Ranch Hand), took place from January 1962 until February 1971, largely from C-123 cargo planes. **Update>> (** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today (June 18, 2015) published a new regulation that expands eligibility for some benefits for a select group of Air Force Veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH).

VA published this regulation as an interim final rule so that it could immediately begin providing benefits to eligible Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions that have been determined by VA to be related to exposure to Agent Orange. That accounted for 95 percent of the herbicides sprayed. The U.S. Chemical Corps and other allied forces sprayed the remaining 5 percent from helicopters, trucks and by hand, mostly to clear brush around military base perimeters.))

The herbicides were sprayed over about 24 percent of southern Vietnam, destroying 5 million acres of upland and mangrove forests and about 500,000 acres of crops (a total area the size of Massachusetts). Of these areas, 34 percent were sprayed more than once; some of the upland forests were sprayed more than four times. One study found that 3,181 villages were sprayed as well. Areas of Laos and Cambodia near the Vietnam border were also sprayed.

VA assumes that certain diseases are related to qualifying military service. These are called "presumptive diseases." VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service in Vietnam, Blue Water Navy and the Korean DMZ.

Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy. A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within 2 years after the date it began. Or it could be secondary to Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2).

AL Amyloidosis, a disorder of the bone marrow characterized by the accumulation and deposition of abnormal, insoluble proteins called light chain amyloid proteins in any organ of the body, interfering with the structure and function of the organ

Bladder cancer: Added 2021 Law H.R. 6395

Chloracne (or Similar Acneform Disease), A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acneform disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.

Chronic B-cell Leukemias, A type of cancer which affects white blood cells.

Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2), A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

Hodgkin's Disease, A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

Hypothyroidism: Added 2021 Law H.R. 6395

Ischemic Heart Disease, A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart that leads to chest pain.

Multiple Myeloma, A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.

Parkinson's Disease, A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement.

Parkinsonism. Added 2021 Law H.R. 6395. It's any condition that causes a combination of the movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson's disease — such as tremor, slow movement, impaired speech or muscle stiffness. Not everyone who has parkinsonism has Parkinson's disease.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer, Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.

Respiratory Cancers, Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

Soft Tissue Sarcoma, (adult fibrosarcoma, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, malignant fibrous histiocytoma, liposarcoma; leiomyosarcoma, epithelioid leiomyosarcoma, malignant leiomyoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, ectomesenchymoma, angiosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, lymphangiosarcoma, proliferating (systemic) angioendotheliomatosis, malignant glomus tumor, malignant hemangiopericytoma, synovial sarcoma (malignant synovioma), malignant giant cell tumor of tendon sheath, malignant schwannoma, malignant schwannoma with rhabdomyoblastic differentiation (malignant Triton tumor), glandular and epithelioid malignant schwannomas, malignant mesenchymoma, malignant granular cell tumor, alveolar soft part sarcoma, epithelioid sarcoma, clear cell sarcoma of tendons and aponeuroses, extraskeletal Ewing's sarcoma, congenital and infantile fibrosarcoma, and malignant ganglioneuroma).

Korean Demilitarized Zone and Agent Orange Exposure

Veterans who served in a unit in or near the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971 and who have a disease VA recognizes as associated with Agent Orange exposure are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides. These Veterans do not have to show they were

exposed to Agent Orange to be eligible for disability compensation for these diseases. VA and the Department of Defense must determine the Veteran's unit operated in the DMZ area and the Veteran was physically there. VA's final regulation presuming herbicide exposure for these Veterans took effect on February 24, 2011.

Thailand Military Bases

Thailand Military Bases and Agent Orange Exposure Vietnam-era Veterans whose service involved duty on or near the perimeters of military bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 may have been exposed to herbicides and may qualify for VA benefits. The following Veterans may have been exposed to herbicides: U.S. Air Force Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases at U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. U.S. Army Veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. U.S. Army Veterans who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the Army Veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned an MP military occupational specialty whose duty placed him/her at or near the base perimeter.

Herbicide Tests and Storage outside Vietnam

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the United States. The Department of Defense gave VA a list of dates and locations of herbicide tests and storage. View dates and locations: In the U.S. – Herbicide tests and storage Outside the U.S. – Herbicide tests and storage. Go to this link, view all as PDF: Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside of Vietnam

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/agentorange/dod_herbicides_outside_vietnam.pdf

And in addition, many diseases you might have cause other issues, you have to keep that in mind! The medical community and VA call those "Secondary" to a disease you might have now or in the future. The VA will say that your disease is not on their lists of "presumptive diseases". You need to prove it is secondary to the disease you have been awarded or claiming.

U.S. Army's Machinato Service Area (MSA), Urasoe City, Okinawa

FOIA Documents Reveal Agent Orange Dioxin, Toxic Dumps, Fish Kills on Okinawa Base. Two Veterans Win Compensation, Many More Denied

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Documents released in September 2015 by the Pentagon under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that Agent Orange dioxin was discovered at the U.S. Army's Machinato Service Area (MSA), Urasoe City, Okinawa, in the 1970s.¹ The 82 pages of reports produced by the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps focus on a 46,000 square-meter outdoor storage area within the base which was used to store "retrograde shipments from Vietnam" (1) - including herbicides - during the 1960s and 1970s. Following tests of the soil and water in the mid-1970s, USMC documents cite the discovery of a "high concentration" of dioxin in the area (77); a United States Forces Japan report specifies the detection of "dioxin (agent orange component)" in 1975 (2). The findings contradict Pentagon assertions as recently as 2015 that Agent Orange was never stored on Okinawa.

Hundreds of U.S. veterans who served on Okinawa during the Vietnam War believe they were sickened by exposure to military defoliants on the island; many of them claim that there was a large stockpile of Agent Orange at MSA.³ Due to Pentagon denials that these chemicals were present on Okinawa, the Department of Veterans Affairs has refused to award compensation to the vast majority of these former service members.

The revelation that the Agent Orange dioxin was discovered at MSA - which is known today as Camp Kinser - comes at the end of an 18-month struggle under the Freedom of Information Act during which the Pentagon initially refused to release the records for reasons which included the need “to protect against public confusion.”⁴ On September 23rd, United States Pacific Command finally released the package, titled “Talking Paper on Possible Toxic Contamination at Camp Kinser,” dated 30 July 1993. The FOIA release is believed to be the first time such comprehensive records regarding U.S. military contamination in Japan have been made public. In addition to dioxin contamination, the reports also reveal deaths of sea life, burials of toxic chemicals and the possible exposure of base workers at MSA. Furthermore, they highlight the frustrations of the U.S. military struggling to tackle contamination in the face of previous failed clean-ups and bureaucratic obstacles.

C-123 Airplanes and Agent Orange Residue

Some Air Force Reservists who were crew members on C-123 Provider aircraft, formerly used to spray Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, have raised health concerns about exposure to residual amounts of herbicides on plane surfaces.

Responding to these concerns, VA asked the Health and Medicine Division (HMD) (formally known as the Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study possible exposure and increase in adverse health effects in C-123 crew members.

HMD released its report, Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft, Jan. 9, 2015. According to the report, from 1972 to 1982, approximately 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force Reserve personnel trained and worked on C-123 aircraft that previously had been used to spray herbicides, including Agent Orange, in Vietnam. Those aircraft were used for military airlift, medical transport, and cargo transport operations in the United States and internationally.

HMD found that Reservists who served as flight crew (pilot, navigator, flight engineer, and loadmaster), ground maintenance crew, and aero-medical personnel had regular contact with the aircraft, and would have experienced some exposure to chemicals from herbicide residue. The report determined that it is possible that this exposure contributed to some adverse health effects.

Blue Water Navy Veterans

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. This is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The law was signed on June 25, 2019 and takes effect on January 1, 2020.

Birth Defects in Children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans

VA has recognized that certain birth defects among Veterans' children are associated with Veterans qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.

- Spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta), a defect in the developing fetus that results in incomplete closing of the spine, is associated with Veterans' exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.

- Birth defects in children of women Veterans is associated with their military service in Vietnam but are not related to herbicide exposure.

The affected child must have been conceived after the Veteran entered Vietnam or the Korean demilitarized zone during the qualifying service period.