

Agent Orange outside Vietnam
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The Veterans Administration has received a list from the Department of Defense of locations outside of Vietnam where Agent Orange was used or tested over the years. The information gives periods of time, locations and chemicals used. It does not contain units involved or individual identifying information.

The lists are almost exclusively Army records, JSRRC, although there are an extremely limited number of Navy and Air Force records. These lists relate only to chemical efficacy testing and/or operational testing. The records do not refer to the use of Agent Orange or other chemicals in routine base maintenance activities such as spraying along railroad tracks, weed control on rifle ranges, etc. Information on such use does not exist.

The VA will develop proof of exposure for claims for disabilities resulting from Agent Orange use outside of Vietnam like on Guam, Thailand, Johnston Island, Laos, Cambodia, Okinawa, Philippines. Individual military personnel records, military medical records, eye witness statements, Congressional inquiries, etc to development areas of use of Agent Orange for the Air Force bases and Naval bases that used Agent Orange herbicides.

The VA does not have significant information regarding Agent Orange use in Korea along the demilitarized zone. The Defense Department has confirmed that Agent Orange was used from April 1968 through July 1969 along the zone. The Defense Department defoliated the fields of fire between the front line defensive positions and the south barrier fence. The size of the treated areas was a strip of land 151 miles long and up to 350 yards wide from the fence to north of the "civilian control line". There is no indication that herbicide was sprayed in the zone itself.

Herbicides were applied through hand spraying and by hand distribution of pelletized herbicides. Although restrictions were put in place to limit potential for spray drift, runoff and damage to food crops, records indicate that effects of spraying were sometimes observed as far as 200 meters down wind.

Units in the area during the period of use of herbicide were as follows: The four combat brigades of the 2nd Infantry Division. This includes the following units: 1-38 Infantry, 2-38 Infantry, 1-23 Infantry, 2-23 Infantry, 3-23 Infantry, 3-32 Infantry, 109th Infantry, 209th Infantry, 1-72 Armor, 2-72 Armor, 4-7th Cavalry. The 3rd Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division includes the following units: 1-17th Infantry, 2-17 Infantry, 1-73 Armor, 2-10th Cavalry. Field Artillery, Signal and Engineer troops were supplied as support personnel as required. The estimated number of exposed personnel is 12,056.

Unlike Vietnam, exposure to Agent Orange is not presumed for veterans who served in Korea. Claims for compensation for disabilities resulting from Agent Orange exposure from veterans who served in Korea during this period will be developed for evidence of exposure. If the veteran was exposed the conditions found for Agent Orange exposure apply.

Veterans with question about this issue or other veteran's issues can contact their Citrus County Veteran Service Team at 527-5411.

- Editor's note: This information was supplied by J.J. Kenney of the Citrus County Veterans Service Office. For information call 527-5411.