

Tuesday November 15, 2016

CCK UNCOVERS MEMO USED BY VA TO WRONGLY DENY CLAIMS OF THAILAND VETERANS.

Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick (CCK) forced VA to make public for all veterans the memorandum used to deny many Thailand veterans' claims based upon exposure to Agent Orange and/or herbicides. CCK did this through a Freedom of Information Request. The document entitled MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS dated August 11, 2015 shows why the VA has continued to deny veterans disability benefits based upon Agent Orange exposure in Thailand. [Click here to view the MEMORANDUM.](#)

The Air Force Historical Research Agency at the Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama wrote the following conclusion for the VA: "no documentation or evidence has been found in the holdings of the Air Force Historical Research Agency showing tactical herbicides such as Agent Orange were ever used on any USAF installation in Thailand for vegetation control during the Vietnam era." Based upon this report, the VA has continued to deny many veterans claims seeking disability benefits based upon Agent Orange exposure in Thailand.

The same memorandum specifically acknowledges that "the use of commercial herbicides is documented". VA has created an illusory distinction between the use of "tactical herbicides" for which compensation benefits are payable and "commercial herbicides" for which benefits may not be payable. The reality is no matter what you call the herbicides used in Thailand, they all contained the same harmful chemicals. Therefore, veterans should be granted the same presumption of exposure as Vietnam veterans. If a veteran states, "I was exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand," VA as part of its Duty to Assist will ask the Air Force or the Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRRC) if Agent Orange was used in Thailand. The Air Force or JSRRC will send back the August 11, 2015 memorandum and then VA will deny the claim. What VA is not asking the Air Force is whether other types of herbicides were used in Thailand. If the VA asked that question, the answer would have to be yes, herbicides were used as the August 11, 2105 memorandum states. VA must stop denying claims because veterans state they were exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand and grant them based upon the exposure to herbicides.

CATEGORY: [veteran](#),



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE HISTORICAL RESEARCH AGENCY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA**

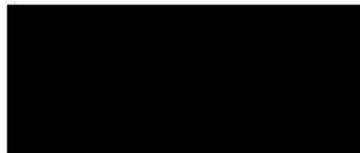
11 August 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

FROM: AFHRA/RSA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

SUBJECT: No USAF evidence for use of tactical herbicides, such as Agent Orange, associated with any USAF Thailand air base vegetation control during the Vietnam-era

1. The Air Force Historical Research Agency, the official repository of all official United States Air Force official unit and organizational histories, conducted an in-depth research study of each USAF installation that was located in Thailand from 1963 through 1976 (the dates during which the Air Force had operational, maintenance, and security responsibility for Thailand installations supporting the war in Vietnam).
2. Utilizing the official unit histories of the USAF units located at these installations, specifically concentrating on the sections of the units that were responsible for perimeter fence issues and vegetation control, the archivists of the Air Force Historical Research Agency conducted a thorough review of historical civil engineering, security forces, supply, and financial records and reports of the units assigned to USAF installations in Thailand at that time. Although use of commercial herbicides is documented, the archivists found no mention of the transportation, payment for, or use of any tactical herbicide to control vegetation on these USAF installations.
3. Therefore, no documentation or evidence has been found in the holdings of the Air Force Historical Research Agency showing that tactical herbicides, such as Agent Orange, were ever used on any USAF installation in Thailand for vegetation control during the Vietnam era.



Archivist