

## **THE 'SAD' HISTORY OF AGENT ORANGE**

**HOW OUR GOVERNMENT DENIED THE EXISTENCE AND USE OF CHEMICAL DEFOLIANTS WHICH  
HAD A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON OUR TROOPS IN VIETNAM AND THE COUNTRY ITSELF**

**NO AMERICA....OUR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH...EVEN TO THEIR OWN**

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**21 MINUTE VIDEO ON AGENT ORANGE**

<https://vimeo.com/1391465>

### **PERSONAL COMMENT**

As we all realize this is a very controversial subject matter and will be for years to come. There is evidence of fraud on many pages that I have researched for this article. Evidence of data being intentionally changed/deleted or omitted on various agencies reports that will be used to determine the Government's liability to our Veterans. Yes, initially, I think the good ole USA tried to screw all of us into believing that our own country would never do that to us. ..especially to our Veterans. We have seen our Veterans get the short end of the stick on many occasions in my lifetime alone. I have tried to present this from a neutral position, but have found it pretty difficult after all the facts concerning the entire "fiasco". A lot of the data contained herein is dated several years ago and it appears that a lot of positive changes have been made in recent years.....but somewhere this great country has got to decide and support the position that "we take care of our own".

Whenever I see a WW2 vet (which is not very often anymore) I always go and greet him and thank him for his service. Most are in wheelchairs now and don't talk much about the war. Most of the time I will get brave and ask them what was the biggest thing they remember and 8 out of 10 will say that it was the lack of medical care they received when they came home.

If you remember correctly Audie Murphy was the first case of PTSD though the word was not even recognized and the diagnosis was: "Just take it easy and you will adjust." He went to Congress on several occasions to try and get help for those returning from the war with no effect. From the day he returned to his home after the war he slept with a pistol under his pillow.

I've done a lot of research to put this article together and could have included 20 more pages about the subject at hand because something similar has happened after every war that's ever been.

Geez....If we can send money to foreign countries, give money and benefits to people who are too lazy to get a job...why can't we take better care of our veterans.....young and old alike who we put in harm's way every day of the year.....Come on America.....We can do better do that.....(JEC)

I've tried to locate the cost of Agent Orange purchased by the US Government as well as the amount of money the VA has paid to our veterans who were affected by it without success. I did find a statement saying that it cost the US \$ 168,000 for every one of the enemy that was killed during what was called the Vietnam "Conflict"

I did not serve in Vietnam during my time in the service, however, I did spend 6 months at Udorn AB in Thailand. I want to thank you guys that did. I'm sure the experience is one you'll never forget. Thanks for a job well done and I'll give you something that you did not receive from many .....A BIG LATE **"WELCOME HOME"**!!!!!!!!!!!! (JEC)

I came across these two statements during my research:

(A) The military sprayed herbicides in Vietnam at six to 25 times the rate suggested by the manufacturer.

(B) The herbicides used were sprayed at up to 50 times the concentration than for normal agricultural use. End of personal comments

#### **ARKANSAS'S EXPERIENCE WITH AGENT ORANGE**



PR JUDGE RULES THAT HERCULES AND UNIROYAL MUST PAY U.S. \$102 MILLION FOR SUPERFUND CLEANUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY,

OCT. 23, 1998

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In a major victory that affects the cleanup of hazardous waste sites across the country, a federal court ruled today that Hercules, Inc. and Uniroyal Chemical Limited will pay the U.S. government \$102 million for the costs it incurred in cleaning up the Vertac Superfund Site in Jacksonville, Arkansas – a site where Agent Orange was once produced.

"This ruling means we can clean up more hazardous waste sites and make our communities safer and more livable," said Lois J. Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources at the Department of Justice. "Companies thinking about fighting their Superfund obligations ought to think again. If you don't settle, we will use the full force of federal law to hold you accountable."

"This case demonstrates EPA's determination to protect public health and the environment and to collect the costs from responsible parties for cleaning up contaminated sites, said Steven Herman, EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "We also will continue in our efforts to clean up and eradicate the hazards posed by such dangerous sites as this one."

The judgment of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, in the case of United States v. Vertac Chemical Corp., et al., requires Hercules, Inc. and Uniroyal Chemical Limited to pay the U.S. government \$102,878,641.35 for costs of incurred by EPA in cleaning up dioxin-contaminated hazardous wastes at the Vertac Superfund Site in Jacksonville, Arkansas. Under the law, that money must be returned to the Superfund, where it can be used to clean up other hazardous waste sites across the country.

The Vertac site, one of the worst dioxin-contaminated sites in the country, was an herbicide manufacturing plant operated by Hercules and Vertac Chemical Corp. from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Its products included **Agent Orange**, a defoliant agent used in the Vietnam War.

The facility operations caused widespread contamination of soil, groundwater, and surface waters on the site and in surrounding areas, including the yards of neighboring homes. In addition, when the facility closed in 1987, more than 28,000 leaking drums of corrosive, ignitable hazardous wastes were left on the site, presenting an imminent danger to the surrounding community.

EPA incurred approximately \$105 million in costs for cleaning up and incinerating the drummed dioxin waste, as well as supervising Hercules' performance of a series of remedial actions ordered by EPA to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater. The state of Arkansas incurred an additional \$10.7 million for incineration of the drum waste, which was paid for by a trust fund created by a prior settlement with Vertac Chemical Corp. Other defendants in the case also reached earlier settlements with the United States, totaling \$7.6 million.

The two remaining defendants, Hercules and Uniroyal, declined to settle and vigorously challenged the United States' right to recover EPA's costs. Hercules and Uniroyal argued to the court that EPA had overestimated the health hazards of dioxin, that a less thorough cleanup should have been done, and that they shouldn't have to pay for the costs of cleanup.

District Judge George Howard overruled the defendants' arguments and awarded the United States summary judgment for the full amount of the costs it has incurred to date. In addition, the court awarded the United States a declaratory judgment for future costs, which are estimated at approximately \$5 million.

Paula J. Casey, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, said, "I am pleased that the cleanup costs incurred by the government at Vertac will finally be borne by the responsible parties."

Uniroyal Chemical Limited is a Canadian subsidiary of Uniroyal, Inc. The lawsuit was brought under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law.

#### HERBICIDE TESTING AND STORAGE IN ARKANSAS

The Department of Defense has released a list of dates and locations of herbicide tests and storage. They include military bases and locations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and other places outside of the U.S. (Note: We do not contend that the DoD's list is definitive or includes every location or installation where Agent Orange was stored, used, or tested. For example, Fort McClellan (Ala.) and Okinawa are two locations where Agent Orange was stored or tested, according to many sources, despite not being on the DoD's list. We expect there are many others similarly in dispute).

Fort Chaffee, Arkansas was on this list. Many believe that there is still lingering danger from the days Agent Orange was there and lawsuits are still being filed.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>AGENTS</u>	<u>PRODUCT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DOD INVOLVEMENT</u>
Ft Chaffee, Ar	May 16-18, 1967 July 22-23, 1967 August 23-24, 1967	Basic, in-house improved desiccants and Agent Orange & Agent Blue	During December 1966 through October 1967, a comprehensive short term evaluation were conducted by personnel from Fort Detrick's Plant Science Lab in coordination with contract research on formulations by chemical Industry and field tests by the USDA and the University of Hawaii	Yes

For the war effort, the US military procured over 20 million gallons of Agent Orange (a roughly fifty-fifty mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T), primarily from nine different companies:

Dow Chemical, in Midland MI

Monsanto, in Nitro, WV

Diamond Alkali/Shamrock, in Newark, NJ

Hercules, in Jacksonville, AR

Thompson-Hayward Chemical, in Kansas City, KS

US Rubber Company/Uniroyal, in Elmira, Ontario

Thomson Chemical Corporation, in St Louis, MO

Hoffman-Tuff Inc., in Verona, MO

Agrisect

### Just a couple of tidbits:

Many of the sites where the dioxin-contaminated 2, 4, and 5-T were manufactured are now EPA Superfund sites in various stages of containment, clean-up, and remediation. Local community groups have been battling the chemical companies, the EPA, and/or the Army Corps of Engineers to address the dioxin contamination left behind. Workers at the Monsanto plant in Nitro seem to have been the first victims of 2, 4, 5-T.

Meanwhile, the community of Times Beach, Missouri, was devastated when waste from the facility in nearby Verona that had produced Agent Orange during the Vietnam War was used to oil the town roads. Times Beach was evacuated in 1985. After the contaminated soil was removed and incinerated in 1996-97, the town became a state park.

### THE BEGINNING OF USING HERBICIDES IN WAR

Britain was the first to use defoliants as a war tactic in Southeast Asia. That was in the early 1950s in Malaya, then a British colony, before it became the independent Malaysia. British planes sprayed Malayan jungles with chemicals to strip trees bare and deprive communist guerrillas of cover. They also destroyed crops that the insurgents relied on for sustenance. A decade later, in what was then South Vietnam, the United States armed forces resorted to precisely the same methods on an enormous scale in their long struggle against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese fighters.

From 1962 to 1971, American C-123 transport planes sprayed roughly 20 million gallons of herbicides on an area of South Vietnam about the size of Massachusetts. Code-named Ranch Hand, this operation reached its peak from 1967 to 1969.

Some members of the Ranch Hand team adopted Smokey Bear of forest fire awareness fame as a mascot. "Only you can prevent a forest" was their twist on Smokey's slogan.

To the political and military strategists in Washington, using vegetation-killing chemicals was a legally sound and necessary way to save American and South Vietnamese lives. They cited the British precedent.



This week's video documentary from Retro Report, ([see video above](#)) a series that re-examines major stories from the past, returns us to Vietnam and to the chemical most commonly and most notoriously used there: Agent Orange. Named for the color of a stripe girdling the barrels in which it was shipped, it combined two herbicides, one of which turned out to be contaminated with a highly toxic strain of dioxin. No need for alarm, Washington officialdom and chemical company executives insisted at the time. Agent Orange did not harm humans, they said.

As the 1960s wore on, those assurances increasingly rang hollow. Researchers found evidence of birth defects in lab animals. American scientists and others began to speak out against the spraying. Opposition to the herbicide campaign mounted, arm in arm with spreading protests against the war itself. In 1970, the Agent Orange spraying stopped. Other chemicals continued to be used until Jan. 7, 1971, when the entire herbicide program was scrapped after a final Ranch Hand run. But Agent Orange's legacy was only beginning. More than 40 years later, it still casts a long shadow.

The Vietnamese accept almost as an article of faith that America's aerial and ground spraying poisoned their environment, perhaps for decades to come, and is to blame for severe birth defects that afflict hundreds of thousands of their children. Whether that is indeed a reality has not been definitively established. Nonetheless, the United States in recent years belatedly accepted responsibility for helping to clean up dioxin "hot spots," like former American military bases where herbicides were stored.

Last month, a United States-built plant went into operation at the old Da Nang air base. There, soil contaminated with dioxin will be heated to temperatures above 600 degrees Fahrenheit, a level said to render the toxin harmless. This process is supposed to be extended over time to other hot spots.

### AGENT ORANGE: Painful legacy

Agent Orange, a combination of herbicides and defoliants, was used by the U.S. military, particularly during the Vietnam War. The substance caused extensive medical problems, including cancers and birth defects, among people exposed to it.

In 1991, the Agent Orange Act made veterans exposed to the chemical eligible for compensation and medical care. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes a "presumptive" link between Agent Orange and a range of illnesses:

- Type II diabetes
- Hodgkin's disease
- Soft-tissue sarcoma
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Spina bifida in children of veterans
- Various other forms of cancer, including prostate and respiratory cases

Added to the list in August 2010:

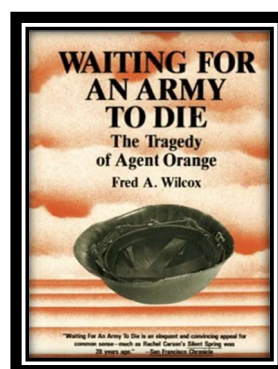
- B-cell leukemias
- Parkinson's disease
- Ischemic heart disease



Here at home, the war has not ended for many of the 2.8 million servicemen and women who went to Vietnam. These ailing veterans are convinced that their cancers nervous disorders and skin diseases – not to mention congenital maladies afflicting some of their children – are a result of their contact with Agent Orange. Often enough, that linkage has not been established incontrovertibly. Studies on Agent Orange's effects tend to use language that is less than absolute. Certain illnesses, for instance, are said to be "associated" with dioxin exposure. Or there is a "presumptive" connection.

That said, the American government's resistance to connecting the dots in any manner has melted away over the years. The Agent Orange Act of 1991 accepted a presumed link to illnesses like non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft-tissue sarcoma, and chloracne. Veterans with those ailments were declared eligible for medical treatment and financial compensation without having to prove they had been exposed to herbicides. Over time, more than a dozen other maladies, including Hodgkin's disease and prostate cancer, were steadily added to this list.

And the story is far from over. Some veterans who never set boots on the ground in Vietnam are seeking compensation for their medical woes, among them sailors who served on ships off the Vietnamese coast and airmen who worked on possibly contaminated C-123s that were put to other uses after the war. This situation will be addressed later in this article.





## RESPONSIBILITY??

With all the illnesses, malformed babies, and suffering from Agent Orange, one could wonder who the person who ordered it to be used was. **It was Elmo Zumwalt Jr., who as commander of U.S. Naval forces in Southeast Asia ordered the chemical defoliant sprayed over the South Vietnamese countryside to deprive communist troops of cover.**

Elmo Russell Zumwalt, Jr. (November 29, 1920 - January 2, 2000) was an American Naval officer and the youngest man to serve as Chief of Naval Operations. As an admiral and later the 19th Chief of Naval Operations, **Zumwalt played a major role in U.S. military history, especially during the Vietnam War.**

After his selection for the rank of Rear Admiral, Zumwalt assumed command in July 1965 of Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Seven. In September 1968, he became Commander of Naval Forces, Viet Nam, and Chief of the Naval Advisory Group, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

Zumwalt's command was not a blue water unit, like the Seventh Fleet; it was a brown water unit: he commanded the flotilla of Swift boats that patrolled the coasts, harbors, and rivers of Vietnam. Among the swift-boat commanders were his son, Elmo Russell Zumwalt III, and later future Senator John Kerry. During this time, the elder Zumwalt had an opportunity to safeguard the men who served under his command from the Viet Cong who hid in the jungle and ambushed American and ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) patrols at will.



A new group of herbicides, Agent Orange, White, and other assorted color names, could be sprayed on the foliage to remove the cover that the Viet Cong used so effectively. It was claimed at that time that the side effects on humans of long-term exposure to Agent Orange were not yet known, and the manufacturers, **Dow and Monsanto, were eager to reassure potential users about its safety.**

Admiral Zumwalt acted to protect not only his son but also his many comrades from a "clear and present danger," but in so doing, he exposed them to chemicals now known to cause cancer. As all commanders must do, Admiral Zumwalt acted quickly and decisively on the available information; in this case, **he relied on sources that were biased and unreliable, as later developments made clear.**

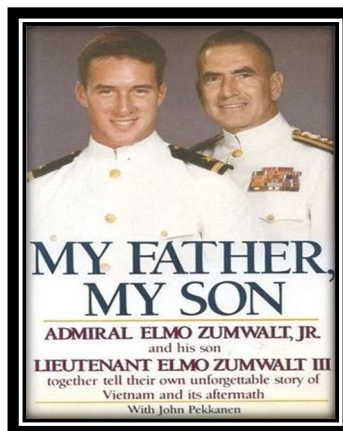
In the end, he paid personally for his decision. **Zumwalt's son, Elmo Zumwalt III, died in 1988, aged 42.**

Zumwalt's grandson (born 1977) suffers from a congenital dysfunction that confuses his physical senses. **Zumwalt's son, before his death, said in 1986 that:**

**"I am a lawyer and I don't think I could prove in court, by the weight of the existing scientific evidence, that Agent Orange is the cause of all the medical problems - nervous disorders, cancer, and skin problems - reported by Vietnam veterans, or of their children's severe birth defects. But I am convinced that it is." He also said he never blamed his father for his disease.**



**Admiral Zumwalt said he felt his son's cancer was most definitely due to Agent Orange.** He also mentioned that his grandson Russell suffered from very severe learning disabilities that could be traced to it as well. However, Zumwalt said **he did not regret ordering the use of Agent Orange because it reduced casualties by making it difficult for the enemy to hide and find food.**



**Admiral Zumwalt, along with his son, authored a book called My Father, My Son,** published by MacMillan in September 1986, where they discussed the family tragedy of his son's battle with cancer.

After treatment in several hospitals, Elmo Zumwalt III went to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, where he received bone marrow from his sister Mouzetta, whose tissues fortunately matched his well enough for this treatment to be feasible. Results were promising but in the end, he died in 1988.

**Sadly the Zumwalt family also suffered from Agent Orange. Was it all a case of "What goes around, comes around" or for those of the Eastern thought, Karma"?**

**REPORT – VIETNAM-ERA PLANES STILL CONTAMINATED – RESERVISTS HEALTH AT RISK (POSTED 1/13/2015)**

The legacy of Agent Orange and other harmful chemicals used in the Vietnam War has continued decades after the troops came home, and now a report from the Institute of Medicine has shed light on a source that may have put U.S. reservists at risk afterward.

**The report said that residues have been found left in planes that sprayed Agent Orange during the war,** and some reservists may have exceeded guidelines for exposure to it, causing potential health dangers.

The planes in question are 24 C-123s that went on to be used by Air Force reserve units for medical and cargo-related missions; about 1,500 to 2,100 people in total worked on them from 1972 to 1982 according to the report.

**Some reservists have blamed cancer and other health issues on the residues but were denied disability claims due to not serving in Vietnam.**

The report, released this past Friday by the Department of Veterans Affairs, could affect future claims.

The institute, an independent agency that advises the government on health, examined the results of air and surface tests taken for dioxin and herbicides in the planes between 1979 and 2009. The institute also said that there was little data in general as well as little info about what activities were done by reservists on the planes.

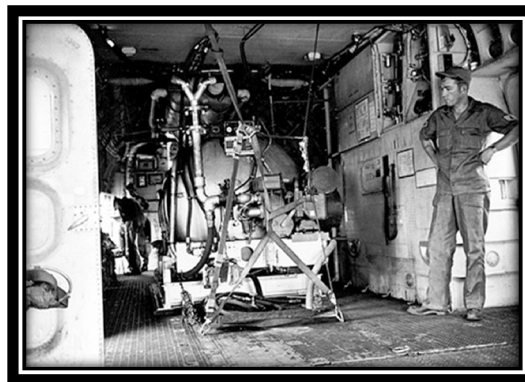


However, some levels of the chemicals were found to be at the standard of “cautionary consideration” and could well have been higher at the time of exposure.

Altogether, data “supports the expectation that the health of some of the personnel was adversely affected,” according to the report.

“Detection of TCDD so long after the Air Force reservists worked in the aircraft means that the levels at the time of their exposure would have been at least as high as the taken measurements, and quite possibly, considerably higher,” said Robert Herrick, a senior lecturer at the Harvard School of Public Health and the committee chairman.

Some of those reserve members had applied for coverage under the federal Agent Orange Act of 1991, which covers health conditions stemming from service-related exposure to the herbicide during the Vietnam War.



*Agent Orange mixing machine on a dispersing aircraft*

**The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, however, denied those applications after determining the reservists' service did not apply under the law.** After a veterans group sought to reverse that decision, the VA asked the IOM to evaluate the plausibility of reservists' exposure to chemicals in Agent Orange.

The report says although some of the veterans “could have experienced adverse health effects,” it was impossible to determine their exact exposure due to limited sampling data and work records.



The full report, which is titled “Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft” and will be available soon, can be viewed or purchased as a paperback at this link.

**The full report is now available at:**

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/residue-c123-aircraft/index.asp>



#### SUMMARY OF FACTS, HISTORY AND SEQUENCES TAKEN FROM THE HISTORY CHANNEL WEBSITE



Agent Orange was a powerful mixture of chemical defoliants used by U.S. military forces during the Vietnam War to eliminate forest cover for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, as well as crops that might be used to feed them. *The U.S. program of defoliation, codenamed Operation Ranch Hand, sprayed more than 19 million gallons of herbicides over 4.5 million acres of land in Vietnam from 1961 to 1972. Agent Orange, which contained the chemical dioxin, was the most commonly used of the herbicide mixtures, and the most effective.* It was later revealed to cause serious health issues-including tumors, birth defects, rashes, psychological symptoms, and cancer-among returning U.S. servicemen and their families as well as among the Vietnamese population.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

*The controversy over Agent Orange and its effects has persisted for more than four decades. As late as June 2011, debate continued over whether so-called “Blue Water Navy” veterans (those who served aboard deep-sea vessels during the Vietnam War) should receive the same Agent Orange-related benefits as other veterans who served on the ground or inland waterways.*

The most commonly used, and most effective, mixture of herbicides used was Agent Orange, named for the orange stripe painted on the 55-gallon drums in which the mixture was stored. It was one of several **“Rainbow Herbicides”** used, along with Agents White, Purple, Pink, Green and Blue. U.S. planes sprayed some 11 million to 13 million gallons of Agent Orange in Vietnam between January 1965 and April 1970. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Agent Orange contained “minute traces” of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), more commonly known as dioxin.

Through studies done on laboratory animals, dioxin is highly toxic even in minute doses; human exposure to the chemical could be associated with serious health issues such as muscular dysfunction, inflammation, birth defects, nervous system disorders, and even the development of various cancers.



#### VETERAN HEALTH ISSUES AND THE LEGAL BATTLES

Questions regarding Agent Orange arose in the United States after an increasing number of returning Vietnam veterans and their families began to report a range of afflictions, including rashes and other skin irritations, miscarriages, psychological symptoms, Type-2 diabetes, birth defects in children and cancers such as Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer, and leukemia.

In 1979, a class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of 2.4 million veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during their service in Vietnam. **Five years later, in an out-of-court-settlement, seven large chemical companies that manufactured the herbicide agreed to pay \$180 million in compensation to the veterans or their next of kin.** Various challenges to the settlement followed, including lawsuits filed by some 300 veterans before the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed it in 1988. By that time, the settlement had risen to some \$240 million including interest. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the **Agent Orange Act**, which mandated that some diseases associated with defoliants (including non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, soft tissue sarcomas, and chloracne) **be treated as the result of wartime service and helped codify the VA's response to veterans with conditions related to their exposure to Agent Orange.**



A photo of some of the barrels of leftover Agent Orange. **This storage dumpsite was only one of many, and it contained over a million gallons.**

Many of the barrels can be seen leaking into the sand of **Johnston Island (near Hawaii).** **The island is not only heavily contaminated by Agent Orange, but also by highly radioactive plutonium from three nuclear disasters from plutonium bomb-tipped THOR missiles, one of which exploded on the launch pad in the early '60s, permanently and lethally contaminating the island. The Agent Orange from these barrels was eventually incinerated at sea by a contract commercial vessel.**

The incineration process at times heavily contaminated its civilian crew as well as large portions of the Pacific Ocean. (Most of the radioactive hardware was either buried in the sand **or dumped in the ocean.**)

#### EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE ON VIETNAM

In addition to the massive environmental impact of the U.S. defoliation program in Vietnam, that nation has reported that **some 400,000 people were killed or maimed as a result of exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange.** In addition, **Vietnam claims half a million children have been born with serious birth defects, while as many as 2 million people are suffering from cancer or other illnesses caused by Agent Orange.**

In 2004, a group of Vietnamese citizens filed a class-action lawsuit against more than 30 chemical companies, including the same ones that settled with the U.S. veterans in 1984. The suit, which sought billions of dollars' worth of damages, claimed that Agent Orange and its poisonous effects left a legacy of health problems and that its use constituted a violation of international law. **In March 2005, a federal judge in Brooklyn, New York, dismissed the suit; another U.S. court rejected a final appeal in 2008.**

If interested there is a publication prepared by the Congressional Research Service for the Members and Committees of Congress dtd May 2009 entitled "Vietnam Victims Of Agent Orange and US-Vietnam Relations" available at the link below:

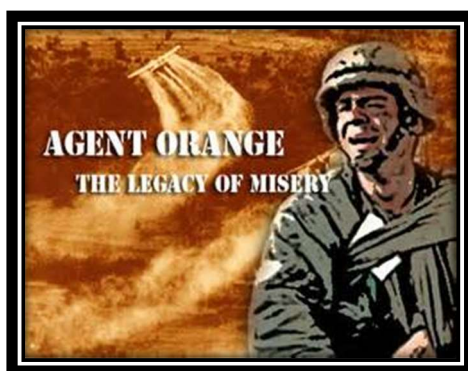
[http://www.agentorangerecord.com/images/uploads/Congressional\\_Research\\_Service\\_Vietnamese\\_Victims\\_2009\(3\).pdf](http://www.agentorangerecord.com/images/uploads/Congressional_Research_Service_Vietnamese_Victims_2009(3).pdf)

#### INFORMATION FROM THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

##### AGENT ORANGE AND CANCER

About 3 million Americans served in the armed forces in Vietnam and nearby areas during the 1960s and early 1970s, the time of the Vietnam War. During that time, the military used large amounts of mixtures known as defoliants, which are chemicals that cause the leaves to fall off plants. One of these defoliants was Agent Orange, and some troops were exposed to it. Many years later, questions remain about the lasting health effects of those exposures, including increases in cancer risk.

This article offers a brief overview of the link between Agent Orange and cancer. It does not offer a complete review of all evidence - it is meant to be a summary. **It also includes some information on benefits for which Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange may be eligible.**



##### SOME BACKGROUND ON AGENT ORANGE

Different mixes of herbicides were used, but most were mixtures of 2 chemicals that were phenoxy herbicides:

- 2,4-dichloro phenoxy acetic acid (2,4-D)
- 2,4,5-trichloro phenoxy acetic acid (2,4,5-T)

The 2,4,5-T in Agent Orange was contaminated with small amounts of dioxins, **which were created unintentionally during the manufacturing process.** Dioxins are a family of dozens of related chemicals. They can form during the making of paper and in some other industrial processes. The main dioxin in Agent Orange, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or TCDD, is one of the most toxic.

**After a study in 1970** found that 2,4,5-T could cause birth defects in lab animals, **the use of 2,4,5-T in Vietnam was stopped.** **A year later, all military herbicide use in Vietnam ended**

**Although there is now quite a bit of evidence about the health effects of Agent Orange, many questions have not yet been answered.**



## UPDATE

### LIST OF AGENT ORANGE-RELATED DISEASES MAY EXPAND

SOURCE

*Patricia Kime, Military Times 11:55 a.m.*

**EDT April 11, 2016**

#### A SUMMARY

The following is extracted from an article from the Global Research Website written by Dr. Gary G. Kohls. It was posted on November 13, 2015, a fairly recent date. **Dr Kohls is not a friend of the Government.** The entire article is available at:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/war-crimes-agent-orange-monsanto-dow-chemical-and-other-ugly-legacies-of-the-vietnam-war/5488004>

#### AGENT ORANGE – THE CHEMICAL THAT NEVER STOPS POISONING

Operation Ranch Hand had been in operation since 1961, mainly spraying its poisons on Vietnam's forests and cropland. The purpose of the operation was to defoliate trees and shrubs and kill food crops that were providing cover and food for the "enemy".

Operation Ranch Hand consisted of spraying a variety of highly toxic polychlorinated herbicide solutions that contained a variety of chemicals that are known to be (in addition to killing plant life) human and animal mitochondrial toxins, immunotoxins, hormone disrupters, genotoxins, mutagens, teratogens, diabetes and carcinogens **that were manufactured by such amoral multinational corporate chemical giants like Monsanto, Dow Chemical, DuPont and Diamond Shamrock (now Valero Energy).** **All were eager war profiteers whose CEOs and shareholders somehow have always benefitted financially from America's wars.**

Such non-human entities as Monsanto and the weapons manufacturers don't care if the wars that they can profit from are illegal or not, war crimes or not; if they can make money they will be there at the trough.

They are, however, expert at duping the Pentagon into paying exorbitantly high prices for inferior, unnecessary, or dangerous war materials. One only needs to recall Vice President Dick Cheney's Halliburton Corporation and that company's no-bid multibillion-dollar contracts that underserved our soldiers during the past three wars but enriched any number of One Percenters.

Agent Orange was the most commonly used of a handful of color-coded herbicidal poisons that the USAF sprayed (and frequently re-sprayed) over rural Vietnam (and ultimately - and secretly - Laos and Cambodia). It was also used heavily over the perimeters of many of its military bases, the toxic carcinogenic and disease-inducing chemicals often splashing directly upon American soldiers. (But "stuff happens" as Donald Rumsfeld would say).

The soil in and around some of the US and ARVN (Army of the Republic of Viet Nam) military bases continues to have extremely high levels of dioxin. The US military bases where the barrels of Agent Orange were off-loaded, stored, and then pumped into the spray planes or "brown water" swift boats are especially contaminated, as were those guinea pig "atomic soldiers" who handled the chemicals. The Da Nang airbase today has dioxin contamination levels over 300 times higher than that which international agencies would recommend remediation. (Guess which guilty nation is doing nothing about Agent Orange contamination of the sovereign nation of Vietnam?)

It is fair to speculate that any American G-I that spent any time at bases such as Da Nang, Phu Cat, and Bien Hoa in the 1960s and 1970s may have been exposed. US Navy swiftboat crews that sprayed Agent Orange on the shores of the bushy rivers that they patrolled were often soaked by the oily chemicals that were sprayed from the hoses. Secretary of State Kerry, are you listening?

The poisonous spraying continued for a decade until it was stopped in 1971. The South Vietnamese Air Force, which had started spraying Agent Orange before the US did, continued the program beyond 1971.

#### SHOULD IT BE A WAR CRIME TO USE DISEASE-INDUCING HERBICIDES AS AN INSTRUMENT OF WAR?

According to Wikipedia,

"War crimes have been broadly defined by the Nuremberg Principles as "violations of the laws or customs of war", which includes massacres, bombings of civilian targets, terrorism, mutilation, torture and the murder of detainees and prisoners of war [*realities that abounded at places like My Lai and other massacre sites*]. Additional common crimes include theft, arson, and the destruction of property not warranted by military necessity."

According to that definition, anybody with a smidgen of awareness of what happens in any combat zone would have to conclude that every war that the US military has ordered its young soldiers to go off and fight and kill in, especially the many corporate-endorsed, Wall Street wars, was laden with war crimes.

Four million innocent Vietnamese civilians were exposed to Agent Orange, and as many as 3 million have suffered diagnosable illnesses because of it, including the progeny of people who were exposed to it, approximating the number of innocent Vietnamese civilians that were killed in the war. The Red Cross of Vietnam says that up to 1 million people are disabled with Agent Orange-induced illnesses. There has been an epidemic of birth defects, chronic illnesses, fetal anomalies, and neurological and mental illnesses since the "American War".

Most thinking humans would agree that destroying the health and livelihoods of innocent farmers, women, children, babies, and old people (who had no interest in the war) by poisoning their forests, farms, food, and water supplies qualifies as a war crime.

#### DISRESPECTING SICKENED VIETNAM VETERANS AGAIN AND AGAIN (COMPENSATION)

According to Wikipedia, the chemical companies involved in an Agent Orange Vietnam veterans' class action lawsuit in 1984 (against seven chemical companies that got Agent Orange contracts from the Pentagon) denied that there was a link between their poisons and the veterans' health problems. On May 7, 1984, as is usual for Big Corporations that know when they are losing, the seven chemical companies settled out of court for \$180 million just hours before jury selection was to begin.



The companies agreed to pay the \$180 million as compensation if the veterans dropped all claims against them.

45% of the sum was ordered to be paid by Monsanto. Many veterans were outraged, feeling that they had been betrayed by the lawyers. Fairness Hearings were held in five major American cities, where veterans and their families discussed their reactions to the settlement, and condemned the actions of the lawyers and courts, demanding the case be heard before a jury of their peers. The federal judge refused the appeals, claiming the settlement was "fair and just".

By 1989, the veterans' fears were confirmed when it was decided how the money from the settlement would be paid out. A disabled Vietnam veteran would receive a corporate-friendly maximum of \$12,000 spread out over 10 years. By accepting the settlement payments, disabled veterans would become ineligible for many state benefits such as food stamps, public assistance, and government pensions. A widow of a veteran who died because of Agent Orange would only receive \$3,700.

"In 2004, Monsanto spokesman Jill Montgomery said Monsanto should not be liable at all for injuries or deaths caused by Agent Orange, saying: 'We are sympathetic with people who believe they have been injured and understand their concern to find the cause, but reliable scientific evidence indicates that Agent Orange is not the cause of serious long-term health effects.'"

Talk about your governmental and corporate disrespect for military veterans who have been sickened by military toxins or physically or psychologically wounded in battle! Such shabby treatment of returning veterans has been the norm after every war, including the reality of the "bonus army" revolt of the 1930s when thousands of poor, disabled, and/or unemployed World War I vets marched on Washington, DC, demanding the bonus that had been promised them in the 1920s. Rather than receiving justice, Generals Douglas MacArthur and Dwight Eisenhower dishonorably ordered their troops to burn the Bonus Army's temporary villages and disperse the vets empty-handed. (That is a true story. An article about that story will be added later)

What about the veterans who were poisoned and permanently sickened because of their exposure to the Pentagon's "depleted uranium" weaponry during both Gulf wars? What about those who were exposed to sarin gas or the toxic fumes from the burning oil fields in Gulf War I? What about the aspartame-poisoned soldiers who drank a lot of toxic NutraSweet-laced diet soda (that heated up beyond 87 degrees in hot warehouses in the desert and released methanol, formaldehyde, and aspartic acid into their bloodstreams) and then came down with some of the many neurotoxic forms of "aspartame disease"?

What about the number of now chronically ill veterans who were over-vaccinated with experimental vaccines like the unapproved-by-the-FDA anthrax shots? And what about the approved-by-the-FDA mercury and aluminum-containing vaccines (that were given in batches and without informed consent) that we now know are capable of causing autoimmunity and chronic illnesses? And what about all the psychiatrically drugged-up veterans who were given unapproved-for-safety psych drug cocktails (also without adequate informed consent) that are known to contribute to suicides, aggression, and homicides?

I conclude this essay by listing the currently accepted list of diseases that the VA acknowledges can be caused by exposure to Agent Orange. This applies to American veterans, but one can be certain that the consequences are a hundred times worse for the Vietnamese people who were sprayed and who have been exposed to it in the soil for the last 50 years.

#### THE DISPOSAL OF THE REMAINING 5.2 MILLION LITERS

The use of the tactical herbicide "Agent Orange" by the United States Military in South Vietnam was discontinued on 19 April 1970. On 13 September 1971, Department of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird ordered all remaining stocks of Agent Orange (and Orange II) in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) returned to the United States as quickly as possible after the US Embassy negotiated a formal transfer of title from the RVN Government. On 31 October 1971, all herbicide activities under US control were terminated.

Operation PACER IVY, the removal of all remaining Orange Herbicide in South Vietnam, was completed on 28 April 1972 when approximately **5.2 million liters (25,220 drums)** were off-loaded on Johnston Island in the Central Pacific Ocean. Operation PACER HO, the destruction of Agent Orange by at-sea incineration, was conducted from May through September 1977.



### **DISCLAIMER**

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