

14 Jan 99

Dear Jim

Attached are copies of the front of several publications you may or may not have. If you don't have them, I'll try to get them to you to Xerox for use until I can donate them when I'm sure I won't need any in the future.

My recent VIETNAM magazine (Feb 99) article on "Re-examining Agent Orange" can be used effectively with the AF Health Study Executive Summary dtd. 18 Nov 98 and Jug Burkhett's Chapter 22 "The Myth of Agent Orange" to counter the results of the San Diego Union's conclusions! Our Health Study is "good Science!"

I also believe I have several more copies of Herby reports, etc; in boxes in my garage. When I get a chance I'll look for them so we can set up the "Duckworth VN Herbicide Collection", if there is enough information to make a "collection".

Sincerely Rick

Hope to see you in April if my wife's health continues acceptable.

AF
DTA
ESSL
e.2

UNCLASSIFIED ~~S17300336~~

~~HC 484/74(S)~~

AN
ECONOMETRIC STUDY
OF THE AERIAL INTERDICTION
IN SOUTHERN LAOS
10 OCT 70 - 30 JUN 71

RECLASSIFIED
In accordance with
Executive Order 11652

UNCLASSIFIED



CLASSIFIED REFERENCE SECTION
LIBRARY BRANCH
INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES

NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE
LIBRARY
CLASSIFIED RECORDS

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE
DIRECTORATE OF TACTICAL ANALYSIS
NOV 71

GROUP 1: ~~_____~~ AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING ~~_____~~ CATION

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. NOT
RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

UNCLASSIFIED

APR 27 1976 INVENT'D (CK)

98 pages
This is one of our original pubs. Given to me as Nat. War College was
cleaning out their stacks. From this pub the AF Academy published USAFA-TR-77-4
(1974)
This is the 1st of the Commando Hunt V campaign. dtd May 1977 See next sheet

**AN ECONOMETRIC STUDY OF
AERIAL INTERDICTION IN SOUTHERN LAOS
10 OCTOBER 1970-30 JUNE 1971**

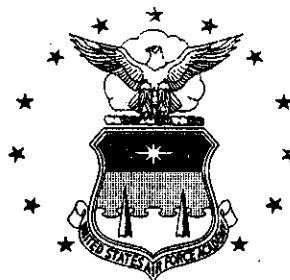
**COLONEL HERMAN L. GILSTER
DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS**

**COLONEL RICHARD D. DUCKWORTH
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS STUDIES
NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES**

**MAJOR GREGORY G. HILDEBRANDT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, GEOGRAPHY AND MANAGEMENT
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

**MAY 1977
FINAL REPORT**

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE; DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED



**DEAN OF THE FACULTY
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
COLORADO 80840**

94 pages

*See also one of the original copies given by librarian at Nat War College
this was Gen. Claus' Commando Hunt II campaign in 1974*

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE STEEL TIGER INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN

1 NOVEMBER 1969-30 JUNE 1970

DR. HERMAN L. GILSTER

Boeing Aerospace Co.
Seattle, Washington

COLONEL RICHARD D. DUCKWORTH

Department of Aerospace Studies
The Pennsylvania State University

MAJOR GREGORY G. HILDEBRANDT

Department of Economics, Geography and Management
United States Air Force Academy

FINAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 1979

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE, DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED



DEAN OF THE FACULTY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

COLORADO 80840

74 pages

This was our 1st study of Gen. Brown's Commando Hunt III Campaign. Gen. Clay only allowed us at 7AF to print up 5 copies for internal use in SEA, since the analysis was of the previous commander's tour of duty.

NATIONAL

Vietnam defoliant study faulted

A California newspaper says the U.S. military sugarcoated finding about Agent Orange.

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The U.S. military withheld information about possible links between Agent Orange and birth defects for years and downplayed the defoliant's link to cancer among Vietnam War veterans, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported today.

The newspaper conducted a six-month investigation into a \$200 million Air Force study, which began in 1979 and has been a key factor in denying compensation to some veterans.

It is unclear how many people suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, which U.S. planes sprayed over the jungle during a 10-year effort to strip cover from North Vietnamese troops and their resupply convoys.

The study tracks the health of about 1,000 veterans who participated in Operation Ranch Hand, a series of Air Force missions that sprayed defoliants over 3.6 million acres of South Vietnam. The study is scheduled to conclude in 2006.

As part of the Ranch Hand study, Air Force scientists in 1984 drafted two reports. According to the newspaper, information from the first report was withheld for years; the other report was published but its findings altered, the newspaper said.

"This is a medical crime, basically," said Richard Albanese, a scientist who designed the original study but was later taken off the project.

The withheld report focused on birth defects and infant deaths, showing high rates of both among

Mike's GARDEN CENTERS

SOUTHLAKE 555 E. Hwy 114 4 miles West of Grapevine 251-2620	Mon-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6 Sale Dates 10/30-11/5	FORT WORTH 5703 Crowley Rd. 1/2 Block S. of I-20 293-8800
---	--	---

PINE BARK MULCH CYPRESS MULCH

2.44 EA. OR 6/10.00 Will Not Float! **SAVES WATER!**
2.88 or 5/11.00

GIANT CUSTOM MUMS PANSIES

Many colors! 10" to 12" Pots Reg. 14.99 to 24.99 **NOW 9.88** 4" POT MANY COLORS! **ONLY 65¢**

ALL TREES SHADE, FRUIT, NUT & ORNAMENTALS

30% OFF WE PLANT TREES!

- GOLDEN RAINTREE
- BUR OAK • OAKS
- APRICOT • PEACH • PEAR
- APPLE • PECAN • WALNUT
- MIMOSA • MAPLES
- JAPANESE MAPLES
- BALD CYPRESS • GINKGOS
- PERSIMMON • WILLOWS
- BRADFORD PEAR
- INDIAN HAWTHORNE
- ELAEAGNUS
- ARBORVITAE
- AZALEAS
- DWARF BUFGORD HOLLY
- TAUPON HOLLY
- CHINESE HOLLY
- TEXAS SAGE
- PAMASS GRASS
- WAX MYRTLE
- LIGUSTRUM
- PHOTINA
- NANDINA
- AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

ALL SHRUBS

30% OFF ALL SIZES 1 GALLON 15 GALLON

- ABUTIL
- ALTHEA
- HYDRANGEA
- BANANA TREES
- BOXWOOD
- CHERRY LAUREL
- DAY LILIES
- EUONYMUS
- JUNIPERS
- INDIAN HAWTHORNE
- ELAEAGNUS
- ARBORVITAE
- AZALEAS
- DWARF BUFGORD HOLLY
- TAUPON HOLLY
- CHINESE HOLLY
- TEXAS SAGE
- PAMASS GRASS
- WAX MYRTLE
- LIGUSTRUM
- PHOTINA
- NANDINA
- AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

5 GALLON SPECIAL JAPANESE BOXWOOD

Waxleaf Ligustrum \$7.00
 Dwarf Yaupon Holly \$7.88 or 4/30.00

1 GALLON Low growing, compact, evergreen shrub. **\$2.35 ea.**

ALL CREPE MYRTLES

ALL COLORS, ALL SIZES GREAT SELECTION OF BLOOMING PLANTS TO CHOOSE FROM

40% OFF

CHOOSE FROM 1 GALLON TO GIANT TREE TYPES!

TOP SOIL COW POO POO

68¢ EA. 20 BAGS LIMIT
 • RICH ORGANIC FILL
 • FOR LAWN OR GARDEN
 • 40 LB BAG

40 lb. bag **88¢ ea.**

ALL PERENNIALS

30% OFF

- HOSTA
- LOUISIANA IRIS
- CALLA LILIES
- ASTER
- SALVIA
- TURKS CAP
- CANNA
- AND MORE!
- COLE FLOWER

RED OAK TREES

7.88 EA. 2 gallon OR 3/21.00

ALL CACTUS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AND SUCCEULANTS

40% OFF

- BARREL CACTUS
- OLD MAN CACTUS
- CROWN OF THORNS
- HANGING
- ALOE VERA
- PONY TAIL

FALL MUMS IN 6" POTS

2.33 OR 10/17.50

FULL LARGE BUDED 6 INCH MUMS

CEEDAR MULCH ALL GROUNDCOVERS

Office

Save \$180

New

*Rebate good with the combined purchase of HP Computer 6370z (42" (200-145) and HP Printer 01697C (404-151). Offer expires 1/31/99.
 **Package savings will be reflected at the register at time of purchase. See store for details.
 *Leasing arranged by G.E. Capital. For business use only. Based on 36

SAVE \$4

179.99 Our Price
 - 20.00 Mail-In Rebate**

159.99

After Rebate & \$20 Price Reduction

Panasonic KX-FP250 Plain Paper Fax

- Up to 28 page document memory
- Hands free speakerphone
- 110-number auto-dialer
- 10-Fax-Internet faxing capabilities
- Enhanced copier function
- Personal copier
- 1-year Panasonic Fax Advantage Warranty Program

385-417

**Rebate available in store only. Offer expires 5/31/99. See store for details.

HP

799.99

Low Price Guarantee

HP 2000Cse Professional Series Color Laser Printer

- Color laser speed at a fraction of the price
- Prints up to 10 ppm black; up to 7 ppm color
- Brilliant photo-quality results on any paper

367-794

been a key factor in denying compensation to some veterans.

It is unclear how many people suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, which U.S. planes sprayed over the jungle during a 10-year effort to strip cover from North Vietnamese troops and their resupply convoys.

The study tracks the health of about 1,000 veterans who participated in Operation Ranch Hand, a series of Air Force missions that sprayed defoliants over 3.6 million acres of South Vietnam. The study is scheduled to conclude in 2006.

As part of the Ranch Hand study, Air Force scientists in 1984 drafted two reports. According to the newspaper, information from the first report was withheld for years; the other report was published but its findings altered, the newspaper said.

"This is a medical crime, basically," said Richard Albanese, a scientist who designed the original study but was later taken off the project.

The withheld report focused on birth defects and infant deaths, showing high rates of both among children of Vietnam veterans, the newspaper said.

Language in the second report, which focused on veterans' general health, was altered to show little difference between the studied veterans and a comparison group, the newspaper said.

A table in the second report showed that Ranch Hand veterans, by a ratio of 5-to-1, are "less well" than other veterans. But after a White House advisory panel reviewed the report, the table was omitted in the published report. The lead scientist, Col. George Lathrop, deleted a sentence saying that some of the findings are "of concern" and instead wrote that the findings are "reassuring."

Lathrop told the paper that the changes are minor.

Albanese contends that the changes distorted the report and that data on cancer rates are misleading because of how cancer victims are grouped.

AMC
THEATRES
Win Movie Tickets!



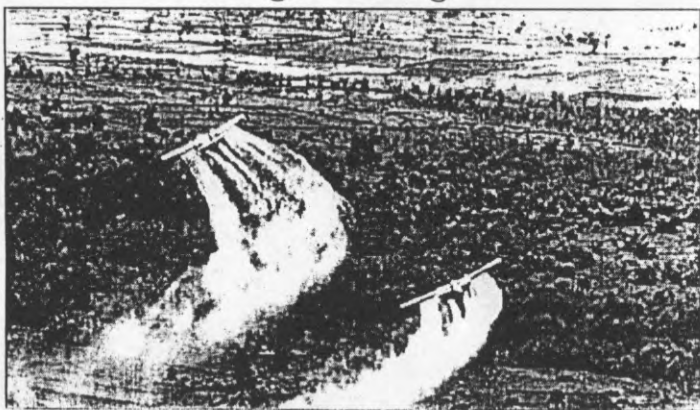
Goldwell Banker
San Diego's #1
Real Estate Broker.

The San Diego
Union-Tribune.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1998

Special Report

How the military misled Vietnam veterans
and their families about the health risks of
Agent Orange



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aerial assault: U.S. Air Force planes spray the
defoliant Agent Orange over dense vegetation in
South Vietnam in this 1966 file photo.

Fatal Flaws

By Clark Brooks



Go to the net + get these
25 or so pages of the
complete article.

Jim, you have a copy of
the AF Health Study response
dtd. 18 Nov 98 to this article.
The 3 pages were stapled to the
rear of my Feb 99 Vietnam
magazine article. I forwarded earlier.

Also see Chapter 22 ^{the myth} of Agent Orange
in STOREN VALOR



Fatal Flaws

How the military misled Vietnam veterans and their families about the health risks of Agent Orange

Staff Writer

November 1, 1998

The U.S. military's \$200 million study of the health effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans is so flawed that it might be useless, a six-month investigation by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* has found.

The study has been a key factor in denying compensation to Vietnam veterans suffering from illnesses they blame on Agent Orange, a powerful herbicide used to destroy enemy crops and jungle hiding places.

Interviews with military scientists, transcripts of meetings, and government reports and internal memos reveal that these are among the flaws in the Air Force study, which began in 1979 and concludes in 2006:

- Two study reports that revealed serious birth defects among children of veterans exposed to
- Agent Orange and Operation Ranch Hand



Aerial assault: U.S. Air Force planes spray the defoliant Agent Orange over dense vegetation in South Vietnam in this 1966 file photo.

Fatal flaws

By Clark Brooks, Staff Writer

The U.S. military's \$200 million study of the health effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans is so flawed that it might be useless, a six-month investigation by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* has found.

The study has been a key factor in denying compensation to Vietnam veterans suffering from illnesses they blame on Agent Orange, a powerful herbicide used to destroy enemy crops and jungle hiding places.

Interviews with military scientists, transcripts of meetings, and government reports and internal memos reveal that these are among the flaws in the Air Force study, which began in 1979 and concludes in 2006:

- Two study reports that revealed serious birth defects among children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange were withheld for years, leaving a generation of men and women who served in Vietnam to start families without knowing the potential risks.

- A report expressing concerns about cancer and birth defects was altered, with the result that the risks appeared less serious.

- The government ignored a National Academy of Sciences recommendation that the study be done by scientists outside the military.

- High-ranking Air Force officers interfered with the study's

data analysis, undermining its scientific integrity.

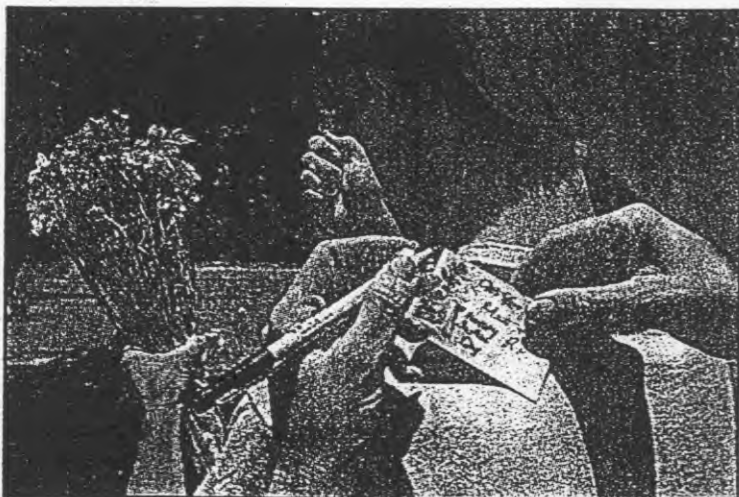
- The Air Force stonewalled a U.S. senator who wanted full disclosure of the data.

Dr. Richard Albanese, one of four scientists who designed the study but who later was taken off the project, says it was manipulated to downplay the health problems of Vietnam veterans.

"This is a medical crime, basically," Albanese said. "Certainly, this is against all medical ethics."

Albanese, a civilian doctor, still works at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, where the study's scientists are headquartered.

See **STUDY** on Page A-22



NELVIN CEPEDA / Union-Tribune

Remembrance: Matthew Robinson, whose father died of cancer in 1981, held flowers for his dad's grave as his mother, Patti, wrote a Father's Day greeting on a card.



The San Diego

Sunday

September 1, 1998

Union-Tribune

Iraq halts weapons monitors, tests wills

By Atlas
TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — By halting all talks with United Nations weapons inspectors, Iraq yesterday set a new test of wills with the U.N. Security Council and the Clinton administration over whether Baghdad will escape measures to prevent rebuilding of its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities.

The Security Council, after an emergency meeting, called Baghdad's latest moves a "flagrant violation" of council resolutions and a breach of a cooperation agreement. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which averted threatened American military strikes.

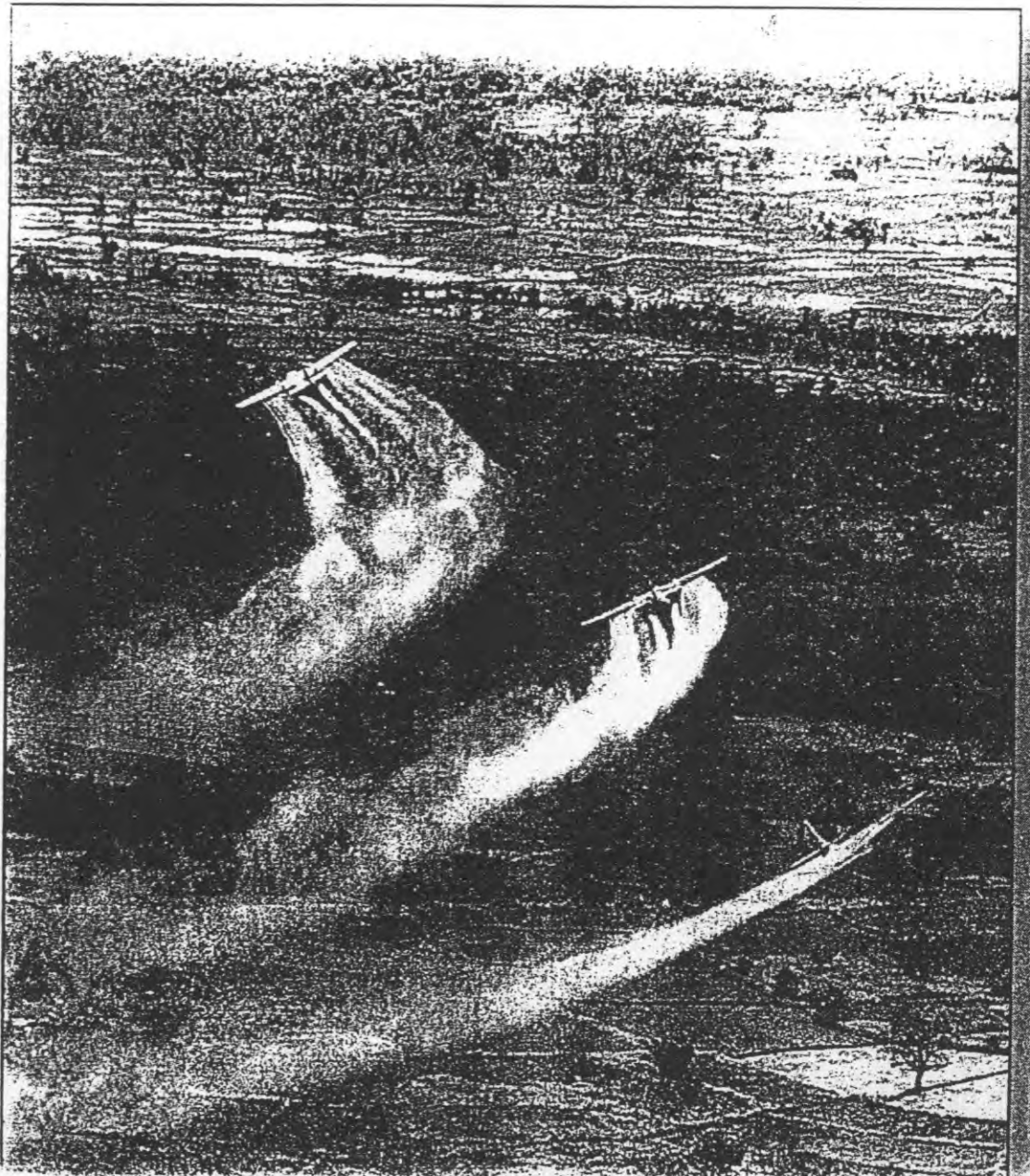
The move set off the latest diplomatic battle by announcing yesterday it was suspending all cooperation with weapons inspectors and all monitoring at sensitive military sites until the Security Council orders lifting economic sanctions and purges all "American agents" from the U.N. Commission (UNSCOM), the agency overseeing weapons inspections.

The move was a serious blow to the left of an already diminished inspection effort.

Without continued monitoring, the U.N. could reconstitute elements of its chemical, biological and even nuclear capability in as little as six months, former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter, an American,

Special Report

How the military misled Vietnam veterans and their families about the health risks of Agent Orange



CONFIDENTIAL

File
Herbicide
Report
10-3
NFR

Free

MEMORANDUM
RM-5446-ISA/ARPA
OCTOBER 1967

AN EVALUATION OF
CHEMICAL CROP DESTRUCTION
IN VIETNAM (U)

Russell Betts and Frank Denton

PREPARED FOR:
THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE/INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
AND THE
ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

The **RAND** Corporation
SANTA MONICA • CALIFORNIA

34 pages.
This is one of the Rand's Reports that led to the reduction in the
Crop mission

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE-OPS-4
~~FILE~~
DI
DIT ✓

MEMORANDUM
RM-5450-ISA/ARPA
OCTOBER 1967

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF
THE U.S. CROP SPRAYING PROGRAM
IN SOUTH VIETNAM (U)

Anthony J. Russo

PREPARED FOR:

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE/INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
AND THE
ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

The **RAND** Corporation
SANTA MONICA • CALIFORNIA

34 pages

This is the other Rand report that led to the curtailment of
the crop mission. The AF loved it. The Army didn't like it.

CONFIDENTIAL

AFATL-TN-70-1

MILITARY HERBICIDES and INSECTICIDES

by

A.L. YOUNG, 1st Lt, USAF

B.C. WOLVERTON

TECHNICAL NOTES AFATL-TN-70-1

MARCH 1970

NON-EXPLOSIVE MUNITIONS DIVISION

AIR FORCE ARMAMENT LABORATORY

AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND • UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

59 pages

In file at Hd Qts 7AF in SEA originally

CONFIDENTIAL
NOFORN

TACPWH
Retain Indefinitely

REPORT
of the
HERBICIDE POLICY REVIEW
COMMITTEE

Approved 11 FEB 1968
Dissemination JAN 68

Continuation

GROUP 4

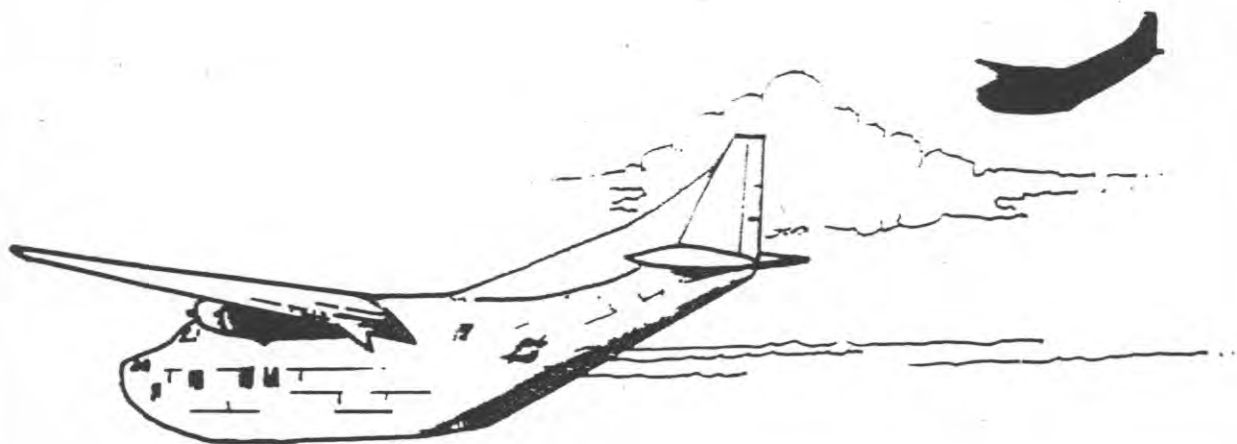
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON
28 MAY 1968

83 pages
5 appendix for 48 more pages

CONFIDENTIAL
NOFORN

CONFIDENTIAL



REPORT ON THE HERBICIDE POLICY REVIEW

GROUP 4
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR
INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED
AFTER 12 YEARS

AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON
28 AUG 1968

80 pages
5 appendixes of 48 more pages
CONFIDENTIAL

A cleaned up version of 28 May 68 report

The Nature and Fate of Chemicals Applied to Soils, Plants, and Animals

a symposium held
April 27, 28, and 29,
1960, at the Plant
Industry Station
and Agricultural
Research Center
Beltsville, Maryland

sponsored by

Farm Research

Agricultural Research Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

221 pages

CPRB

WBE

FHT

OB

M

File:



CR 12-67

September 1967

FORESTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, PUERTO RICO, AND TEXAS

CROPS PROTECTION
RESEARCH BRANCH

Rec'd SEP 16 1969

Answered

Agricultural Research Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Under ARPA Order No. 424

Advanced Research Projects Agency

U.S. Department of Defense

Handwritten: 415 pages



Colonel R. Duckworth
2627 Forest Park Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76110-2224



The "Gunfighters" emblem carried by the 366th TFW Da Nang in November 1968. The name resulted from the unit's success with the 20mm gun pod. Emblem shows a black Phantom carrying a white gun pod spouting red flame against a blue background.



18 Mar 99
Just received this
today in mail from
Mrs Hess - God bless her!

Class 68-F
Laredo, Tex

(Editor of Sentinel)

**U.S. forces, during the Vietnam War,
went "all out" to rescue downed air crewmen,
and today the various services,
with vigorous prodding from
the missing in action/prisoner of war families,
still haven't stopped the search...**

**Calling Lariat 03 Bravo --
no chute in sight,
no beeper, come up voice!**

**9 days in Vietnam, mission #6,
the squadron's last -- Missing in Action**

By Colonel "Dick" Duckworth (U.S. Air Force, Retired)

Missing in action (MIA)...after only nine days in Nam, a sixth mission over enemy territory, the squadron's final Agent Orange herbicidal spray mission and Lieutenant Frederick W. Hess, Jr. (03 Bravo), flying back-seat in an F-4D "Phantom II" was down in the jungles of Laos -- he's not been heard from since.

Colonel "Dick" Duckworth, in the second of four articles in The Sentinel about the spraying of Agent Orange on enemy jungles, revealed that jet fighters had also been employed in an effort to distribute chemicals to destroy thick vegetation, covering critical targets, in enemy territories. The defoliation practice had proven successful in South Vietnam and was in demand by ground commanders...now, the Air Force was attempting to speed up the program in Laos while saving lives. In the past, slow flying UC-123B/K "Provider" transports had been used to spray. Low flying jets are faster (four-times) and make hard targets.

Duckworth said, "Research continued after the magazine, Air Power History printed my article, "Fast-movers and Herbicidal spraying in Southeast Asia" (Spring, 1998, Volume 45, pp. 3-15). This inquiry led to information on the final "Gunfighter" F-4D 'Phantom II' spray mission, call sign Lariat, that was unavailable to me earlier. During this last three-ship 'fast-mover' combat herbicide mission on March 29, 1969, an F-4 (Lariat 03 -- 66-8809) crashed in Laos during its spray run at 8:55 a.m.

"Subsequent information from the POW net, the League of Families of POW and MIAs in Southeast Asia, Air Force declassified reports, and especially family members of the lost airman

*This'll appear in
N Tex Military Paper
called Sentinel in
next issue or two
with Fred's pic &
"guns" insignia.*

indicate that the defoliation target was heavily defended. It was an area south of the Ban Karai Pass near Ban La Boy, Laos.

"The plane was hit with automatic ground-fire during the second spray pass. As the aircraft commander, Captain W. J. Popendorf (03 Alpha) notified the formation's lead plane (Lariat Lead) of the explosion in the left rear of his 'Phantom,' he attempted a slight pull-up to several hundred feet in case of ejection.

"After experiencing an un-expected complete roll to the left, the aircraft commander realized he'd lost control and called to Hess in the back-seat... 'get out, get out,' then pulled his own ejection seat handle. Popendorf heard the rear seat leave the F-4 as the aircraft was approaching a 45-degree right bank, still travelling at near 600-mph. One point four seconds later, the F-4 dipped to about 200-feet above the jungle and Popendorf was ejected from the plane... now at a 60-degree left bank. The plane crashed into a hillside."

(Editor's note: The Air Force termed the front seater in the F-4 as the aircraft commander, not the pilot. Unlike the Navy, who had radar intercept officers, RIOs, in the second seat, the Air Force version of the Phantom's back seat could be occupied by a Pilot Systems Officer (PSO) or a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) trained in the use of radar. Often the Air Force simply referred to back-seater as the "Guy in the Back (GIB). Amazingly, the top ace of the Vietnam War was an Air Force WSO, credited with six kills, from the back seat.)

"The aircraft commander survived as his partially blossomed chute snagged a tree. Despite serious leg and arm injuries, which prevented him from getting out of the chute's harness, Popendorf was rescued after an impressive Search and Rescue (SAR) effort.

"During this rescue, suppressive fire was used almost continuously from slow-moving 'Skyraiders.' Riot incapacitating gas was used before a rescue helicopter's gas masked crewmember was lowered to successfully save the airman. Enemy forces closed in and AK-47 rifle fire was heard. The area was described as having a number of anti-aircraft sites and numerous ground forces.

"Rescue operations began with poor visibility, but Popendorf was finally rescued. He had hung in his harness for just over three hours. All contact with Hess had been lost at the time of his ejection. Never-the-less, the air search continued until 7 p.m., when darkness closed in, and enemy activity increased. Electronic surveillance was then initiated.

"In all, 28 U.S. aircraft were used in the rescue of Popendorf and a ten hour search for Hess. When the search was finally terminated, 03 Bravo (Hess) was listed as MIA.

"This shoot-down and crew-member loss brought the use of the F-4D as a spray plane to a tragic end, after less than 30-sorties. There was a later effort to restart the 'fast-mover' herbicide program with new high-speed defoliation tanks (TMU-28B). However, the banning of 'Agent Orange' herbicide use by the Department of Defense (DoD) in April 1970, and the cancellation of all fixed-wing defoliation missions (three months later) led to an end that any high-speed aircraft would be used for defoliation spraying missions in Southeast Asia."

Hess' military career began in 1962, when he entered the Air Force Academy. He was a student of Colonel Duckworth's during his second and third year at the academy. In his senior year, Hess was a member of the prestigious 'honor committee' and graduated in the top 15-percent of his class qualifying him for post-graduate work at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He would earn a master's degree in government, February 1967.

While attending school in D.C., Hess met and married his wife, a Fulbright scholar at Georgetown. Next stop, pilot training at Laredo, Tex., then advanced radar-training in the F-4, fighter aircraft at Davis-Monthan AFB (Air Force Base), Ariz. Following pilot operational courses at MacDill AFB, Fla., and survival training in Washington state and the Philippines, Hess reported for duty with the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing's 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, the "Gunfighters," at DaNang, Vietnam, March 20, 1969. He'd fly five missions over a nine day period, his sixth would prove fateful. Hess was one of 152 Air Force Academy graduates, between the classes of '59 and '72, who would be lost during the war in Southeast Asia.

For heroism displayed on the hazardous low-altitude, high speed, spray missions, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and later, the Purple Heart. Hess was one of some 600 Americans lost in Laos, of whom 444 are still listed as MIAs. Few have been acknowledged as being prisoners by Laos or the United States.

The search for Hess continued through intelligence inquiries. Air Force records had him still in the books and of active status until 1979. Duckworth, continued, "Fred Hess was promoted to the rank of major during the ten year period he was declared MIA. His father, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, worked diligently to maintain his son's MIA status, but one month before the re-evaluation of Major Hess' status, suffered a fatal heart-attack. Hess was pronounced officially as KIA (Killed In Action), May 22, 1979. The remaining Hess family members attempted to keep the major's status as MIA to no avail.

"The loss of Major Fred Hess shows the tremendous cost in lives to the nation and Air Force."

Duckworth, in noting the plight of the POW/MIA, pointed out, "With the war's end, the U.S. did not deal with Laos (although claiming to hold 'tens of tens'), Cambodia or China for prisoners...only North Vietnam. Not one American held by Laos was released in 1973, the end of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia -- and none have been released since.

"There are more than 90,000 service members like Hess who went to one of our nation's recent wars (World War II -- 79,750, The Cold War -- 123, Korean War -- 8,100, and the Vietnam War -- 2,072) and never returned. These men and women, who fought heroically, then disappeared anonymously, must never be forgotten.

"Freedom is never 'free,' its currency is the sacrifice of men and women in uniform, men like young Fred Hess, Jr., the 151 other graduates from the academy, and all the other military patriots who did not return from Southeast Asia.

"Fortunately, the U.S. government has not stopped searching for the Southeast Asia MIAs. In November 1994, a Joint Task Force Full Accounting Team, investigating the area where Hess ejected determined that local villagers knew more than they were willing to reveal. Final determination -- it was unlikely outsiders would be familiar enough with the remote area to locate the remains without local assistance. The team recommended the case be placed in the 'pending' files where it remains today...unresolved."

refused to divulge the whereabouts of the Army and was killed by the Tories. Thomas, her husband, came home from the war, married a Cherokee Indian and moved west to Kentucky. The Cherokee Indian's brother was adopted by Mr. Hightower and is my great-great grandfather.

It was during the first year of the War Between the States when Tom Hightower of Cedartown, Georgia, proudly joined the 21st Georgia Regiment. Lou, his young wife, was pregnant as Tom rode off to war. It would be four long years before he would see his new daughter and wife. Herein are a few excerpts of the heart-rending letters that Tom wrote to his Lou, the letters can be found at the Georgia State Archives.

July, 1861-I think we will have some hard fighting yet before we can return to our peaceful homes and friends and those we dearly love. I often think of home and wish I were there. Dec. 1861-What preparation are you all making for Christmas? Are you fixing up another Christmas tree? Lou, If I could have a fine a time as we had last Christmas I would like to be there; but I just can't. I want you to remember those hours of pleasure. This Christmas I am destined to spend away here in old Virginia where real pleasure and enjoyment are nearly strangers from all appearances.

A couple of years ago I went down to Northwest Georgia to do a story on the Hightower family of Cedartown, where the young Confederate soldier lived. It turned into a major story for the newsletter, meeting some truly wonderful folks with great stories to tell about genealogy.

One warm summer day I was sitting in the barber chair of cousin Hugh Hightower while he was clipping my hair — or what there is left of it — there on the main square in downtown Pochontas, Arkansas. The conversation was, of course about genealogy, and he mentioned how many places in Arkansas were named after Hightowers. I filed the idea away and thought that in a couple of years when I was back at the National Archives, I would look at some maps or gazetteers to see what I could locate. But, the next summer

the Wall and one was from Brownsville, Kentucky. I visited the local newspaper, and found the obituary, then I visited Larry's mom.

"Local relatives were informed that another Edmonson County native had been killed on the battlefield in Vietnam - Cpl. Larry Hightower, 20, son of Mrs. Margaret Hightower, Brownsville, Ky, died of gunshot wounds received from an enemy gun in an operation against hostile forces near DaNang. Larry's body is expected to be returned here for burial within the next 10 days. Larry, once a student at Edmonson County High, volunteered for military service more than two years ago and had recently extended his military service in Vietnam where he served as an instructor. In addition he is survived by a brother, Billy, grandparents Leona Denham and Maud Oller."

(Edmonson County News, Brownsville, Kentucky, 1966)

A few minutes of surfing the Web, and you have a new idea, a new story for your newsletter.

Another story that came my way was of a man named John Hightower who was a Baptist Minister in the Carolinas who later migrated west into Logan County, Kentucky. Reverend Hightower was regarded as a strong doctrinal preacher for his day, although he held some loose notions about keeping the Sabbath according to more fundamentalist believers. Spence says that he did not wholly discard the obligation to keep the day holy, but he held it very lightly, and broke the Sabbath himself for very trivial causes. "The effect of his teaching was such, that many, otherwise pious and devout Christians, has to conscientious scruples

about fishing, hunting or attending to any pressing business, on Sunday. It appears that most of the Baptists from South Carolina, at that period, held similar views to those of Mr. Hightower. The effects on the people were very pernicious, and even to the present day, the results of this teaching are manifest in some portions of Southern Kentucky." (A History of Kentucky Baptists, by J. H.

OLD UNION CHURCH

Legislative Act of 1795 gave right to 200 acres for each settler in Green River country. This brought many from Carolinas. Among them were Baptists, two preachers, who constituted Union Church in 1795. John Hightower first pastor served until 1813. Meeting house shared with other denominations. Services thru Civil War while met. not. Present building erected in 1886.