

The History of the US Department of Defense Programs for the Testing, Evaluation, and Storage of Tactical Herbicides

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for

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Summary of Assessment of Site Exposures

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DOD TACTICAL HERBICIDE SITES

Site 13

Location: Pranburi Military Reservation, Thailand

Date → April 1964 – April 1965

Activity Description: The objectives of the Thailand tests were to (1) determine minimal rates and volumes of Herbicide Purple, component 2,4,5-T butyl and isobutyl esters (Herbicide Pink), Dinoxol (31.6% butoxyethanol ester of 2,4-D and 30.3% butoxyethanol ester of 2,4,5-T), and Herbicide Blue applied at different seasons of the year for effective defoliation; and, (2) evaluate the effectiveness of other selected defoliant, desiccants, and herbicides applied singly or in combination mixtures at different seasons of the year on representative vegetation of Southeast Asia.

Assessment: The test site locations were established on the Pranburi Military Reservation. Arrangements were made with Thai governmental authorities to use the facilities of the Ministry of Communications Airport at Hua Hin (25 miles from the test site) as a base of operations for the twin engine Beechcraft (C-45) used for test applications. Survey and preparations of two test sites were initiated in August 1963. Lanes were cleared to mark boundaries of a series of 10-acre test plots for a total of 1450 and 2000 acres of treatment at the two test sites, respectively. The trials began on 2 April 1964 and continued through 8 September 1964 with duplicate 10-acre plots treated with each chemical mixture using three 100-foot swaths per plot flown at a height of 30 to 50 feet above treetops. Evaluations of vegetative responses to chemical treatments were made at periodic intervals, and primarily by photographic techniques. Observations continued for one year after treatment.

During the period from April through September 1964, approximately 115 gallons of Herbicide Purple, 46 gallons of Herbicide Pink, 21 gallons of Dinoxol and 15 gallons of Herbicide Blue were aerially sprayed on 170 acres of Pranburi Military Reservation, Thailand. Five civilians and 5 military personnel from Fort Detrick, Maryland, conducted the spray operations and subsequent research. Approximately 25 Thai civilian workers were involved in the preparation of the test sites, and 4 US civilian workers were involved in evaluating the results of the spraying through the end of September 1964. The names of the US personnel are listed in the source document.

over for source

Source: Darrow RA (1965) OCONUS Defoliation Test Program, Semiannual Report, 1 April – 30 September 1964. ARPA Order No. 423, US Army Biological Laboratories, Fort Detrick, Maryland. *Document declassified October 1977, but subject to export control. Available from the Defense Documentation Center, Ascension Number AD360646.*