



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310

10 OCT 2003

The Honorable Lane Evans
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Evans:

OCT 20 2003

Thank you for your August 11, 2003, letter to the Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, requesting specific documentation regarding historical use of herbicide in Panama. To date, the Department of the Army has not uncovered any documentation indicating that Agent Orange was used in Panama.

The Army is providing the June 1997 Armed Forces Pest Management Board Memorandum, subject: "Use of Chemical Defoliants in Panama, 1970-1974." The memorandum to Mr. Roy Neve, U.S. Army Medical Command, notes that the Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center has no records of chemical defoliants used in Panama. The memorandum also indicates that the lack of any such records is not unexpected since the records need not be maintained longer than two years. Please note that the actual date of this memorandum is June 27, 1997. We are also including a copy of the Department of Defense Herbicide Manual for Noncropland Weeds (Army TM 5-629; Navy NAVFAC MO-314; Air Force AFM 91-19), August 1970, which is referenced in the June 27, 1997 memorandum.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

R. L. Brownlee
Acting Secretary of the Army

Enclosures



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER
ARMED FORCES PEST MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOREST GLEN SECTION, WRAMC
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20307-5001

June 27 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROY NEVE, USA MEDCOM, FT. SAM HOUSTON, TX

SUBJECT: Use of Chemical Defoliant in Panama, 1970-1974.

Regarding your request for information on the use of chemical defoliant (herbicides) in Panama to kill vegetation on and around U.S. installations during the years 1970 through 1974, we are unable to find any records of specific applications. This is not unexpected because under The Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act pesticide applicators were required to maintain records of application of restricted-use pesticides for only two years.

Official guidance provided to DoD pest controllers for herbicide application was contained in The Herbicide Manual for Noncropland Weeds, August 1970 (Army TM 5-629; Navy NAVFAC-MO-314; Air Force AFM 91-19). We have requested a copy of the document and will send you a copy of that Herbicide Index as soon as we receive it.

Dr. Steve Bennett, U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, is the senior civilian entomologist for the Army. He will confirm that the provisions of this document were in effect between 1970 and 1974. He can be reached by phone at (410) 671-1565 (DSN 584) or FAX at (410) 671-1680.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Phillip G. Lawyer", is written over the typed name.

Phillip G. Lawyer
Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, DPMIAC

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Author

Corporate Author United States Department of Defense, Department of th

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DR. ALVIN L. YOUNG

HERBICIDE MANUAL

FOR NONCROPLAND WEEDS

ARMY, TM 5-629

NAVY, NAVFAC MO-314

AIR FORCE, AFM 91-19

**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY,
THE NAVY, AND THE AIR FORCE**

WASHINGTON, D.C.