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**Item ID Number** 00231

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**Report/Article Title** Memorandum: Pesticide Usage by Seabee and Marine Corps Units in RVN, from L. Lance Sholdt to R.V. Peterson, 26 July 1972

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 0000

**Month/Day**

**Color**

**Number of Images** 1

**Description Notes**



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26 July 1979

From: Officer in Charge

To: CDR R. V. Peterson, MSC, USN, Disease Vector Control Section (MED 31412),  
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, DC 20372

Subj: Pesticide usage by Seabee and Marine Corps units in RVN

1. The following information is provided regarding telephone communications with Seabee personnel regarding pesticide usage in RVN; specifically Agent Orange (AO):

a. 20 July 1979, CDR Davis, Chief of Staff, 351 NCR, SEABEEPAC, Port Hueneme (360-5641). No records of pesticides used; no personal knowledge of AO being used by Seabees in RVN.

b. 21 July 1979, UTCM Carrol E. Simmons (Code 09M12A), Staff Assistant for Plans, Policy and Training, SEABEES at NAVFAC headquarters (221-8545). No records of pesticides used in RVN. No personal knowledge of AO being used in RVN.

c. 23 July 1979, YMI Cope, Chief of Staff Office, 20th NCR, Gulfport (794-2650). No records of pesticides used with RVN.

d. 23 July 1979, LCDR Howard Holcomb, OIC, Navy Dispensary, Gulfport (363-2806). USAF stored AO in Gulfport during post RVN. No personal knowledge of AO being used in RVN.

e. 23 July 1979, CDR McCallister, CO, Supply Center, Gulfport (363-2204). No records kept on types and amounts of pesticides used in RVN by Seabee units. No personal knowledge of AO being used (or 2,4,5-T).

f. 25 July 1979, CDR McCallister (return call). Checked with civil engineering support office, inventory control, at Port Hueneme where master records are stored. No information kept or available on types or amounts of pesticides and herbicides supplied to or used by Seabee units in RVN.

2. LCDR Tim Dickens reported that he had no knowledge of AO or of herbiciding compounds containing Dioxin being used by Marine Corps units during his tour in RVN. He was also unaware of any records being kept on the types and amounts of pesticides applied by USMC units in RVN. I can report the same from my own personal experience in RVN.

*Lance Sholdt*  
L. LANCE SHOLDT