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Report/Article Title

Memorandum: Report of Investigation into Possible Herbicide Damage at Vietnamese Naval Compound at Da Nang, from Cpt. Ray W. Bills to III MAF Chemical Officer (Cpt. Lott), 26 September 1969

Journal/Book Title

Year

0000

Month/Day

Color

6

Number of Images

Descripton Notes

Includes these attachments: Memorandum on Reported Herbicide Damage (very poor print quality); one page handwritten notes; map of Da Nang Combat Base; and one typed page on prohibiting movement of drums into Danang City.

Chemical Operations Division

MACJ3-09

26 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: III MAF CHEMICAL OFFICER (CPT LOTT)

SUBJECT: Report of Investigation into Possible Herbicide Damage at Vietnamese Naval Compound at De Nang

- 1. On 24 Sep 69 the III MAF Chemical Officer, CPT Lott, and CPT Bills from HQ MACV visited the Vietnamese Naval Compound at Da Nang to investigate possible herbicide damage. Personnel contacted were:
 - a. LCMDR Jemes US Advisor.
 - b. Mr. Xuan Chief'of Staff (VN).
 - c. LT Shirk US Advisor.
- 2. All the Australian pine (casuarina) located on the compound appeared to be dead. Most of the broadleaf trees were either completely void of foliage or in various stages of loosing their leaves. Wherever it was possible to observe new growth, the growth showed the effects of herbicide. The broadleaf vine growing on the slopes around the hilltop housing compound also showed herbicide demage. The herbicide damage was limited to the Navy compound. Vegetation growing on low hills near the compound did not show herbicide demage.
- 3. While surveying the compound a total of eight ORANGE herbicide barrels were found. Four of these were located in the POL yard; two of them had a strong udor of herbicide. The remaining four barrels were located near a signal van and were filled with gasoline. The gasoline was used to operate a power generator. It was explained to LCNER James and Mr. Xuan that the gasoline in the barrels may contain small quantities of herbicide, and when burned in the generator engine the exhaust produced will contain vaporized herbicide capable of effecting vegetation in the immediate area. It was also pointed out that vapors from residual herbicide left in empty barrels are a potential source of herbicide damage to nearby vegetation.

MACJ3-09

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SUBJECT: Report of Investigation into Possible Herbicide Damage at Vietnamese Naval Compound at Da Nang

- 4. ECMOR James and Mr. Xuan stated that the signal van and generator had been on the compound for approximately four months. The severe damage to the broadleaf trees surrounding the hilltop housing compound has occurred since the generator has been in operation.
- 5. It was recommended that all herbicide barrels be made unuseable and removed from the compound and a control system be established to prevent herbicide barrels from entering the compound in the future.

RAY W. BILLS CPT, USA Cml Opns Officer

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III Parine Ambibious Force Filtery Assistance Command, Vietnam Francisco 96602

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Hef: (a) Atr. Pirst Constal Zone Advisor, dtd 16 Sep 69

(b) MCV was 2011242 Jul 39

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- 1. On the September 1900, the Chemical Milicer of this Headquarters visited Canana Savel Pase to investigate the tree and veretation during reported by reference (a). The exact cause of this damage could not be assemblined. However, the damage definitely did not result from the charical or ferbicide operations since none have been conducted in the Vicinity of the Saval Base.
- 2. In personne to a request by this headquarters a plant Pathological from the Charlest Deritions Division visited your base on 24 Separator. A possible squaretor, which is filled from 55-gellon used herbicide draws, was noted. It was learned from officers at the base that the general assumes installed a soro directly four worths ago and that the remarked drawe here a prevalue about three months ago. The darage is entirely localized at the lase. These factors are simificant.
- 3. Leference () states that brage to foliage can be caused by i propose disputable that the caused by i propose disputable that the cause of brages in the population of braidede in the population. It is not ented that all berbicide berrals be removed from the Mary Language and that magnetionary reasures be taken to proclude their imprope in the future.

R.t. Mann B. D. M.

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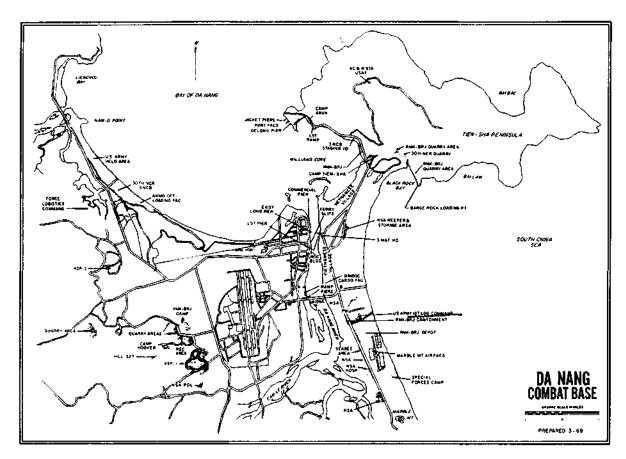


FIGURE 6

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Materials coded RED and BLUE are specific for defoliation of broad leaf plants. The material coded white is used for crop destruction and only a small quantity is used. Drums coded white are not considered hazardous to most plants in the city.

- 1. The defoliant arrives in Danang and is turned over to the 511 Ordinance Depot, ARVN. This Unit is responsible for moving the material to Danang Air Base.
- 2. The contents of the drums are transferred to underground tanks at the Air Base. The physical transfer is done by the 202 Mandling and Loading Platoon, I Corps Hq., Danang.
- 3. We believe that the damage caused by residual material in the used drums can be minimized if the drums are burned out before they are brought into town.

We recommend action be initiated which will result in a prohibition against movement of these drums into Danang city and surrounding rural areas unless they have been properly cleaned.

We have personally recommended to the Chemical Warfare Officer, MACY/ICTZ that a flushing system be installed on the aircraft which are used to apply defoliants in the ICTZ. This will minimize damage to vegetable producing areas around and in Danang City.

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