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Spraying Insecticides Around the Base

Colonel TRAN VAN TU

Dear Col Tu,

1. I sincerely regret the delay in replying to your letter but it was necessary to request information from another base.
2. You are correct in your realization that the spray agent from the aircraft is insecticide and not defoliation chemicals. Insecticide is harmless to crops and in addition to being very effective against mosquitos it undoubtedly kills other flying insects with no damage crops.
3. The aircraft crew has been instructed to begin and end the spraying operation when they pass over the perimeter fence. The aircraft will require additional space in which to turn around but they will not spray until they are over the base. The spraying is done from an altitude of 150'. This insures that the insecticide will not be carried away by the wind.
4. The total spraying operation includes several military installations and this can be done effectively only by scheduling in advance. It is not possible to schedule with consideration of wind direction, however spraying is not accomplished if the wind speed exceeds eight knots velocity.
5. The malathion insecticide is dispensed at the rate of one half pound per acre and this is the same proportion which is used to spray lams in the United States. There are no known complaints of crop damage from this activity, and statistics indicate that it is 95% effective in killing mosquitos.
6. Please be assured that our spraying operations will be continued as described, with care to avoid spraying over any crop-land.

Sincerely

Donald A. Libby
DONALD A. LIBBY, Colonel, USAF
Commander

By *[Signature]* (20)