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Disposition Form - Survey of Chemical Hazards, 22
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Description Notes Includes the disposition form, which describes a survey
of Long Binh Depot's storage area conducted on 19
August 1971 by A.F.J. Sommer and N.E. Pennington

Military Insecticides
Use In Vietnam
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Disposition Form - Survey of Chemical Hazards

Date of Document

22 Aug 71

Insecticides Mentioned
(Type/Quantity/Use)

Other Information If Available

Method of Application

Location of Application

Military Unit if Different from Above

Names of Personnel Mentioned

Significant Event(s) - Spill, Fire, Explosion, Clean-up

DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15; the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

SUBJECT

A VHSU-PM

Survey of Chemical Hazards

TO Surgeon *Ref Room
but me*

FROM C, PVNTMED Div

DATE 22 Aug 71

CMT 1

LTC Pennington/dg/2605

1. A survey of the Long Binh Depot chemical storage area was conducted on 19 Aug 71 by COL A.F.J. Sommer, Chief, Preventive Medicine Division and LTC N.E. Pennington, Entomology Consultant, accompanied by LTC Richard R. Williams, Chief, Storage Division, Long Binh Depot.
2. This survey revealed many containers of toxic pesticide materials which were leaking due to rust, chemical deterioration and/or damage. These materials include such concentrated pesticides as 95% Malathion, 72% Chlordane, 18% Dieldrin, 12% Lindane, 75% DDT and the less concentrated 5% DDT and 2% Diazinon. These hazardous materials are contaminating sizable areas in two locations within the depot. Most of these materials are readily absorbed through the skin and in their concentrated form present a very serious health hazard to personnel working in and around these areas. The very poor condition of containers make it extremely hazardous for the unsuspecting or unknowledgeable individual to attempt to handle these materials for any purpose. In addition to the hazard presented through accidental direct contact with these chemicals, many of them are prepared in a light oil base presenting a potential fire hazard when thus exposed to accidental ignition.
3. Considerable amounts of hazardous chemicals and pesticides are unserviceable, unauthorized for further use or excess to the needs of this command and require disposal. Several staff sections of this command are currently involved in identifying these materials, determining quantities, developing disposal recommendations and requesting disposal guidance from higher command. This is an arduous task which will require coordination and the utmost cooperation between staff elements involved, ICCV, support commands and Depot personnel.
4. The total problem of disposal is not expected to be resolved in the very near future; however, the health hazard to personnel of this command by exposure to these toxic chemicals must be dealt with immediately. The only obvious solution to this immediate problem is to recontainerize these materials to remove the exposure hazard. The condition of many containers is such that they could not even be moved to a disposal site without endangering the personnel involved with such movement. It is recognized that transferring these materials to new containers presents an exposure hazard in itself and all due caution, protective and safety devices, must be employed. Technical guidance for minimum precautions necessary to handle these chemicals is available through the USA RV Surgeon and Safety Officer. In general the precautions would include a thorough knowledge of the item being handled, protective clothes (aprons, boots, gloves, etc.),

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respiratory protection, availability of soap and a large quantity of water for decontamination in case of accidental spills, coordination with the local medical treatment facility to insure antidotes are available, if required, and close supervision to insure adherence to safety precautions. All hazardous chemicals and pesticides which require disposal and for which disposal instructions are not available should be segregated in an area of minimal traffic and marked with signs in both English and Vietnamese as a toxic chemical area.

5. During this survey no attempt was made to identify all of the hazardous chemicals and pesticides which will require repackaging or recontainerizing, nor was any attempt made to identify all items in this class which are no longer authorized or are in excess to the requirements of this command. It was noted; however, that several items marked for disposal (PDO) were high or medium use items, and it appeared that many could be returned to stock with little or no repackaging or recreating effort, but some sorting effort would be required. It is well recognized that the best method of disposal is through normal intended use of the item; therefore, every effort should be made to salvage and return to stocks all items and quantities possible so they can be expended through normal usage. This will require accurate inventories and coordination to reduce requisitioning objectives and to insure that stocks are reduced to proper levels.

6. The Surgeon will provide every assistance possible by itemizing those items which are no longer authorized for use or are in excess to the needs of the command and will provide recommendations for disposal of items which have been or are being developed. In order to provide this assistance a list of the items, accurate quantities on-hand and physical locations must; however, be provided.

7. During this survey some items in poor or damaged, leaking containers were specifically identified, but no quantities were obtained. Based on this information the following recommendations are made for these specific items:

a. 6840-926-1481 - Insecticide, Malathion, 95%, 55 gal drums. This item is a high use item and the containers are not in a deteriorated condition. The spillage and resulting contamination was caused by damage to the drums during handling. Recommendations:

- (1) Closer supervision be employed to prevent damage to drums during handling.
- (2) Solutions still remaining in damaged drums be recontainerized and issued for use.

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(3) Drums be palletized to facilitate handling.

b. 6840-270-8262 - Insecticide, Chlordane, 72%, 5 gal can. This item has a limited use in the command. Recommendations:

(1) Serviceable material be returned to stock.

(2) Material in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and placed in the segregated area pending disposal instructions.

c. 6840-264-9043 - Insecticide, Dieldrin, 18%, 5 gal can. There is no further requirement for this item. Recommend that material in poor containers be recontainerized and all stocks be placed in the segregated area pending disposal instructions.

d. 6840-685-5438 - Insecticide, Malathion, 57%, 5 gal can. This is a high use item and a large quantity was noted marked PDO. Recommendations:

(1) All serviceable containers be separated from unserviceable containers and returned to stock (at a cost of approximately \$30.00 per can, this is an economical exercise). These stocks should be marked for issue priority over cans in new condition.

(2) Serviceable material (uncontaminated by water or foreign matter) in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and returned to stock as above.

(3) Unserviceable material in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and placed in segregated area pending disposal instructions.

e. 6840-264-6692 - Insecticide, DDT, 75%, 20 lb pails. This is a limited use item. Recommend that serviceable material be returned to stock and material in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and placed in segregated area pending disposal instructions.

f. 6840-253-3892 - Insecticide, DDT, 5%, 5 gal can. This item has been restricted to limited use and is considered as no longer required. There appears to be large amounts of this item on hand and attempts should be made to transfer this item to ARVN, USAID, or other agency, to obtain disposal through intended use. Recommend material in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and all stocks placed in the segregated area pending disposal instructions.

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g. 6840-753-5038 - Insecticide, Diazinon, 2%, 25 lb pail. This is a high use item. Recommendations:

(1) All serviceable containers be returned to stock.

(2) Serviceable material in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and returned to stock.

(3) Unserviceable material be recontainerized and placed in the segregated area pending disposal instructions.

h. 6840-242-4213 - Insecticide, Lindane, 12%, 5 gal can. This item is no longer required. Recommend that material in unserviceable containers be recontainerized and all stocks placed in the segregated area pending disposal instructions.



A.F.J. SOMMER

Colonel, MC

Chief, Preventive Medicine Division