To whom it may concern:

**Conditions of various Royal Thai Airfields perimeters and remote Operating Locations in Northeast/Northwest Thailand and Laos**

During the period of May 15th, 1970 to May 15th, 1972, I was stationed at Udorn Royal Thai Air Base, Long Tieng, Laos (Lima Site 20 Alternate), Ubon Royal Thai Air Base and lastly, Operating Location C also known as T-11 on Air Force and Air America maps. I also had a temporary duty assignment at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, RVN in July 1970 prior to my deployment to Laos.

During this two year period, I was often working either on the perimeters of these bases or other Army and Air America facilities within close proximity to my duty stations. As a communications specialist, I was required to maintain equipment and communications cables which were damaged variously by sapper attacks, bug infestations or flooding during monsoons.

My association with Udorn RTAFB was as follows. Shortly after arrival on May 15th, 1970, our squadron (1973rd Communications Sq.) was moved into the new, all-metal, three-story barracks or “barns” as we referred to them. Please see map attached. The area circled in red is the barracks area. The blue arrow indicates the area I will refer to in detail. They were (and still are) located at the easterly perimeter of the base which is now an international airport. As a telephone installer and cable repairman (AFSC 362X4) assigned to Outside Plant, I was constantly repairing telephones and associated cable damaged by various causes along the entire perimeter of Udorn and other bases I was assigned to. One thing was evident and inescapable. Vegetation was non-existent along the entire perimeter to promote better fields of fire. Udorn suffered a sapper attack
on July 26th, 1968 and again on October 3rd, 1972. The first attack pointed out the need to increase visibility along said perimeters. Towards that end, the civil engineers regularly sprayed these areas with extremely effective herbicides that left vegetation dead within a short period of time—usually in less than six hours.

In good conscience, I cannot say what was sprayed but can describe, in lay terms, the effects of the herbicide sprayed. The Thai lunch vendors congregated outside the 10-foot tall cyclone fence on the eastern side near the barracks we were quartered in to sell food to our hootch girls who cleaned and washed our clothes. The laterite road dividing the “barracks” from the perimeter fence was approximately 30 feet from the edge of the barracks and the open area from the road to the east was approximately 20 feet from the fence. During the two years off and on during my tour, I had many occasions to fly in for supplies from other locations where I was stationed. Udorn was our support base. Every time, I was quartered in the same three-story barracks mentioned above. At all times I never witnessed any vegetation growing in the area between these barracks and the perimeter fence. Anyone who lived in the hootches or the new barracks were constantly exposed to the manual spraying by hand and truck that occurred every month. This was done by personnel from the 432nd Civil Engineering Squadron attached to the 432nd Combat Support Group.

One does not have to be a scientist to draw a parallel between the spraying of herbicides on the perimeter and the resultant death and non-existence of vegetation in the sprayed areas. Vegetation simply did not thrive in these areas—period. The quantities sprayed were measured in gallons, not squirts from a hand sprayer. It was done once-monthly in the evenings so as not to disrupt the lunch vendors.

I noticed the same held true for the perimeter areas of Ubon Royal Thai AFB during my stint there on Temporary Duty (TDY) in early 1972. Additionally, during my seventeen-month assignment to Operating Location Charlie, 1980th Comm.
Squadron (T-11), I had occasion to support communications to Detachment B, 7th Radio Research Field Station located approximately 15-20 kilometers from our operating location once a month or more. At no time during that seventeen month period did I ever see any vegetation growing anywhere on the 7th RRFS site. Please see picture of operations van surrounded by open fields. Due to the clandestine nature of the Army Security Agency, the entire area was denuded of vegetation and a virtual free-fire zone existed within the perimeters. Simply put, no trespassing was permitted and there was not so much as a blade of grass to hide behind inside their compound.

Our operating location (T-11) maintained the same safeguards. Again, I cannot say what herbicide was sprayed but the caustic effects were self-evident in very short order-usually less than 24 hours. This, too, occurred on a monthly basis. Knowing full well that vegetation grew back at a phenomenal rate (usually within weeks or a month), constant spraying was required to overcome it.

Finally, I will discuss Lima Site 20 Alternate- Long Tieng, Laos. I was assigned there in late July 1970 and reported to the Air Attaché (Colonel Hayden Curry) at the US Embassy in Vientiane, Laos. On paper, I was part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In reality, I worked for Detachment 1, 56th Special Operations Wing as an interpreter (French) with an AFSC of 203X0. I also worked for Air America on “Chieu Hoi” missions that attempted to induce Pathet Lao troops to defect to the Royal Laotian Government. I was there until I was wounded on September 17th, 1970. In the POL (petroleum, oil & lubricants) area adjacent to the bomb dump on the flight line at Long Tieng were 50 gallon barrels of Agent Orange and Agent Blue. The Hmong children too young to be soldiers were employed to spread it around the taxiways and perimeter. They accomplished this with plastic bleach bottle scoops. The product was undiluted and they wore nothing for protection. The AO barrels were clearly marked with a label on the top describing the ingredients as “Herbicide Butyl Esters 2,4-D, 2,4,5 T.” Some-but not all- had an orange band around the circumference. Likewise, what I surmised to be Agent Blue barrels did not always have a blue
band around them. Nevertheless, the liquids that were used had an instant effect on vegetation in the areas used. The children washed up in the creek southeast of the runway which was also used for the local villagers' water supply. We had a well on the site and avoided this.

Every time a chopper came in to land or an aircraft taxied out for takeoff, they stirred up copious quantities of red clay dust. We usually blew our noses out every evening and the dust was evident in our mucus. By 1971, I was coughing up blood with no medical explanation. This was annotated in my SF 92 at separation.

I am lucky. After two years of exposure, I only suffer from severe Porphyria Cutanea Tarda. I have other diseases I feel are related to dioxin but they have not been added to the list of presumptives yet.

The above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Two photo attachments
Detachment B, 7th Radio Research Field Station near T-11 in Northwest Thailand circa October 1971. The compound looked like this for the 16 months I was assigned to T-11.
Area of Udorn RTAFB Thailand I am personally familiar with over the two years of May 1970 to May 1972 (circled in pink with blue arrow.)