



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

3 November 2004

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The Honorable Lane Evans
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1317

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you for your concern regarding Veteran's Health issues; the Secretary of Defense has asked me to respond to your letter. Protecting the health of Service members remains a primary concern of the Department of Defense (DOD). Enclosure 1 reflects DOD policies regarding responsible pesticide handling, as well as overall occupational safety and environmental health of Service members.

Regarding your request for information on Agent Orange or similar herbicides on Okinawa during the Vietnam War, records contain no information linking use or storage of Agent Orange or other herbicides in Okinawa. Similarly, a search of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) contained no information indicating Agent Orange or herbicides were used or stored on Okinawa (Enclosure 2).

Facility engineers on Okinawa have no record of any spills, accidental or otherwise, of Agent Orange. Therefore, there are no recorded occupational exposures of Service members in Okinawa to Agent Orange or similar herbicides. Enclosure 2 also references Operation Red Hat; the documents were obtained through the NARA.

Your care and concern for the men and women wearing the uniform are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Myers", written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD B. MYERS
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Enclosures

Enclosure 2

**National Archives & Records Administration
Listing of Documents**

Agent Orange / Operation Red Hat Documents*

Document Number	Date	Title
1837/231	18-Aug-69	Overseas Storage of Chemical Agents / Munitions
1837/232-1	13-Sep-69	Chemical Weapons on Okinawa
1837/232-2	28-Oct-69	Chemical Weapons on Okinawa
1837/232-5	17-Jun-70	Relocation of Chemical Weapons & Agents from Okinawa
1837/232-10	10-Aug-70	Chemical Weapons on Okinawa
1837/234	30-Oct-69	Restriction of use of Defoliants and Herbicides
1837/ 243	20-Jan-70	Relocation of Chemical Munitions from Okinawa - Operation RED HAT
1837/248	27-Mar-70	Removal of Chemical Munitions from Okinawa
1837/251	16-Apr-70	Use of Herbicide /ORANGE/
1837/255	19-Jun-70	Relocation of Chemical Munitions from Okinawa - Operation RED HAT
1837/256	2-Jul-70	Planning for Transfer of RED HAT Munitions to Johnson Island
1837/256-4	25-Jan-71	Compatibility of Munitions Storage Readiness Program (RED HAT)
1837/260	18-Dec-70	RED HAT Storage Requirements on Johnson Island
1837/260-1	7-Apr-71	Relocation of Chemical Munitions from Okinawa to Johnson Island
1837/261-1	2-Feb-72	Storage of Herbicide "Orange"
1837/261-2	6-Jun-72	Disposition of Herbicide "Orange"
1837/263	21-Jan-71	Operation RED HAT
1873/270-1	16-Mar-72	Disposal of Herbicide "Orange"

* Please note these documents are the legal property of the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA). As such, the Joint Staff no longer is the custodian of these records. To obtain copies of these documents, please contact NARA with the document number, date authored, and document title. Additionally, while most of these documents have been declassified, some still retain their original classification as they deal with chemical weapons.