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August 29, 2014

Secretary Robert A. McDonald
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

For the past seven years, my veterans organization, the Airborne Battlefield Command & Control Center (ABCCC) Association, has been deeply committed to proving that Agent Orange and other herbicides were used **ubiquitously** on all Thailand USAF military bases during the Vietnam War.

Enclosed is definitive proof that Agent Orange was used throughout Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base (RTAFB), Thailand from approximately September 1971 to September 1972.

Since the enclosed proof of ubiquitous use of Agent Orange at Udorn RTAFB is a Veterans Affairs document dated October 27, 2011, the VA has known since October 2011 that Agent Orange was used throughout Udorn RTAFB from 1971 to 1972—and not just along the base perimeter as the VA claims in all its official documents.

As a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, I know very well that a young airman assigned to the Base Roads and Grounds Section does not make Air Force policy. The orders to spray Agent Orange throughout Udorn RTAFB had to come from an officer and that officer had to be following orders from his superiors. In other words, there was a verbal or written order from higher headquarters authorizing the spraying of Agent Orange throughout Udorn RTAFB.

Furthermore, if Agent Orange was sprayed all over Udorn from 1971 to 1972, it is logical to assume that Agent Orange was sprayed all over Udorn before 1971 and after 1972.

In order to correct a grave injustice perpetrated by the VA on all veterans who served at Udorn RTAFB during the Vietnam War, I would suggest that you contact the appellant of the enclosed citation and ask him who gave the order to spray Agent Orange throughout Udorn RTAFB from 1971 to 1972 and whether Agent Orange was sprayed throughout Udorn before he arrived in 1971? If the answer is indeed, “yes,” then the VA needs to change their Agent Orange policy for all veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

Sincerely,

Ken Witkin
Command CMSgt, USAF (Ret.)

Enc.