

1

James T. Strickland

I was stationed at Korat AFB Thailand from March 1969 thru March 1970. During this period of time, the Munitions "Storage Area (MSA), located approximate 5 to 7 miles from the base, never had foliage for 100 feet, both outside and inside, the perimeter fence. The inside was defoliated for over a 100 plus feet from the fence up to, but did not include, the bomb revetments since the grass/foilage was necessary to prevent soil erosion of the revetments.

One night I watched a pair of tigers stroll casually along the perimeter fence. The earth was so void of foliage, I could later easily follow their tracks in the dirt. On several occasions during the course of my tour, I observed the paths left in the dirt made by snakes that had previously crawled through the area.

In short, one could observe anything large or small, walking or crawling, for approximately a 100 feet beyond the perimeter fence and even farther inside the fence. Though this site was located in a tropical jungle where foliage grew at an incredible rate, this area was perpetually barren turf! It was consistently either mud or dust.

Other sites within the Korat Air base perimeter that I specifically recall being treated either in December of 1969 or early January 1970, were the K9 posts inside the taxi and runway. The foliage promptly died and crackled when walked upon. It had an extremely strong chemical smell for days, if not weeks. The stench was so strong I used to wonder if it would adversely affect my dogs' ability to make a scent detection. The other K9 post was, I believe either Kilo 9 or 14. It was located off the runway up along the perimeter fence line toward town. The entire post was originally triple canopied forest with huge trees, second level growth and then another layer of heavy ground brush. It was a very isolated post that no one desired to "pull". This post, and the others adjoining it, was totally defoliated during the same period of time. There was absolutely no living foliage remaining and the entire area smelled exceptionally strong with the same nauseating chemical odor present at the other above described sites. During my remaining tour, these areas remained void of foliage.

The above statements are true and I will testify to that fact. Terry Strickland