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To Whom It May Concern:

Between 1969 and 1972, I was an airman assigned to the 16th Special Operations Squadron, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, at Ubon, Thailand. Besides C-130's, a couple of C-123's were at Ubon. I am sure C-123's had been there for some time before I even arrived. Sometimes C-123's would come in from other places, like Phan Rang, Viet Nam, and the crews would billet at Ubon. I talked with some of the crew members from Viet Nam and learned they were part of Operation Ranch Hand.

I had just been trained as a mechanic for the C-130's but, during the first part of my tour, I didn't have my "5" skill level and wasn't permitted to work on that aircraft. Instead, along with about 10 other airmen in the same boat, I was given other miscellaneous duties around the base.

One duty for us new guys was to load barrels of Agent Orange onto the C-123's. We physically rolled the barrels up the back ramp and into the cargo hold. I remember seeing the spray equipment inside the planes while we were loading.

We were given no precautions or safety measures. These barrels were leaking all the time. The wet liquid from the barrels got on my hands and my fatigues and I just wiped it off the best that I could.

I swear these statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



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Date:

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