

My name is William L. Easterly [REDACTED]. I retired from the Air Force as a T/Sgt. I was assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron, stationed in Vietnam, from mid-1966 to mid-1967, and mid-1969 to mid-1970. I spent very little time at my assigned location and usually flew out of my OL (operating location) in what we called the triborder area, where the countries of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam intersected.

I was a Crew Chief Gunner on the UH-1P helicopters when they provided gun cover for Ranch Hand. When called upon (and the A-1E's weren't available), we supported the Ranch Hand C-123's from Da Nang and Phang Rang. Once we crossed the river, I knew we were over Laos or Cambodia. I saw the spray equipment inside the aircraft and personally observed the spraying. The C-123 aircraft would be easily reconfigured in less than 24 hours, taking the spray equipment out or putting it in. Everybody always did what we needed to do to get the job done.

Often we couldn't fly directly into Laos and Cambodia, especially when the weather was bad which wasn't uncommon. We would stay in Thailand, either Ubon, NKP, or Udorn. Once I was even TDY to Udorn. These were primary jumping off points to our CIA locations and served as our staging areas. I was at Ubon a lot. I had to RON (remain overnight) several times at Ubon, sometimes for several days at a time. I know from talking with the Ranch Hand crews and from my own observations that when this happened, they would pull whatever they had on board off the aircraft, store it and reload it when they were ready for takeoff. This off-loading and on-loading happened regularly. I know from the Ranch Hand crews that this included the barrels of Agent Orange they needed to use for the upcoming mission.

We took orders directly from the CIA and the locations for our missions were never disclosed. My orders would read Southeast Asia with variations in travel. Our travel vouchers were tactically classified and wouldn't show the true location of our operations. I even remember deaths being tagged to another place, like South Vietnam, so that the locations of our missions would still be secret.

Back at our base, we would get buckets of Agent Orange and fill pump fire extinguishers with AO so we could spray around our local area. We stirred the liquid with our hands and I got it on my hands and clothes. We didn't think it was harmful and many of my buddies are fine. But some of us got whacked. I have cancer of the esophagus.

State of Utah

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County of Tooele

Subscribed and sworn / affirmed to before me

the 8th day of March, 2007

Britt M. Howe

Notary Public

William L. Easterly

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P.O. Box 736
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Date:

