

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

Exhibit 7

Ronald L. Switzer

VA File No. [REDACTED]

I have a pending appeal to the Board of Veteran's Appeals that includes a claim for Type II Diabetes Mellitus due to Agent Orange Exposure. My personal documentation begins in the 1970's when I retired from the Air Force, enrolled in the Agent Orange registry, and applied for VA compensation.

As the following documents show, I was a material handler and was directly exposed to Agent Orange while handling leaking barrels of concentrated AO being transported through Ubon, Thailand, in 1968-1969. See attachments 1-4. In support, I have also included statements from other individuals assigned to Ubon during 1968-69. First, I am attaching a previously submitted statement from Roy L. Costley, assigned to the 16th Special Ops Squadron, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. Mr. Costley verifies it was "common knowledge" Agent Orange was being flown from Ubon Airfield into Vietnam and Laos. See attachment 5. Second, I am attaching a copy of e-mail correspondence with George Hoffman, Chief of Maintenance, 8th TFS. He refers to "frag" orders (day-to-day activities that were not part of official orders). Mr. Hoffman believes those "frag" orders included flying Agent Orange into Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. See Attachment 6.

More recently, I've become aware that Agent Orange may have been used locally at Ubon. I remember the "sapper" attack in July 1969. Ubon was basically carved out of the jungle. After that attack, the base perimeter was "pushed back." The trees lost their foliage and were "denuded." In support, I'm attaching copies of two testimonies from a Report to Congress prepared by the Thailand Vietnam Vets for Equity in Treatment. See Attachment 7.

I CERTIFY THAT the statements in this letter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE:

DATE SIGNED:

Aug-30-05

ADDRESS:

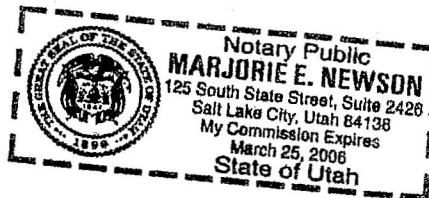
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Notarized 8-30-2005

Commission Expires: March 25, 2006



P.O. Box 1953
Rozeman, Mt.
59715
Aug. 15, 1979

National Service & Legislative Headquarters
Disabled American Veterans
807 Maine Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Sir:

I am responding to your article on Dioxin poisoning published in the DAV Magazine, June 1979. I was stationed with the USAF in Ubon, Thailand, from September 1968 through August 1969. I was a material handler for project code "Black Spot". I handled Agent Orange in bulk form once or twice per month during its storage and transferring process. The containers were usually leaking and it was necessary to handle them by hand. I usually got the liquid on my skin and clothing, despite the gloves which were issued. The showers were totally inadequate and were located on the opposite side of the base. They could be used only at the end of a 12 hour working day.

In the first year or two after my return from Thailand, I began to notice some forgetfulness and problems with remembering things. This has continued to be a problem. In addition, I have had numbness, especially of the fingers, hands, and arms, but sometimes of the feet and legs, also. I have a documented hearing loss and tinnitus, but feel this is gradually getting worse. I also have occasional episodes of blurring vision. I feel also that I have had an increase in anxiety and nervous tension with any type of stress.

I am very interested in your work with this problem and will assist you in any way possible.

Thank you,

Ronald L. Switzer (M/Sgt., ret.)

RECEIVED
8/11/79
Date