

Herbicides: Agents Orange, Blue, Green, White, Pink and Purple

Between 1962 and 1971, the US Air Force spent about \$60 million per year to spray between 17.7 and 19.4 million gallons of various chemical herbicides onto the forests, crops and people of Southeast Asia. The herbicides used included about 12 million gallons of a pesticide called Agent Orange that was sprayed over six million acres of South Vietnam and large areas of Laos and Cambodia.

The military purpose of spraying these deadly chemicals was twofold: (1) to destroy agricultural crops and hence to starve the enemy to death (called "Operation Trail Dust"), and (2) to eliminate the jungle in which resisters were hid. (This was, at first, appropriately called "Operation Hades.") However, the code name was soon changed to the much more pleasant-sounding "Operation Ranch Hand". Besides Agent Orange, pesticides code-named blue, green, orange, white, pink and purple were also used. Agent Orange contained the most dangerous form of highly toxic 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodi-benzo-p-dioxin. It destroyed 24,400 square kilometers, about 14%, of South Vietnam's forests.

The Vietnamese government estimates that the US defoliation program killed or injured 400,000 and contributed to 500,000 birth defects. It also causes cancers, diabetes, metabolic and neuro-psychiatric disorders.

In 1984, over 200,000 US veterans of the Vietnam War received compensation from Agent Orange manufacturers, including Monsanto, Dow Chemical, Uniroyal and Diamond Shamrock. A US General Accounting Office report (January 18, 2000) said "The Pentagon's investigation [was] marked by blunders, obstruction,... bias and secrecy."

In 1995, when Vietnam finally dropped demands for war reparations, its relations with the US were "normal-

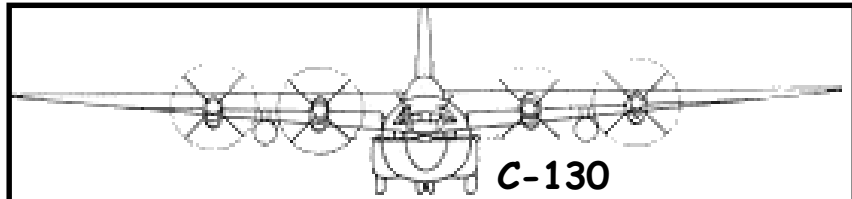
British Defoliation in Malaysia

The British used a herbicide developed by the US, known as 245T, during their war against communist insurgents in Malaya in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The British sprayed 245T onto areas where they thought insurgents might be growing food or hiding under jungle cover.

Source: <www.vectorsite.net/twgas2.html>

A British Colonial Office report described the use of defoliants in Malaya as 'a lucrative field for experiment.'

Source: <www.heureka.clara.net/gaia/orange.htm>



The unofficial motto of Air Commandos that conducted the Agent Orange defoliation operations was **"Only We Can Prevent Forests."**



F-4 Phantoms, F-100 Sabres and T-28 Trojans were all essential to the defoliation of Vietnam. They "escorted" the sprayers, to protect them from enemy air defences. These warplanes have all performed at military air shows in Canada.

ized." Two years later, Vietnam began paying \$145 million to the US for the debt that had been incurred by the US-backed South Vietnamese dictatorship before and during the war. This payment was forced by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Between 1967 and 1969, the US also sprayed Agent Orange on 23,607 acres along the southern boundary of demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

Spraying was largely done by C-123 Providers, but C-130 Hercules and DC-3 Dakotas were also used. C-130s were also used to transport Agent Orange between US bases in Vietnam. Other warplanes such as F-4 Phantoms, F-100 Sabres and T-28 Trojans were also essential. They "escorted" the sprayers, to protect them from enemy air defences. All of these warplanes, except the C-123, are known to have performed at military air shows in Canada.