



Department of Veterans Affairs

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA Programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. The VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to obtain evidence in support of your claim for benefits (38 U.S.C. 501(a) and (b)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print)

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

VA FILE NO.

C/CSS -

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

M/Sgt. **Marvin V. McDow** was assigned to my unit, the 553rd Armanent & electronics Sqdn, at Korat Air Force Base in Korat, Thailand as the NCOIC of the (ECM) Electronics Counter Measures Shop from April 1967 to approximately June of 1968. His primary work area was within the A&E building in the ECM shop however he also worked removing, repairing and supervising work of his technicians on the flight line on EC-121 aircraft.

These aircraft were required to be in flight in support of our mission 24/7 and there was always a steady stream of work for him and his men both in the A&E shop building as well on the aircraft in their parked locations.

When off shift Sgt. **McDow** was housed in the Non-commissioned officers, A&E squadron hootches. Most of the squadrons Non Com ate their meals in the NCO Club annex building which was located across the road from their hootches.

Both areas that **McDow** worked in, ate in and lived were close to the perimeter fence that was the weapons storage site for all aircraft on the base that supported the war effort. Specifically, the 388 fighter Wg and may have stored weapons or toxic materials for the Army base that was adjacent to Korat AFB.

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

SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Include Area Code)

DAYTIME

EVENING

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

Lewis Joseph Spence
417 Camelia Trail
St. Augustine, Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

MSgt [REDACTED] and I were assigned to the 553rd Recon Wing at Otis AFB, Massachusetts. MSgt [REDACTED] and I arrived at Otis Base in April, 1967. June and July of 1967, I was on temporary duty with a maintenance group to Eglin AFB, Florida.

I departed to Korat Royal Thai AFB, Thailand in September of 1967. MSgt [REDACTED] arrived at the base in late September. MSgt McDow and I were roommates in Hooch 1200, which I have highlighted on the maps of Korat. As you will note, our hooch was in close proximity of the perimeter fence. Our room had a plastic material about 6 feet high for privacy and the remainder of the walls were screen. All rooms were in this configuration.

Our hooch maid would wash our clothes and linen daily and hang them next to the perimeter fence on a clothes line to dry. I would suggest to you that the wind blowing across the area which had Agent Orange applied would certainly contaminate our wet clothes and linen.

You will notice the non commissioned officer club annex had a swimming pool (as I have notated on the maps.) MSgt [REDACTED] and I as well as hundreds of other NCOs would use the pool on a daily basis. The pool was definitely in the drift area.

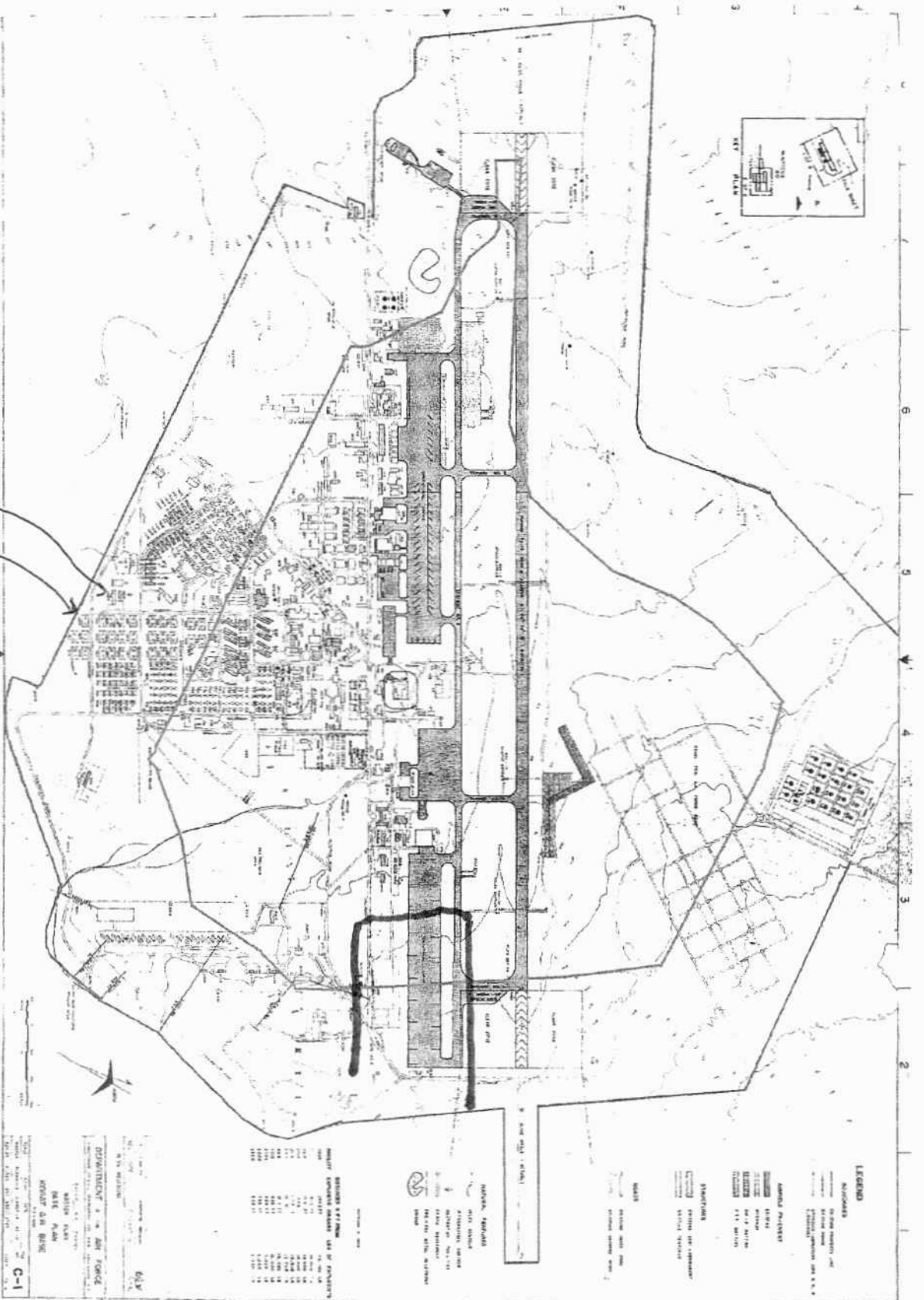
MSgt [REDACTED] and my assigned duties required us to be on the flight line to supervise repair of communication and navigation systems on our EC121R aircraft.

Our government has always been quick to condemn any foreign country's use of chemical weapons. Doesn't it seem strange that our government used Agent Orange in Viet Nam and Thailand where so many of our people served our country in a heroic way oblivious to the danger they were experiencing on a daily basis? How can our country stand by and allow the men and women who served in these dangerous areas to continue to suffer horrible medical conditions? The Viet Nam War can never be over until all the men and women who served and their families are compensated and cared for. They well deserve our country's respect and concern.

Respectfully yours,



Lewis J. Spence



See from

MSGT McDOWD + I
ROOKED IN 1200

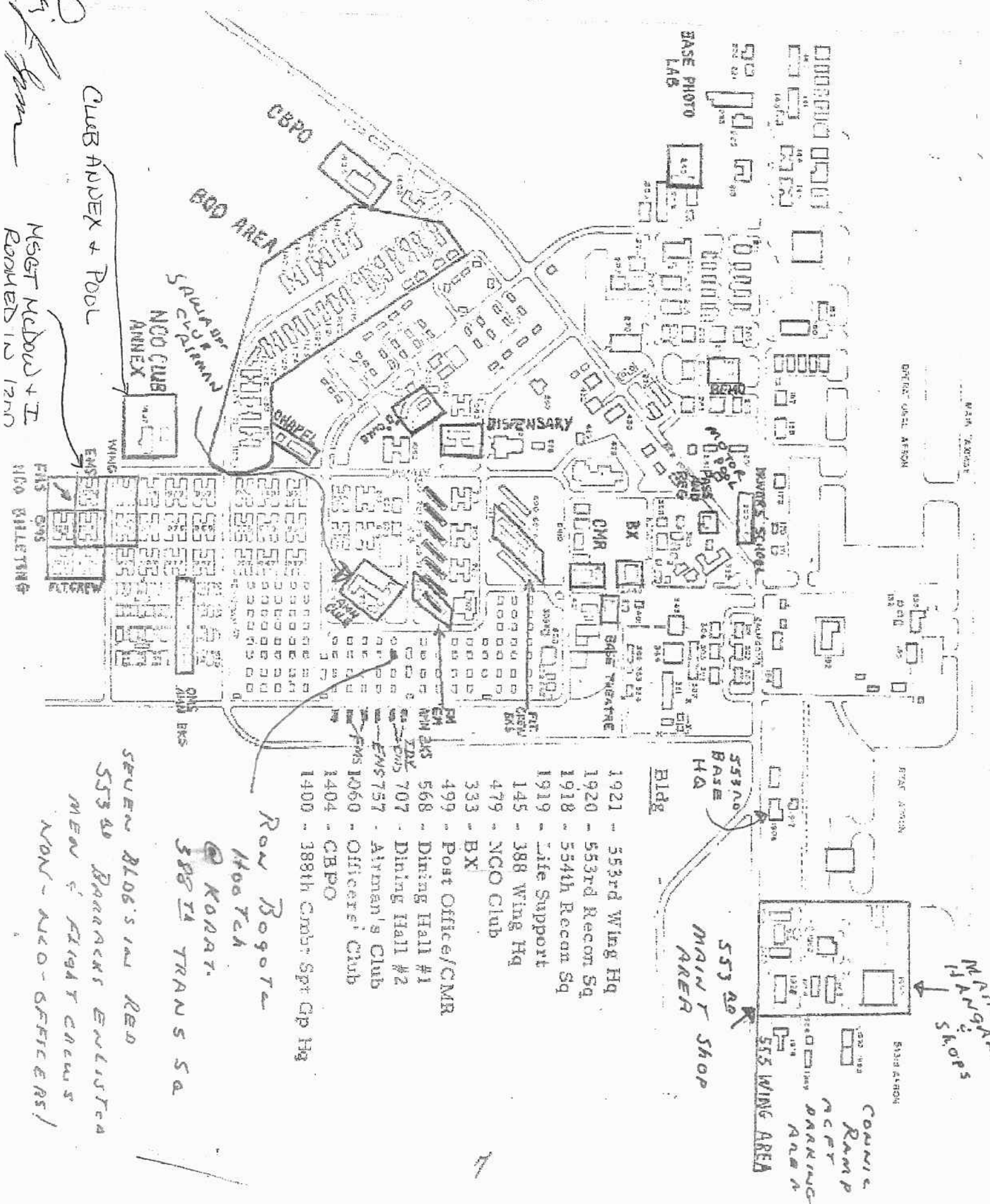
CLUB ANNEX + POOL

FMS QMS
NCO BILLETING

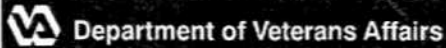
SEVEN BLDGS IN RED
553rd BARRACKS ENLISTED
MEN & FLIGHT CREWS
NON - NCO - OFFICERS

Row Bogota
1400 TCH
KORAT.
388th TRANS SA

- 1921 - 553rd Wing Hq
- 1920 - 553rd Recon Sq
- 1918 - 554th Recon Sq
- 1919 - Life Support
- 145 - 388 Wing Hq
- 479 - NCO Club
- 333 - BX
- 499 - Post Office/CMR
- 568 - Dining Hall #1
- 707 - Dining Hall #2
- FMS 757 - Airman's Club
- FMS 1060 - Officers' Club
- 1404 - CBPO
- 1400 - 388th Comdr Spt Gr Hq



MAIN T. SHOP
1400 TCH
SKOPS



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| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print) | SOCIAL SECURITY NO. | VA FILE NO. |
| ██████████ | | C/CSS - |

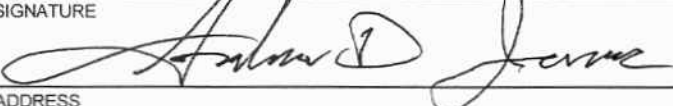
The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

This statement is to inform you that I, Andrew D. Jones, also was stationed in Korat, Thailand from 1967 to 1968. I was in the 553rd FMS Division. We worked on the flightline which was within 500 yds. of the perimeter of the base. We were part of the first wave. Barrels of herbicides were stored on the base.

More likely than not I was exposed to herbicides as I now have the side effects. I suffer from Lung cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, memory loss, hearing loss and several cysts that have been removed. Some of which were malignant.

When alarms were sounded at the base everybody grabbed their rifles and equipment and were taken to the perimeter. I have no doubt that Msgt. McDow was in that group as he worked in the 553rd EMS division which was located in the same building and on the same flightline.

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

| | |
|--|---|
| SIGNATURE  | DATE SIGNED 1-25-13 |
| ADDRESS 184 N Main St. Rear Unit B Natick, MA 01760 | TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Include Area Code) DAYTIME 508-653-1331 EVENING 508-653-1331 |

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

23 January 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Raymond M. Doran (Mike). I served in the USAF from 1965 to 1969. The last two years of this time I was assigned to the 553rd Recon Wing, first at Otis AFB in Massachusetts and for the final 18 months (1967-1969) I was at Korat AFB in Thailand. My rank at the time of discharge was SSgt (E5).

During the 18 months at Korat, I worked at the 553rd Electronic Maintenance Squadron. Our aircraft were parked very near the Northeast perimeter of the base. As I was frequently on the parking ramp while working on the EC-121-R equipment, I observed much of the activity including traffic on the perimeter road and spraying in that area. I never inquired, and was never informed, as to what the spraying was. I assumed it was for mosquito control. Anyone working on these aircraft would have observed the same things.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (513) 317-0428.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond M. Doran".

Raymond M. Doran
5272H Cobblegate Blvd.
Moraine, OH 45439



Google earth

feet
km 4000
1

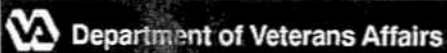


- 1 EMS SHOP, KORAT AFB.
- 2 Flight Line where our aircraft (EC-121-R's) were parked and where all aircraft-related maintenance occurred.
- 3 North / Northeast perimeter.

I hope that this helps you.

Wife

RMDORAN@AOL.COM



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FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print)

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

VA FILE NO.

Harvis Virgil McDow

C/CSS

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ronald W. Bogota, 2192 Mt. Carmel Blvd., Toms River, NJ 08753.

I am a United States Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam War having served from 1965 to 1969 with a tour in Thailand from September 1968 to August 1969. I was assigned to the 388th TAC Fighter Wing 388th Transportation SQ Korat Royal Thai Air Base 185 miles north of Bangkok, the capital.

My duties at Korat included operation of any and all vehicles assigned to the motor pool. While at Korat in 1968, I was assigned different jobs that included crash recovery with heavy equipment (cranes and wreckers); tractor trailer operations; munitions bomb dump areas; flight lines, as well as base perimeter. Working in motor pool as well as base shuttle driver and supply SQ driver.

Working in the area of Korat Air Base back in April of 1969 was one of the worst days of my tour as I was a witness to an EC-121R crash that took the lives of 18 crew members and friends. I was assigned as crash recovery crane operator and the last person on the ground to see them alive.

I remember large areas around the bomb dump as well as the perimeter living quarters with no vegetation but was very young (19) and did not know what was happening at the time. I remember Thai Nationals who worked on the base because of a treaty with Thailand and the United States always on the fence line in large vehicles spraying something. They did not use Air Force vehicles but used their own. I also remember them driving off the base when they were done. Spraying was done with 55 gallon drums. Sometimes the Thai vehicles would come to the motor pool to use vehicle wash racks.

Some of the roads of the base did not have blacktop but had gravel instead. The dry season was hard for breathing because of dust and spray residue. I also was a crew bus driver assigned to haul flight crews from the 553rd Recon Wing to and from the flight line. Most of the maintenance shops were very close to the flight line area and vegetation was cleared along blast shields as well as the fence line. I was a witness to this on several occasions.

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

SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

Ronald W. Bogota

JAN 30, 2013

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Include Area Code)

2192 Mt. Carmel Blvd.
Toms River, NJ 08753

DAYTIME

EVENING

732-255-5072

732-236-2914

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

Ronald W. Bogota
Ronald W. Bogota
U.S. Air Force Veteran
2192 Mt. Carmel Blvd.
Toms River, NJ 08753
732-255-5072 H
732-236-2914 C

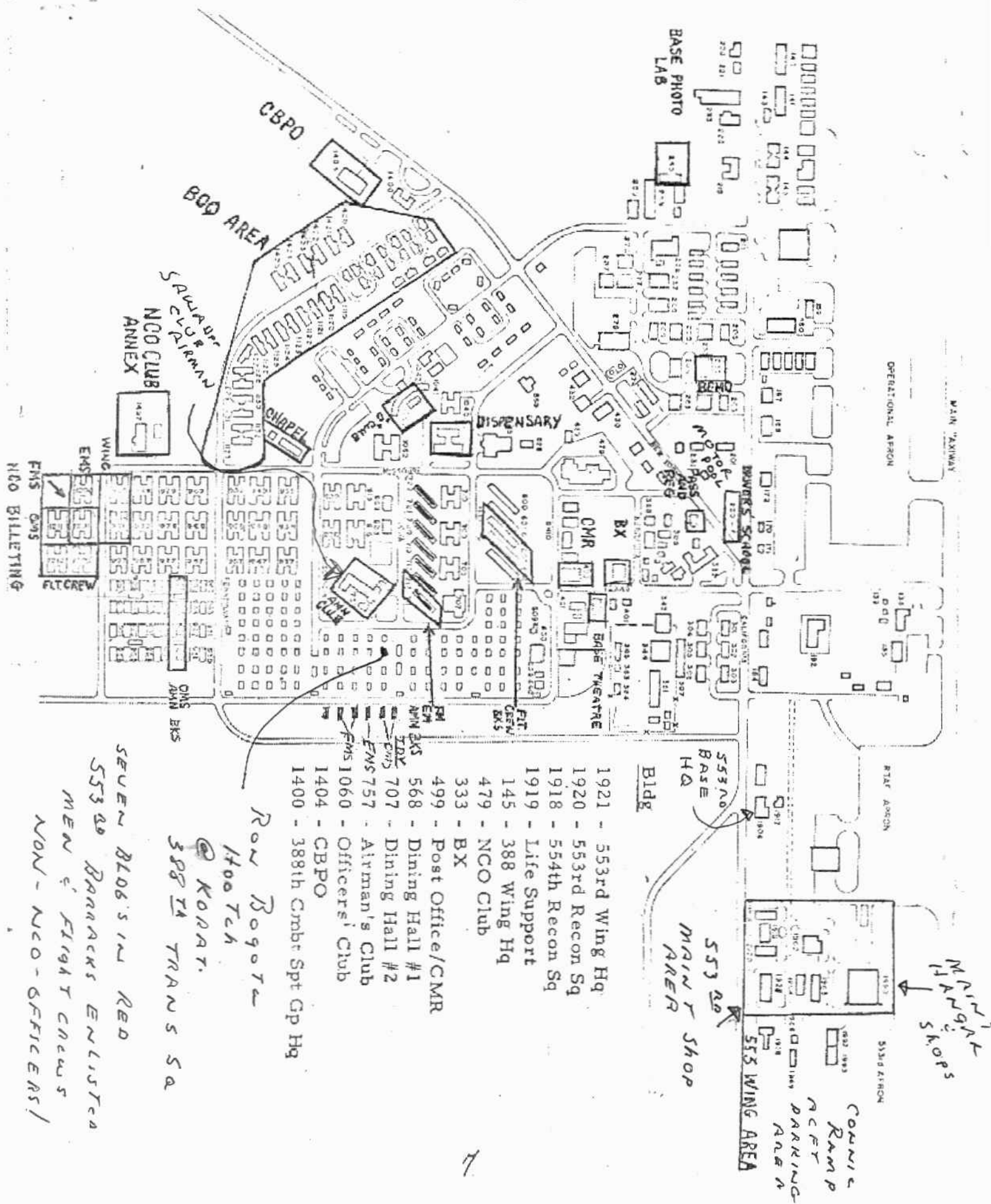
State of New Jersey
Ocean County

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of January, 2013.

Betty Jannarone
Notary Public

My commission expires 5-24-2015

BETTY JANNARONE
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires May 24, 2015



Hi Sandra. Please feel free to use the pictures in your appeal. While I personally never saw the actual spraying in progress, it was evident that something was sprayed all around our living quarters. The thick, jungle like, vegetation just outside the base perimeter fence simply turned brown and died, exposing the fields on the other side of the perimeter fence. Our hooch (we never had numbers for them) was located on the edge of the base, separated from these fields by only the 30 feet of perimeter dirt road. Also, all the vegetation around our hooches died at the same time as the fields outside the fence. Each picture on Bob Freitag's website has a small description attached to it (try right clicking if you haven't seen them). I haven't looked at the site in a couple of years myself.

I was stationed with the 1974th Communications Group, Air Force Communications Service, which was a tenant organization. I really had little to no contact with the regular base staff (except the Colonel commanding the Fighter Wing, who hated that I drove a truck on his taxiways to reach my Navigational Aids Sites). I was stationed there from January 1966 to January 1967. I have considered filing an Agent Orange claim, but so far haven't been inclined to get into a testosterone contest with the V.A.

Bruce Lazarus
4858 Dunman Ave
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
Phone: 818-225-1710
E-Mail: lazarusbtwo@roadrunner.com

Bruce Lazarus AF 17657465
03/23/13

-----Original Message-----

From: Sandra McDow [mailto:sandramcdow@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 4:16 PM
To: lazarusb@roadrunner.com
Subject: Pictures from Korat

Hello Bruce,

I got your name from Larry Westin who has the Batcat website. On this site, under VA claim info, there is a "packet" containing several pics from Korat, two of which, according to Larry, you took while there.

I am in the process of "proving" a claim on behalf of my late husband, Msgt. MV McDow, who served @ Korat in 1967-68. He had several conditions related to AO exposure, and ultimately died from lung cancer a little over a year ago.

Quite inadvertently, I learned that he had been exposed to Agent Orange when he was at Korat, and was encouraged to submit a claim. I did that and it was denied. So I am in the process of "taking my case to a higher court." (are you old enough to remember the TV show, "Laugh In?"

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Sandra Mc

Folders

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Re: Korat RTAFB and Agent Orange



Bruce Lazarus (lazarusb@roadrunner.c Actions

To: sandramcdow@msn.com

From: **Bruce Lazarus** (lazarusb@roadrunner.com) You moved this message to its current location.

Sent: Sun 3/24/13 8:03 PM

To: sandramcdow@msn.com

1 attachment (323.3 KB)

[Outlook Active View](#)

20130324korat.pdf

[Download as zip](#)

Hi Sandra. I've attached a signed version of the e-mail we exchanged yesterday, as PDF file. I hope it helps.

Regards,

Bruce Lazarus

18-Hole Round
Four with Cart
McNary Golf C

**SAVE
63%**

Nature Meets
Siletz Bay

**SAVE
50%**

Interior-Detail
for a Small, Mi
Large Vehicle :

**SAVE
57%**

Organic Peel in
Wonderful Ski
Sanctuary"

**SAVE
50%**

[More on](#)[AdChoices](#)

Statement Regarding the use of Herbicides
near Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base
1967-68

Sandra McDow
2037 Manorview Cir, NW
Salem, Oregon 97304

Sandra, I am George Kamburoff, AF19839588 a founding member of the 553d Reconnaissance Wing, at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts, Field Four at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in Nahkon Ratchasima, in the central plains of Thailand.

I lived both on and off-base, and noticed clear areas only around our side of the air base, the Army bases (Camp Friendship, CampUSARThai), everywhere else covered with plant growth from the plentiful rainfall. How they got that way was no secret - the color-coded barrels of the herbicides were in plain sight right outside our shop and hangar, (and apparently leaking). Photographs of these barrels can be found on the web page of Larry Westin:

<http://www.westin553.net/batcat00.htm>

This was war. Expedience ruled - we washed our greasy hands in stuff we cannot now touch, breathed in the lead fumes from soldering, and choked on the red dust. Everybody did their job and paid their share of the price.

I did not know your husband, his field being especially classified, and ours needing cryptographic clearances. We had to respect the areas of each other, but we all lived and worked in the same building, used the same roads, walk the same dirt.

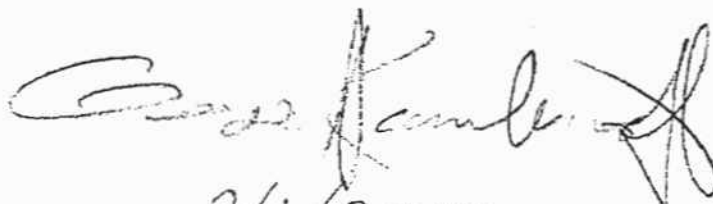
I used to breathe that dust on my motorcycle, the fine red dust billowing up in clouds where the weeds didn't grow. I came home in a delirium, with the symptoms of a blood cancer, now a recognized condition from Agent Orange. My parents were told I wasn't going to survive, and after I did come out of that terrible state asking about when I could go home, my nurse cheerfully informed me they had one patient who survived *two years*.

Was it from the Agent Orange? That seems to be irrelevant, since we get no compensation for what they did to us, having been stationed in Thailand/Laos/Cambodia.

Your husband was exposed to the same stuff I to which I and others were exposed - we are unintended victims of patriotism and politics.

Good luck,

George Joseph Kamburoff
AF19839588
533 Westover Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925 938-4885
george@kamburoff.com


2/1/2013

February 4, 2012

Sandra McDow

2037 Manorview Circle NW

Salem, OR 97302

Dear Sandra,

Enclosed are several documents that I hope will help you in your appeal. I included a copy of my PCS orders transferring me to Korat RTAFB on 15 Sept 1967. I also sent a generic order which might help you trace more senior NCOs in our Autopilot shop that may have had contact with your husband.

The color print shows the arrangement of the hootches through at least December of 1967 – I have a Christmas card that I mailed at that time, showing a hootch in the background. One of the prints from a B&W negative shows the interior – I'm not sure how many men shared one unit. The third picture shows where construction has started for new concrete block barracks.

The hootches were tin roofed, with a short wall of wood, topped with a screened wall inside, and a tin shutter on the outside that could be closed as needed because of storm or temperature extremes. Normal operation of the shutters allowed constant airflow through the space and were supplemented by a ceiling fan.

New construction of concrete block barracks allowed us to move, probably in early spring, into permanent housing.

I hope that this aids your case with the VA. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to write or call me.

Sincerely,

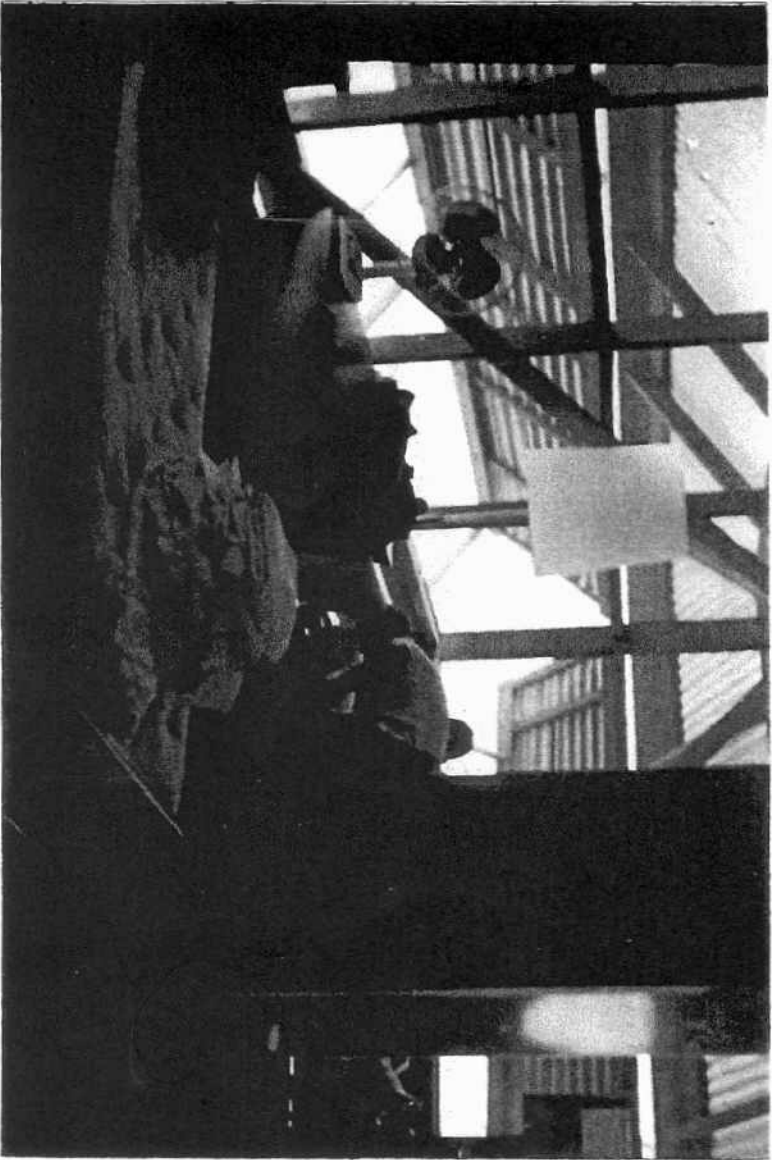


Glen W Christen

702 Kester Road

Marshalltown, IA 50158

641-752-6580



*Courtesy of
Glen W. Christen
Area 1967*