

Special Considerations for Thailand Service

Compensation Service has determined that a special consideration of herbicide exposure on a factual basis should be extended to Veterans whose duties placed them on or near the perimeters of Thailand military bases.

When a Veteran with service in Thailand during the Vietnam Era claims service connection for disability based on herbicide exposure, follow the steps in the table below to verify exposure to herbicides.

1. Did the Veteran serve in the Air Force in Thailand during the Vietnam Era?
 - a. at one of the following Royal Thai Air Force Bases (RTAFBs)
 - U-Tapao,
 - Ubon,
 - Nakhon Phanom,
 - Udorn,
 - Takhli,
 - Korat, or
 - Don Muang, and
 - b. as an Air Force
 - security policeman,
 - security patrol dog handler,
 - member of the security police squadron, or
 - otherwise near the air base perimeter as shown by evidence of daily work duties, performance evaluation reports, or other credible evidence?
 - c. Concede herbicide exposure on a direct or facts-found basis for Army Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force Bases (RTAFBs) in Thailand if the Veteran provides a statement that he was involved in perimeter security duty, and there is additional credible evidence supporting this statement.
 - d. Army personnel may have provided RTAFB security early in the war before the base was fully operational.
 - e. If no, proceed to Step 2.
2. Did the Veteran serve at a U.S. Army Base in Thailand during the Vietnam Era as a military police or military police specialty?
 - a. If yes, concede exposure to herbicides on a facts-found or direct basis if the Veteran states his duty placed him at or near the base perimeter.
 - b. If no, go to Step 3.
3. Ask the Veteran for the approximate dates location, and nature of the alleged exposure.

Source: M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, 1.H.5.b.

