

## ***Đà Nẵng Air Base, Bomb Dump***

**MAY 6, 1966**

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**Đà Nẵng Air Base, 35th Air Police Squadron,  
K-9 Sentry Dogs K-9, 1965-1966**

**Roughly 300,000 veterans have died from Agent Orange exposure**

*To my shock, the Vietnamese photograph of officials celebrating a U.S.-Vietnam Agent Orange Dioxin cleanup at Đà Nẵng, matched a personal photo of mine—at that exact spot!*

Đà Nẵng Air Base's Bomb Dump was a dangerous place to patrol for two reasons:

- (1) The obvious with rows and columns of large earth-covered bunkers housing missiles, war-heads, ammo, bombs, high explosives and other ordnances for aircraft loads.
- (2) The continuing aftermath of the Vietnam War, Agent Orange, that would claim veterans' lives due to their military service in-country.

For want of a 1965 photograph I took at Đà Nẵng Air Base's Bomb Dump, I might not have discovered the extent of chemical agents stored at the base. Now, I know for certain—we were mistreated as expendable political tools to achieve the political whims of politicians playing at war. The following relates why I believe Agent Orange and other chemicals were inflicted knowingly upon U.S. military in Vietnam and Thailand, and veterans of the Vietnam War—you will not be bored by these stats:

1. For more than 40 years, the U.S. government and Veterans Administration denied any connection with veterans' illnesses resulting from Agent Orange exposures during the Vietnam War, and its effects upon them. Today, that denial was reversed: "*For the purposes of VA compensation benefits, Veterans who served anywhere in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 are now presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, as specified in the Agent Orange Act of 1991.*"

"These Veterans do not need to show that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides in order to get disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure."

[<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/vietnam.asp>]

2. "9,087,000 military personnel [Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation] served on active duty during the official Vietnam Era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975."

[<https://www.uswings.com/about-us-wings/vietnam-war-facts/>].

3. "Out of 2.7 million who served in Vietnam [and Thailand] 58,148 were killed [in Action or Line of Duty] and 304,000 wounded.

[<https://www.uswings.com/about-us-wings/vietnam-war-facts/>]

4. "The number of Vietnam veterans affected by the chemical Agent Orange is astonishing. Roughly 300,000 veterans have died from Agent Orange exposure—that's almost five times as many as the 58,000 who died in combat."

[<http://www.nd.gov/veterans/news/agent-orange-its-affecting-veterans-and-their-kids/>]

### **IN MEMORY PLAQUE PROJECT GATEWAY PAGE**

(<http://www.vietnamproject.ttu.edu/inmemory/vietwarmem/plaque2.htm>):

"Since Vietnam, Americans who served their country in Southeast Asia in this nation's longest war continue to suffer premature deaths related to their service, due to Agent Orange induced illnesses post-traumatic stress disorder, and a growing register of other causes.



"The Department of Veterans Affairs maintains no comprehensive records of these "hidden casualties of Vietnam." Their names will never be inscribed on the Wall...it would be impossible to identify by name all of the postwar casualties for whom the ***In Memory commemorative plaque*** serves as a point of honor, but the symbolic recognition will call their unseen sacrifice to the attention of all who visit the Memorial, reinforcing the legendary emotional healing power of the Wall."

"The names of 312 Vietnam War veterans who died from exposure to Agent Orange were **added to the rolls at the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial** on Saturday [2016]. Family members of the deceased veterans were on hand to receive a recognition plaque and place photos of their loved ones at the base of the memorial wall of names . . . The organization added 312 names this year. This is up from last year's [2015] 166 honorees." [<https://www.change.org/p/u-s-department-of-defense-add-vietnam-veterans-who-died-due-to-agent-orange-to-the-vietnam-memorial-wall>]

"Many veterans, thousands even have lost their lives as a result of the government's usage of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. The Department of Defense refuses to add their names to the Vietnam Memorial Wall even though they gave their lives to serve their country." [<https://www.breitbart.com/texas/2016/06/19/veterans-died-agent-orange-exposure-honored-vietnam-war-memorial/>]



Now I was curious what all the fuss and ceremony was about, and checked out the article online a little closer. The ceremony was a U.S. and Vietnam project to clean up contamination Dioxins at Đà Nẵng Airport. Vietnam reports approximately 2.4 million Vietnamese were affected by Agent Orange and Dioxin chemicals during American War/ Vietnam War.

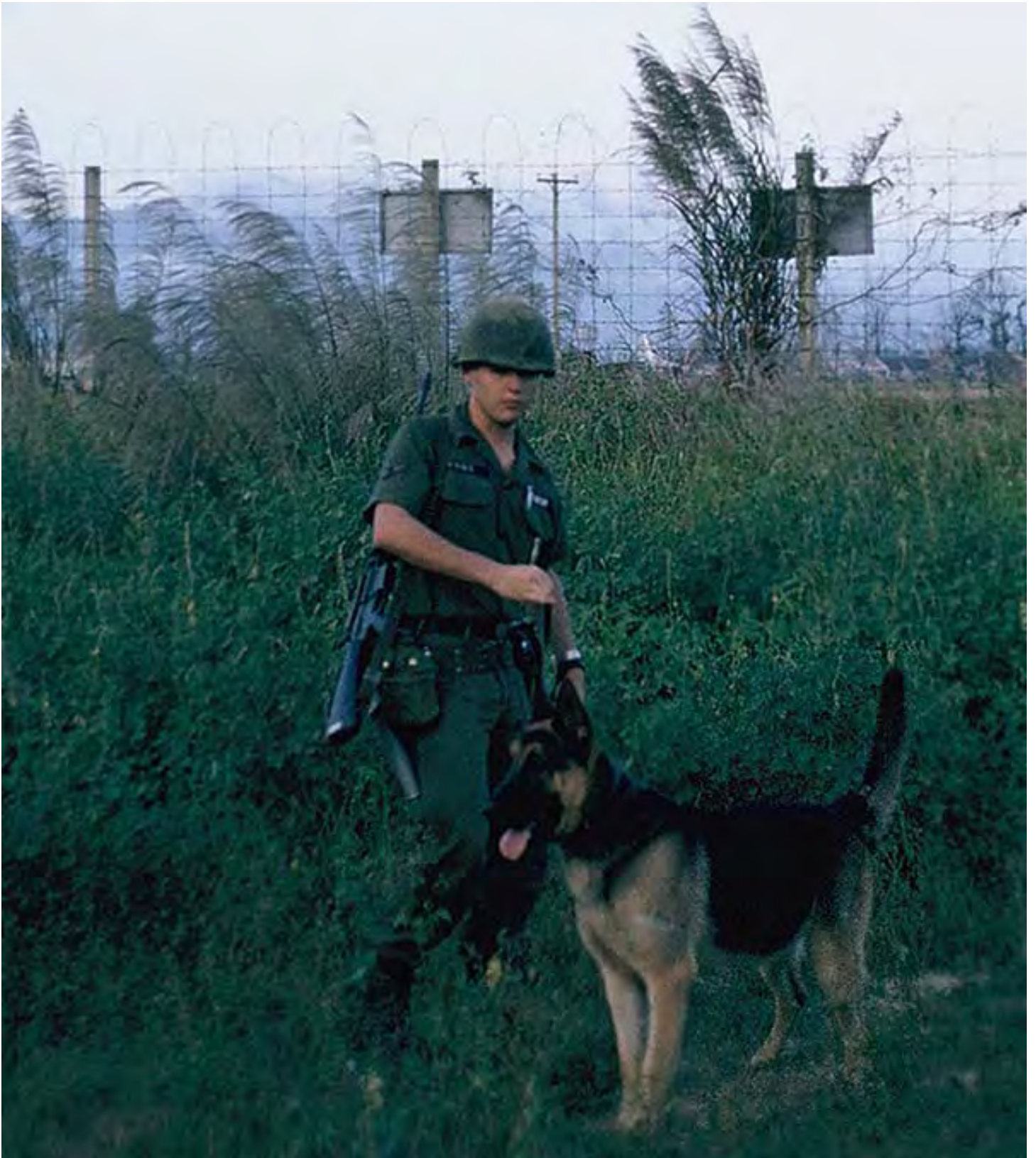
The celebration was held in the Đà Nẵng Airport, in the old bomb dump location of 1965, regarding cleaning that area of toxic chemicals. The entire bomb dump area was ground zero for where Agent Orange and other chemicals were stored. Celebration was for the Project For Interim Containment Of Dioxin Contamination In Đà Nẵng Air Base.





I found my old bomb dump photo taken in 1965 (see below). A slightly different camera angle, but the mountains, and Monkey Mountain are the same, the bent inward barbed fence hoops, the large tree, and a like a tree shaped like a round bush is the same (see prior photo with the three officers). *That is exactly where I stood eons ago.*







(Photos above left/right & below) **Field sign warns** of Environmental Remediation of Dioxin Contamination at Đà Nẵng Airport. Satellite map enlargements portray contamination area locations; VN Officer points to and discusses what was the old marshland, off the north end of the runway.



"In 2003, the US EPA began a \$2.4 million program to investigate the extent of the contamination at the Da Nang base. The Vietnamese government ... prioritized the clean-up of dioxin at the Da Nang, Bien Hoa and Phu Cat bases."

### **The Cleanup**

[[http://www.agentorangerecord.com/impact\\_on\\_vietnam/environment/hot\\_spots/P1/](http://www.agentorangerecord.com/impact_on_vietnam/environment/hot_spots/P1/)]:

*"The Ford Foundation was instrumental in getting the clean-up of Da Nang started. Ford funded the installation of a cement cap [photo right] and sedimentation tank to prevent the dioxin-laden sediment from being transported in the runoff into the Sen Lake A in the northern end of the airport, further contaminating the site.*



*"In addition, a high wall was built around the [Da Nang Air] base to keep people from fishing or gathering lotus from the contaminated lake, breaking at least in Da Nang the link of the dioxin contaminating the food chain."*



