

DOD TACTICAL HERBICIDE SITES

Site 8

Location: Fort Drum, New York

Dates—► May – October 1959

Activity Description: The basic consideration in aerial applications of liquid sprays for vegetation control is to secure maximum deposition of the delivered agent on the selected target. In the summer of 1959, a 2,4-D/2,4,5-T formulation was evaluated for its operational use in defoliating or killing trees growing in an area of about four square miles in an impact zone (an area receiving explosive ordnance) at Camp Drum, New York.

Assessment: Thirteen drums (715 gallons) of the concentrated butyl esters of 2,4,D and 2,4,5-T (Herbicide Purple formulation) were aially applied by helicopter over 2,560 acres of Fort Drum's deciduous forested area in the summer of 1959. The area selected for treatment was an area isolated from combat maneuvers. The tests were conducted by US Army Chemical Corps personnel, and the Purple Herbicide formulation was surplus herbicide from an inventory manufactured in 1953-1954 period for potential use in the Korean Conflict. The rates of deposition and the flow rate calculations were instrumental in subsequent defoliation tests in both the Continental United States and in Southeast Asia.

Sources: Brown JW (1962): Section VI. Vegetation Control, Camp Drum, New York. IN: Vegetational Spray Tests in South Vietnam. US Army Biological Laboratories, Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland. *The document unclassified but subject to export control. Available from the Defense Documentation Center, Accession Number AD0476961.*

Minarik CE (1964): Crops Division Defoliation Program. IN Proceedings of the First Defoliation Conference, 29-30 July 1963. United States Army Biological Laboratories, Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland. *The document is unclassified but subject to export control. Available from the Defense Documentation Center, Accession Number AD0427874.*