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Fairchild Provider  
C-123K/UC-123K  
1972 - 1982

# C-123K = Agent Orange Poison!

AGENT  
ORANGE

www.c123kcancer.blogspot.com vol. 2 Aug - Sept 2011

Seems like the Air Force didn't get around to notifying aircrews and maintainers assigned to the C-123K at Westover and other Reserve bases that our aircraft were contaminated with **Agent Orange** residue (dioxin) left over from their last Ranch Hand spray missions during the Vietnam War. Actually, various AF agencies **took specific steps** to keep the information "in official channels only", where it remained until May of this year as our members began uncovering things via FOIA.

Beginning in 1979 tests done on Patches (Tail 362) at Westover AFB and in 1994 at the Air Force Museum, proved that the C-123s were "**heavily contaminated, extremely dangerous, extremely hazardous**" with every test sample proving positive for the deadly poison dioxin.

To solve the contamination, the Air Force finally had to quietly shred all C-123Ks, melting them into scrap ingots! The full list of Agent Orange illnesses is at our blog: [www.c123kcancer.blogspot.com](http://www.c123kcancer.blogspot.com) with all available source papers for easy download. Send us any information you may have! And, Write Your Congressman!

## Your Ad Hoc C-123K Agent Orange Committee (leaders invited)

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So, what's new over the months since this update first was prepared? First, the word is out about our Agent Orange exposure to a great number of aircrew and maintenance personnel, mostly from Westover but also Pittsburgh and Rickenbacker. Next, we have accumulated over 360 pages of source documents and explanatory materials and earned an accolade from the Director of the US Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, who called it "remarkable!" "WOW", said Tom Philpott of Gannett News who first broke the national story about us and the toxic C-123K. And just last week, health authorities in Connecticut published a feature focusing on the late Lt.Col. Aaron (Tim) Olmsted. Tim's VA 2007 appeal for Agent Orange benefits was denied by the Board of Veterans Appeals because he had no proof that our planes were the *specific* ones used for Ranch Hand, and no proof they *remained contaminated*...but both proofs were withheld from public release by the AF Office of Environmental Law which recommended such information be "kept in official channels only." Tim's article has been picked up by a good number of news outlets, including Ganett papers nationwide...and even the Wright-Patterson AFB base newspaper!



We have problem with the VA. Despite a couple recent examples to the contrary, our experience is that they'll recognize illnesses caused by Agent Orange **only** for veterans who've had "boots on the ground" in Vietnam, which isn't our situation. They do have rules which allow veterans who can prove their exposure to Agent Orange and who have Agent Orange-type illness to be covered, but the VA prefers to deny claims for all non-Vietnam veterans *regardless* of exposure proofs. In our case, we have an unusual situation in that our C-123s have multiple official Air Force tests certifying the aircraft as "**heavily contaminated, extremely dangerous, extremely hazardous**" and "**extremely contaminated**." Pretty hard for the VA to fight the Air Force's own tests! We also have had wonderful nation-wide newspaper stories about us, with more to come. We even have a university study saying that the Air Force tests themselves prove that the aircrews and maintenance people were "**most likely**" to have been exposed to dioxin. And we have leadership from the Vietnam Veterans of America and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs! AFRC/CC is scheduled to have a teleconference with the VA about us...let's hope we have a strong advocate there for our just cause!

Your job? Get involved! Sign up for the Agent Orange Registry Hotline, and **get your PSA numbers checked!** Watch your fat intake, because dioxin accumulates in animal fat and that accumulates in *you*. Cut back fat everywhere you can! Speaking of fat, contact your Congressman and Senators to urge their pressure upon DOD and VA to recognize our "Boots on the Airplane" position for presumptive service connection for Agent Orange illnesses. Finally, help us find other affected veterans, support Agent Orange research and help us locate documentation about this medical mess in which we find ourselves.