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January 5, 2017

Major General Steven L. Basham
Director, Air Force Legislative Liaison
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Major General Basham,

I write regarding a deeply disturbing report alleging the sanctioned use of Agent Orange at Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB) on Guam during the 1960s and 1970s. While it is widely known that Agent Orange was used by the U.S. military in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and that Guam was, at a minimum, a trans-shipment point during this time period, it is unclear the extent to which individuals at AAFB, or elsewhere on the island, could have come into contact with the herbicide.

Especially given the recent allegations, I would appreciate a briefing from appropriate individuals detailing the handling of Agent Orange at AAFB. This is to include through trans-shipment, storage, usage, or any other means of potential contact for Airmen and civilians on base. I am also interested to know if there are additional reports of the use, sanctioned or unsanctioned, of Agent Orange on Guam. As I mentioned above, this report is particularly concerning to me, and the personnel stationed at AAFB, their families, as well as the people of the U.S. territory of Guam deserve to understand fully the circumstances under which this proven dangerous carcinogen was handled.

Thank you for your attention and I appreciate your consideration of this request. To coordinate logistics and additional details for this briefing, or if you have any questions, please contact my Military Legislative Assistant, Jason McMahon, at jason.mcmahon@mail.house.gov, or at (202) 225-1188.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress