

**Veteran Exposure to Herbicides and Toxic Chemicals
used at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base
during the Vietnam era 1967 to 1972**

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PURPOSE OF THIS PACKET

The purpose of this packet is for a veteran with health issues to show graphically a VA service officer that every veteran who served at Korat RTAFB during the Vietnam era lived, worked, performed physical training and testing, used the service clubs, did extra curricular activities, went into Korat City, etc. immediately on, or near the base perimeter. Every veteran, airman, NCO and officer stationed at Korat RTAFB had reason to be frequently at or near the perimeter. Everyone was exposed to herbicides.

SOURCE OF THE MAP USED

The map used on the following pages is the official Department of the Air Force Master Base Map of Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base dated January 1, 1973. The map and segments of the map in this packet show the perimeter as a red line, with the 500 meter herbicide drift zone as a blue line. Between the red and blue lines approximately 60% of Korat RTAFB fell within the herbicide drift zone, not including the expanded drift zone caused by piston engine aircraft operations (see below).

HERBICIDE USE AT KORAT RTAFB CONFIRMED

The declassified USAF CHECO report on Base Defense in Thailand dated Feb. 1973 confirms that herbicides were used at air bases in Thailand used by the USAF during the Vietnam era. By USAF directive herbicides were used for vegetation control along the perimeter of bases to reduce the threat of communist insurgent enemy attacks which could injure or kill airmen, or destroy aircraft and other equipment. The first of several Thailand base attacks occurred on July 26, 1968; the threat was real.

Veterans who served on Thai bases during the Vietnam era are now experiencing health issues. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) originally recognized exposure only to K-9 dog handlers and security police. That wording has now changed to include veterans who had reason to be at or near the perimeter.

VA manual "M21-1MR Part IV Subpart-ii Chapter 2 section C 10 (q)" defines the requirements for herbicide exposure claims to those veterans who were not K-9 dog handlers or security police. The latest version of this manual is August 7, 2015.

While those who were K-9 handlers or security police at Thai bases now have presumption of exposure, those with other Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC's) will need to show VA service officer that they had reason to be near the perimeter. See steps 2 through 5 of this section of the VA manual.

EXPANDED HERBICIDE DRIFT ZONE AT KORAT RTAFB

Herbicide spraying at Thai bases was accomplished by the U.S. Army who sprayed

using ground vehicles. The Army only kept records for two years; no records exist for spraying at Korat RTAFB. U.S. Army Field Manual 3-3, Tactical Employment of Herbicides, dated December 1971, defines the drift (drift zone) from ground spraying of herbicides will drift up to 500 meters (1,640 feet) under normal conditions.

At Korat RTAFB USAF operations occurred 24 hours per day, 7 days a week with USAF EC-121 series aircraft located near the perimeter. These aircraft used four piston engines of 3,250 HP each whose propellers generated enough wind to move the 135,000 pound aircraft. The wind from these aircraft propellers spread the herbicides well in excess of the 500 meter drift zone shown on the following maps. At the other end of Korat RTAFB the U.S. Army 70th Aviation Battalion operated propeller driven aircraft which also spread herbicides which further expanded the herbicide drift zone at Korat RTAFB.

Individuals not experienced with piston engine, propeller driven aircraft inappropriately compare piston engine aircraft performance with jet aircraft. USAF EC-121 aircraft taking off at gross weight, in the high temperatures and high humidity of Thailand have a low rate of climb. Taking off they crossed the base perimeter at low altitude further spreading the herbicides across the base expanding the herbicide drift zone.

AGENT ORANGE STORAGE AT KORAT RTAFB

Although the DOD says no Agent Orange was stored at Korat RTAFB, photographic evidence shows that a large number of barrels of Agent Orange herbicide were stored at Korat RTAFB, see URL <http://www.westin553.net/batcatFoto03/GonzalezThailand01.jpg>

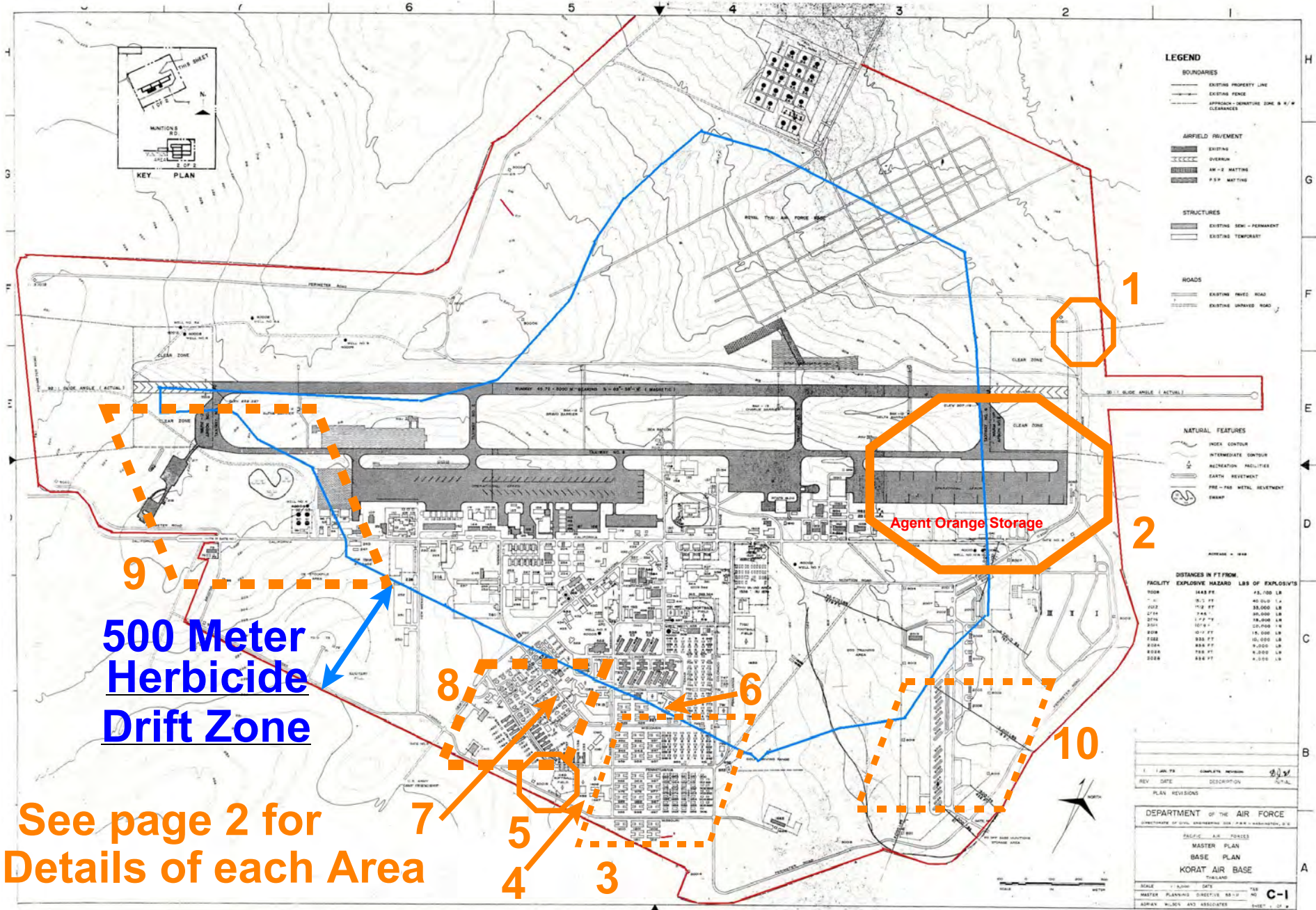
USAF PHYSICAL TRAINING LOCATION DECISION AT KORAT RTAFB

The USAF selected the location for physical training and testing as well as the location for extra curricular activities, an area right on the base perimeter. All veterans using these facilities expended great physical energy running along the base perimeter tracks and fields. The USAF placed great effort to avoid vehicle accident injury or death. This physical training area was selected so as to be out of the way from vehicular traffic increasing the safety of those participating in the physical activity.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF OF HERBICIDE/AGENT ORANGE AT KORAT RTAFB

Other packets on my 553rd Reconnaissance Wing, Batcat homepage have photographs to substantiate the information provided with this packet in map form. See URL <http://www.westin553.net/batcatPDF/koratDetailPhotos.pdf> The photographs will substantiate the information provided here with the official Dept. Of The Air Force map.

Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base



**500 Meter
Herbicide
Drift Zone**

**See page 2 for
Details of each Area**

Agent Orange Storage

Red line shows Korat RTAFB perimeter

Page 4 of 11

Blue line shows Herbicide Drift Zone

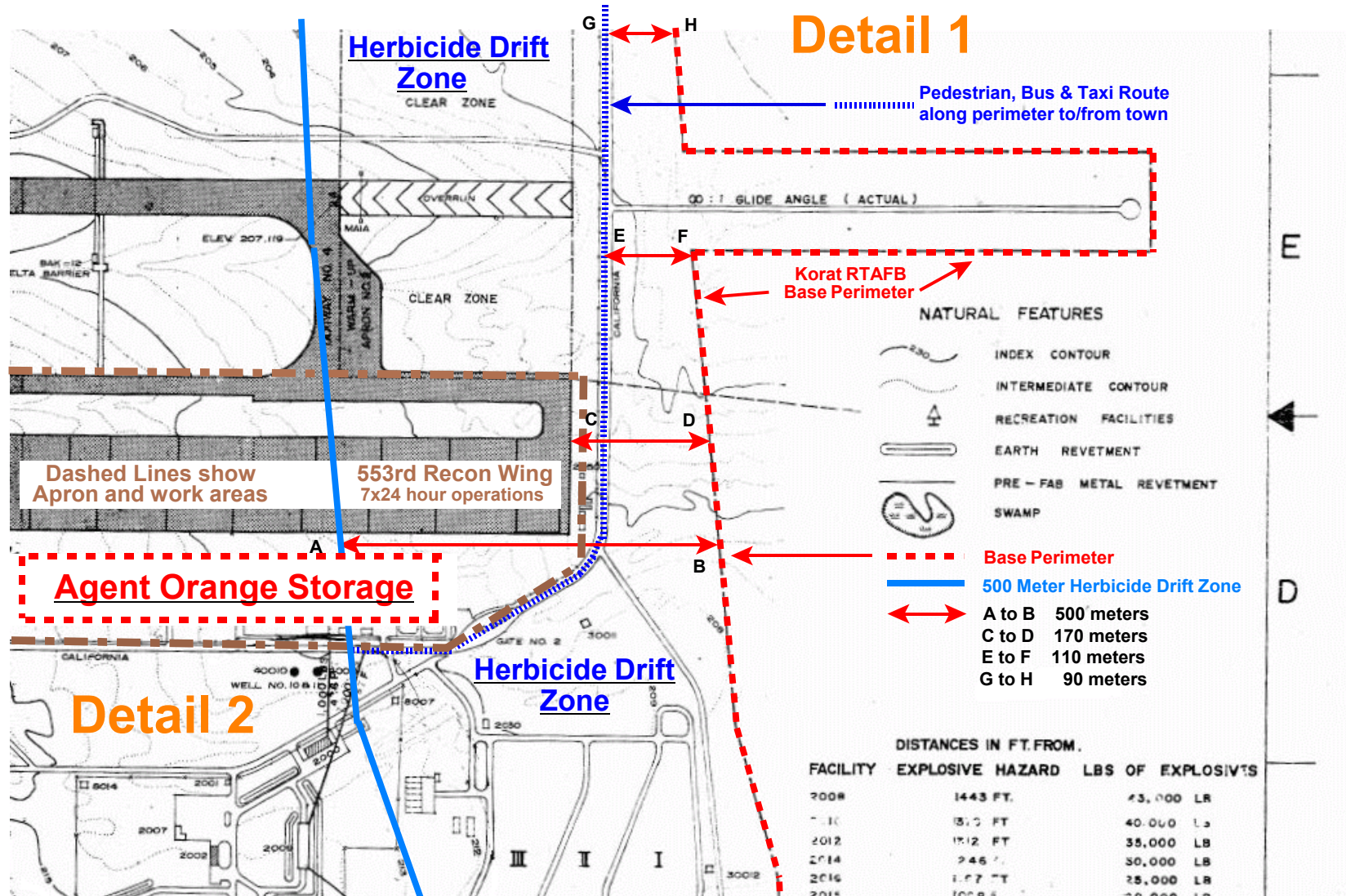
Page 1 - Map Detail

Area Description of area, location of detail map page

- 1** - Everyone going off/on base passed along the perimeter, and through the base gate. See detail for this area on map page 6.
- 2** - Ground and air crews spent many hours on the ramp in the drift zone close to the perimeter and **AGENT ORANGE STORAGE AREA** at Korat. See detail for this area on map page 6.
- 3** - Many living quarters were hootches very near the perimeter, no glass just screens, outside latrines. See detail for this area on maps pages 7 and 8.
- 4** - NCO club and swimming pool very near the perimeter. See detail for this area on map page 7.
- 5** - Calisthenics, physical fitness training, and extra curricular sports occurred almost on the perimeter. See detail for this area on map page 7.
- 6** - Airman's "Swadee" Club. See detail for this area on map page 8.
- 7** - Officers "Kaboom" Club. See detail for this area on map page 8.
- 8** - Officers BOQ living quarters. See detail for this area on map page 8.
- 9** - 388th TFW Maintenance, engine runup, tune, armament areas and the 70th Aviation Detachment aircraft ramp and fuel storage. See detail for this area on map page 9.
- 10** - 388th TFW Munitions dump. See detail for this area on map page 10.

Detail areas 1 & 2

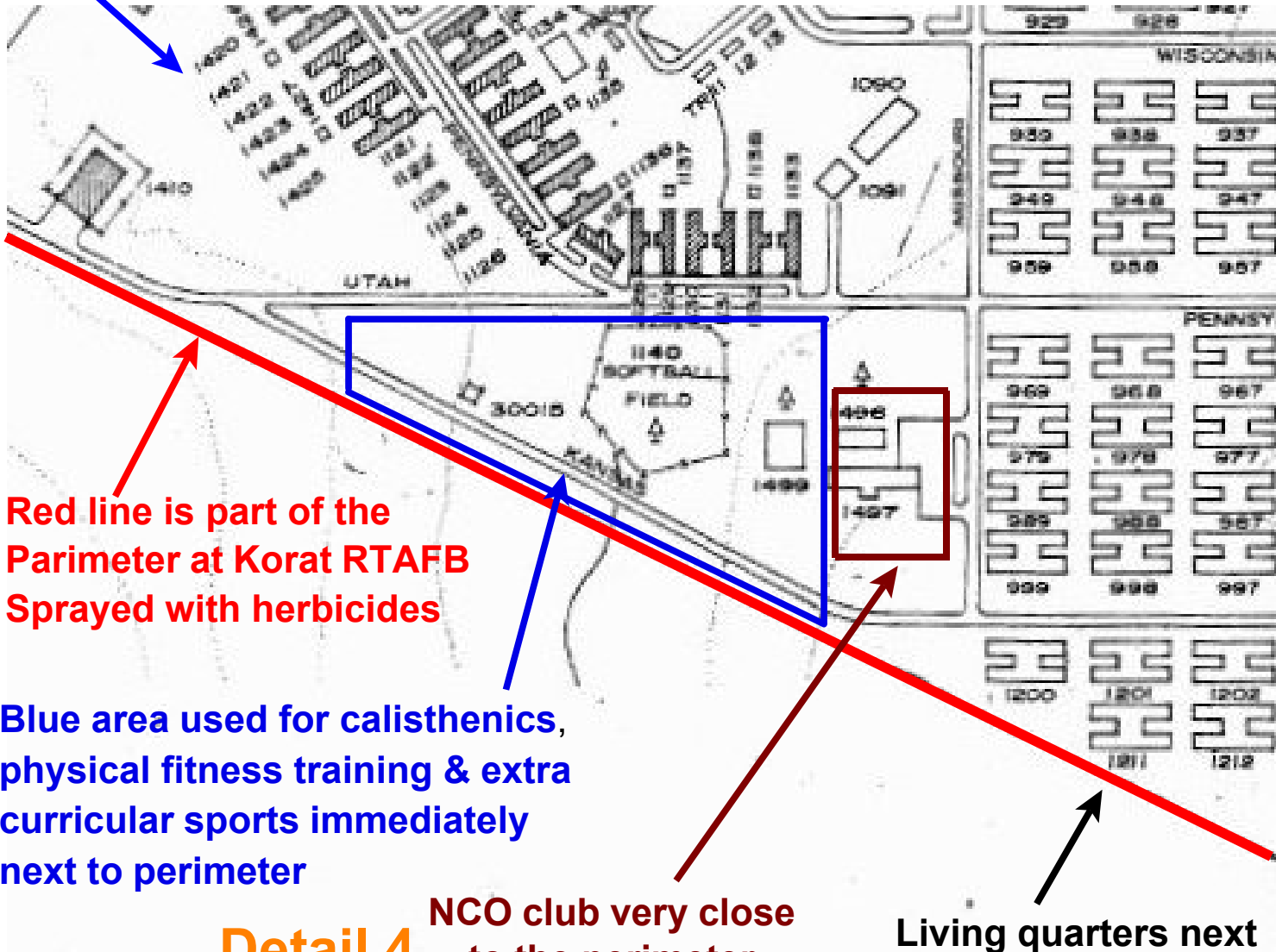
Map source - Department of the Air Force Master Base Plan Korat Air Base



Korat RTAFB Perimeter in relation to the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing Apron and Work areas and Agent Orange Storage area

Herbicide Drift Zone
from perimeter 500
meters into base

Detail for areas 3, 4 & 5



Red line is part of the
Perimeter at Korat RTAFB
Sprayed with herbicides

Blue area used for calisthenics,
physical fitness training & extra
curricular sports immediately
next to perimeter

NCO club very close
to the perimeter

Living quarters next
to Korat RTAFB perimeter

Detail 5

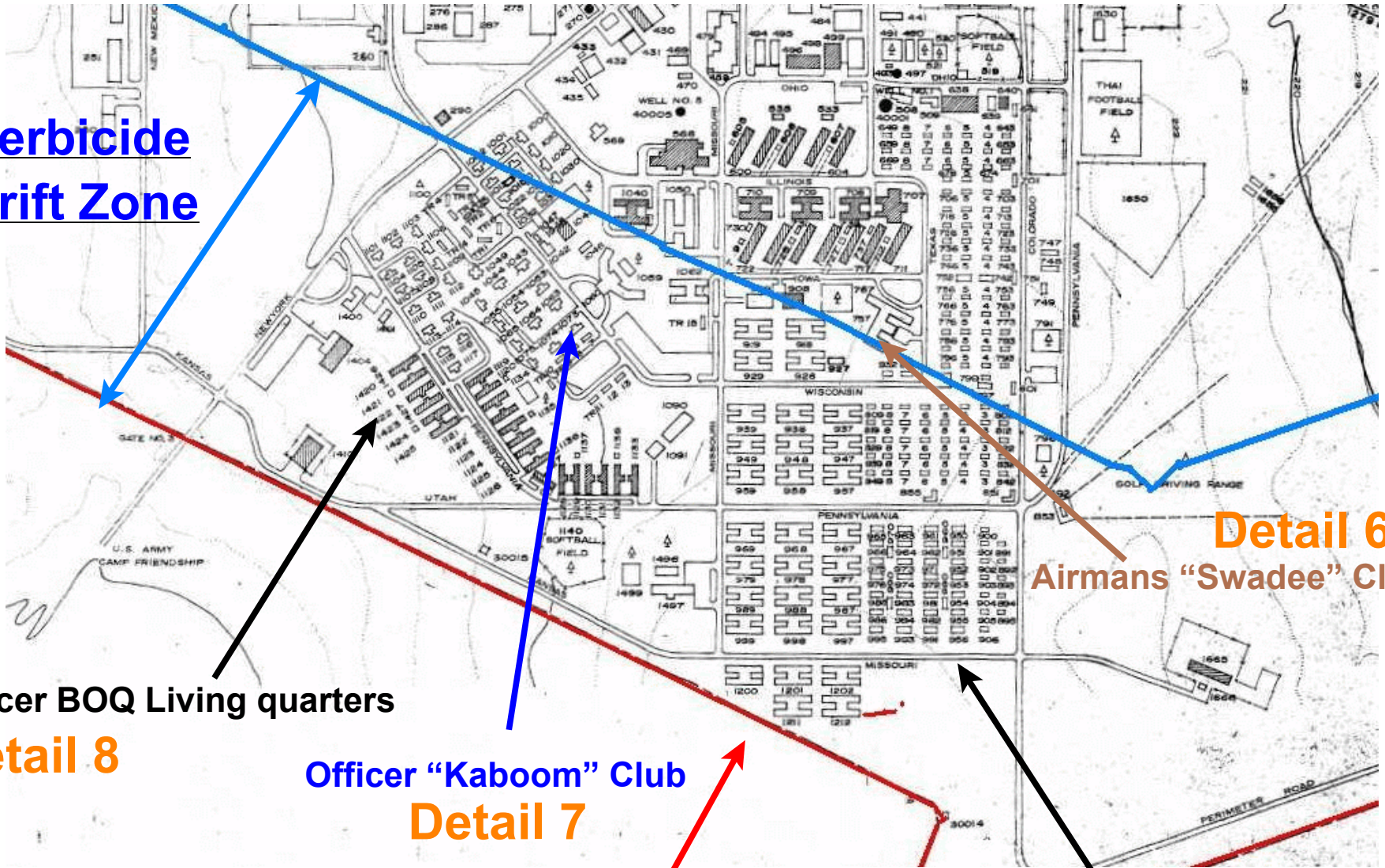
Detail 4

Detail 3

Detail for areas 3, 4 & 5

Detail for areas 3, 6, 7 & 8

Herbicide
Drift Zone



Detail 6
Airmans "Swadee" Club

Officer BOQ Living quarters
Detail 8

Officer "Kaboom" Club
Detail 7

Red line is Korat base perimeter

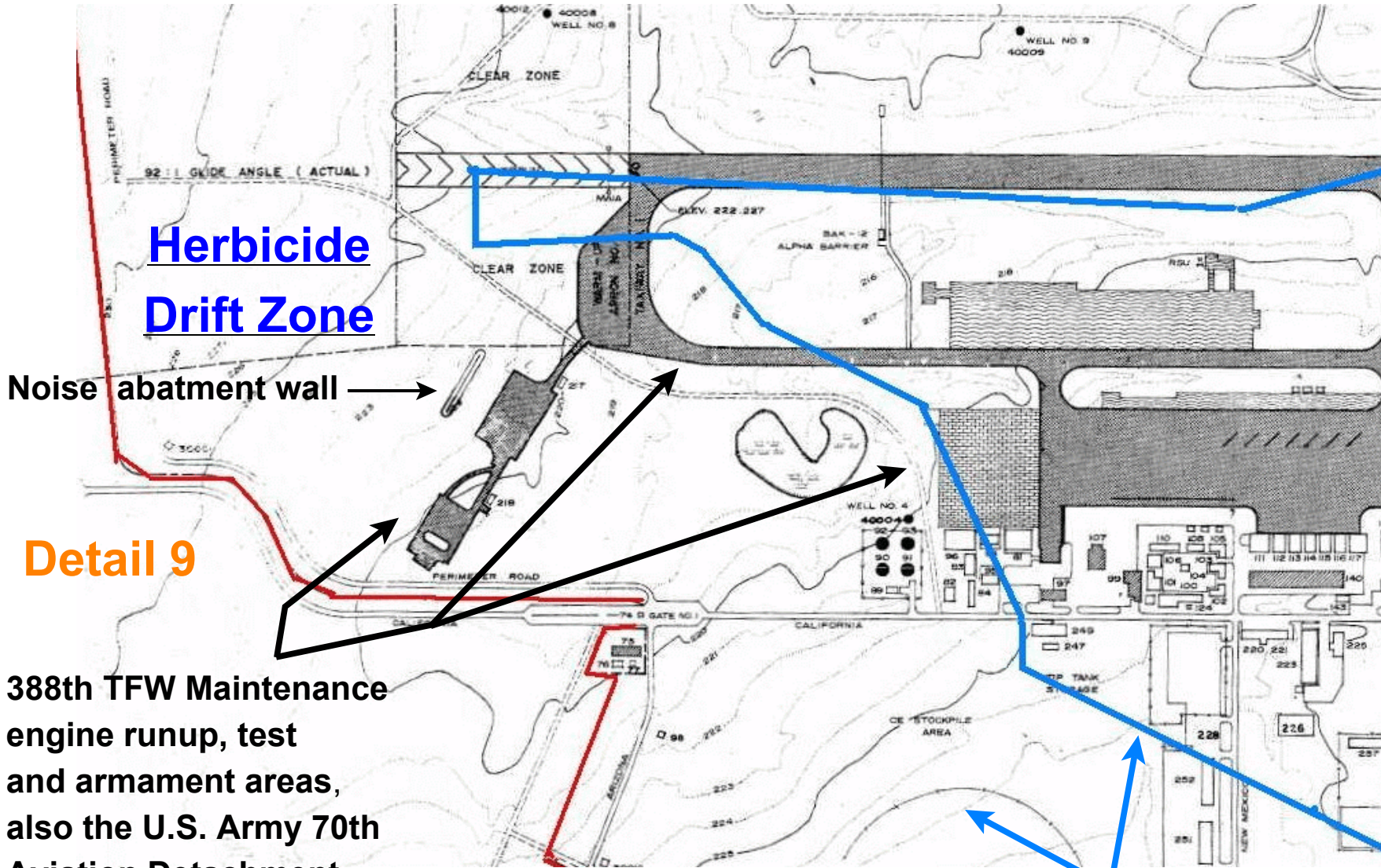
Airman & NCO Living quarters next to Korat RTAFB perimeter

Detail for areas 3, 6, 7 & 8

Detail 3

Red line is Korat base perimeter

Detail for area 9



Herbicide Drift Zone

Noise abatement wall →

Detail 9

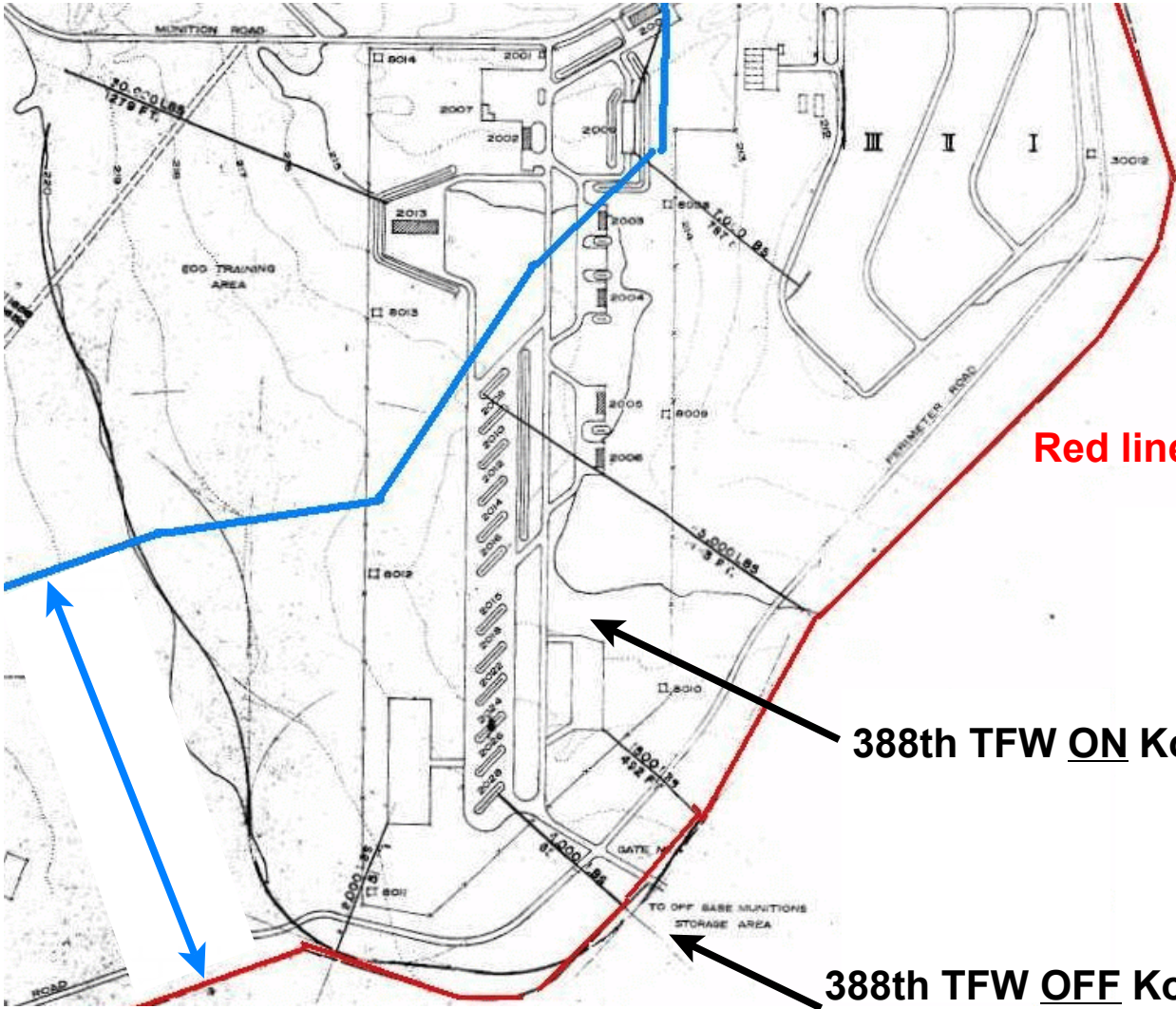
388th TFW Maintenance engine runup, test and armament areas, also the U.S. Army 70th Aviation Detachment Aircraft ramp and fuel

Detail for area 9

Red line is Korat base perimeter

Herbicide Drift Zone

Detail for area 10



FACILITY	DISTANCES IN FT. FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARD	LBS
2008	1443 FT.	
2010	1312 FT.	
2012	1712 FT.	
2014	246 FT.	
2016	1177 FT.	
2018	1017 FT.	
2022	935 FT.	
2024	836 FT.	
2026	755 FT.	
2028	656 FT.	

Red line is Korat base perimeter

388th TFW ON Korat RTAFB Munitions Area

388th TFW OFF Korat RTAFB Munitions Area
Required passing through the perimeter

500 Meter Herbicide Drift Zone

