

Officers Face Charges For Defoliate Misuse

SAIGON—Military sources said Saturday a number of high ranking U.S. Army officers may be court-martialed for deliberately violating a ban on the use of "orange" defoliant in South Vietnam's northern provinces.

Use of the orange defoliant was suspended last April after laboratory tests in the United States showed that mice and rats which received substantial doses of the herbicide had a greater than normal incidence of birth defects.

In a memorandum for correspondents

released Saturday, the U.S. command in Saigon said its investigation into the use of herbicide by units of the Americal Division showed that some of the officers who ordered use of the defoliant were unaware of the ban.

A military spokesman said some officers who knowingly violated the ban have been transferred "and their commands are being notified to take appropriate action." The spokesman promised that details on the "appropriate action" would be supplied later.

The U.S. Command said the decision to use the defoliant, known as 2, 4, 5-T, was made by staff officers of the division, indicating that officers ranking as high as colonel may have been involved.

"The investigation revealed that some officers were aware of the restriction but elected to use the defoliant in furtherance of combat operations," the memorandum said.

Two other defoliants, "white" and "blue," were not affected by the ban. All three have been used extensively in Vietnam by the U.S. Army and Air Force to clear away jungle growth concealing Communist trails and base camps. Former Cambodian Chief of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk once accused U.S. planes of using defoliants on a rubber plantation well inside his then "neutral" country.

Calley Trial Seen As My Lai Review

FT. BENNING, Ga.—The way is open for the small courtroom of this center of infantry training to furnish a complete review of what happened in the Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai on March 16, 1968.

"The entire transaction at My Lai has got to be disclosed in these proceedings," ruled a military judge, Col. Reid W. Kennedy, who is presiding at the court-martial of Lt. William L. Calley.

He ruled that both prosecution and defense could query witnesses on cross-examination about all events within the hamlet of My Lai 4 on the day in question. The questions could be irrelevant to the four counts of premeditated murder on which the 27-year-old Calley is being tried before a court of six officers.

Under the rule it is quite possible there

will be more testimony about the actions of S. Sgt. David Mitchell that day than was presented at his own trial, which ended Friday night with his acquittal of charges of assault with intent to murder 30 civilians.

Calley is accused of murdering 102 civilians, and the prosecution has said it will call 67 witnesses to show either he or his platoon members at his order committed the "executions" by rifle fire. The prosecution in the Mitchell case called only three witnesses.

There allegedly were dead scattered throughout the village and on a highway south of the village. And the judge has ruled that any witness on cross-examination may testify to "anything he saw or anything he did at any time that day in the village of My Lai."

Defoliants also have been widely used to clear fields of fire around forward bases and to destroy crops being raised by enemy troops.

The memorandum reported that between May 8 and Aug. 19 of this year the "orange" defoliant was used three times to clear vegetation around fire support bases and twice for crop destruction in the Americal Division's operating area.

The U.S. Command announced the defoliant violations Oct. 23 after learning that a newsman was aware of the investigation.



Jordan Nearing Peace

The Jordanian government and Palestinian guerrillas agreed in a high level Amman meeting Saturday to make significant concessions in an effort to restore peace to that country.

The agreement reached in a meeting under supervision of the head of the Arab truce team came after a week that saw the worst outbreaks of fighting in Jordan since the September civil war between guerrillas and government forces.

Spokesmen said the key measures called for removal of government and guerrilla troops from urban areas and the freeing of most of the 250 guerrillas still held by the government since the civil war.

'Genius' Convict Killed In Dragnet

COVINGTON, Va.—An ex-convict who took seven hostages in a wild, three-day spree stretching from Cleveland, Ohio, to this mountain community was shot and killed Saturday in a wood where police had him cornered.

The fugitive, James E. Kelley, 42, had a woman hostage with him when he died, but she was unharmed. He had previously released the others.

Police said they did not know whether Kelley, who evaded one of the largest police dragnets in northeastern Ohio and reportedly had the IQ of a genius, was shot by the police or killed himself.

He had at least three guns with him when he was killed.

Kelley took his last two hostages, two

unidentified women, sometime Saturday morning. They were seen driving along Interstate Highway 64, with Kelley sitting on the backseat with one of the women, and the other woman driving.

Later he abandoned the car and freed one of the women, who was shot in the hand. He took the other with him into a wooded area about 1,000 feet off the interstate.

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Quake Rocks City

MANILA—An earthquake shook Manila Saturday just two days after the worst typhoon in the city's history caused widespread destruction and left at least 125 persons dead. There were no reports of casualties or serious damage from the tremor.

President Ferdinand E. Marcos warned of the possible outbreak of an epidemic in the wake of the typhoon and urged Manila residents to temporarily leave the beleaguered city, much of which has been

without electricity and drinking water since the storm struck Thursday, for the countryside.

The earthquake struck at 8:25 p.m. Weathermen said it was centered at Iba, 88 miles northwest of Manila in nearby Zambales province where it registered an intensity of 6 on the Richter scale of 10.

The tremor registered 2 to 3 in Manila, strong enough to shake tall buildings in the city.

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