



# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF DIOXIN CONTAMINATION AT BIEN HOA AIRBASE

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Working in partnership with the Government of Vietnam, USAID is conducting an environmental assessment (EA) of dioxin contamination at the Bien Hoa airbase, where Agent Orange was stored and handled during the U.S.-Vietnam War. The assessment will determine the nature and extent of dioxin contamination and develop and evaluate potential remediation alternatives, including both containment and treatment, to reduce the risk of dioxin exposure on and around the airbase.

The U.S. Government works in close collaboration with the Vietnam Ministry of National Defense (MND) to implement the assessment.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The environmental assessment includes sample collection and analysis; development and screening of potential remediation technologies and alternatives; and final documentation of the study.

## COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

Field sampling began in November 2014 and was completed in April 2015. Over 1,150 environmental samples were collected for potential dioxin analysis. The sampling team included USAID contractors, the Academy of Military Science and Technology (AMST), the Vietnam Russia Tropical Center, and the Union of Science on Geology, Foundation, Engineering & Building Materials.

USAID's contractors are developing conceptual designs and evaluating remediation alternatives in close collaboration with AMST. The results of this evaluation will be presented to GVN stakeholders before it is finalized in a comprehensive document.

Throughout the assessment process, USAID has conducted a four-part training series aimed at increasing the knowledge base and remediation skill set of approximately 30 of Vietnam's next generation dioxin experts, largely within MND and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, using Bien Hoa as a case study.