



Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.
Post Office Box 5235
Slidell, Louisiana 70469-5235
Telephone (985) 641-1855

Rob Maness
Colonel USAF (Retired)
Executive Director
email: rob@robmaness.com

Michael Yates
Chief of Staff
email: commander@bluewaternavy.org

January 2, 2021

Hon. Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

John B. Wells
Commander USN (Retired)
Chairman of the Board
Director of Litigation
email: JohnLawEsq@msn.com

James A. Kuiken
Sgt. Major USMC (Retired)
Vice Chairman of the Board
Director of Legislation
email: contact@JamesKuiken.com

Re: Rulemaking Request for Herbicide Use in the Panama
Canal Zone (Amplification)

Michael Kvintus
Secretary
email: ermizmo1@yahoo.com

Please find enclosed additional information concerning herbicide use in Panama. This is an amplification of our March 12, 2020 rule making request.

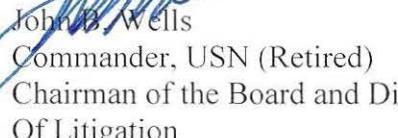
The first document shows a planned 2,4,5-T shipment for early 1975. As you know Dioxin is the byproduct of 2,4,5-T.

The second document is an affidavit with pictures from Mr. Eric Dziekan who visited the former Panama Cana Zone in February-March of this year. The photographs show barrels that meet the description of Agent Orange herbicide storage containers. The 55-gallon drums appear to be used as a control device to limit access to the old military housing unit.

While it is doubtful that the barrels shown in the picture currently contain herbicide, they are positive proof that the Agent Orange herbicide was present in the country.

We look forward to your response to our rule making request.

Sincerely,


John B. Wells
Commander, USN (Retired)
Chairman of the Board and Director
Of Litigation

Encl: Message text
Affidavit

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 046150

61

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ARA-06

ERDA-05 ISO-00 AID-05 /024 R

66615

DRAFTED BY COM/CBCLEMENTS, DIR. COMPL. DIV. OEA/CD

EWOAKES:LM: 13-50-86

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT:OSANDERSON

EB/EWT

----- 109605

R 282331Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 046150

EXCON

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:ESTC, PN, CU

SUBJECT: PRE-LICENSING CHECK

REF: BEWT/OEA/CD FILE 13-50-86

1. VERTAC EXPORTS, INC., MEMPHIS, TENN., HAS SUBMITTED EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION PROPOSING SHIPMENT 400 METRIC TONS 2, 4, 5-T TECHNICAL BUTYL ESTER 96 PERCENT, VALUED AT DOLS 2,266,329., TO FONOGRAM, ATTN: MR. GEO. KRUPNIK, PANAMA CITY.

2. REQUEST APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES (PART 413, REFERENCE MANUAL ON ECONOMIC DEFENSE) TO ESTABLISH BONA FIDES OF PROPOSED TRANSACTION, PARTICULARLY IDENTITY OF END-USER AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF INTENDED END-USE. COMMODITY MAY BE DESTINED FOR CUBA.

3. PLEASE CABLE REPLY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 046150

KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
DecapTION Date: 01 JAN 1960
DecapTION Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE046150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CBCLEMENTS, DIR. COMPL. DIV. OEA/CD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0039
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975021/aaaaaapk.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEWT/OEA/CD FILE 13-50-86
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 May 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-LICENSING CHECK
TAGS: ESTC, BBAK, PN, CU, VERTAC EXPORTS INC
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Eric Dziekan
6008 Clearwater Circle
Louisville, KY 40219
(502) 819-8142
silleey@aol.com
22 Mar 20

John Wells
Commander
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.
P. O. Box 5235
Slidell, Louisiana 70469

Dear John Wells:

My name is Eric Dziekan, I'm a U. S. Army Veteran who was previously stationed at both Fort Kobbe and Fort Clayton Panama between 10 Jul 89 and 10 Nov 90. I was initially assigned to A Co. 536th Engineer BN., shortly thereafter this Company de-activated and re-flagged as the 59th Engineer Co. (Sappers) 193rd Infantry BDE.

While assigned to Army Units in Panama I trained at Empire Range numerous times including demolitions training and training exercises leading up to missions for Operation Just Cause. I was sent to Fort Sherman to participate in the "Green Hell" Obstacle Course. I attended Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) Class 1 FY 90 at Fort Sherman, a 4-week resident leadership course graduating 2 Nov 90 which also included a land navigation course and a field operations exercise. Another time I was sent to Fort Sherman for Engineer Support to set up "Booby-trap" lanes for Infantry Squads to clear as part of Jungle Operations Training after both Engineers and Infantry received extra classes on these from a Special Forces Instructor.

I use Social Media to keep in touch with family, friends, friends I had served with and groups with people with same interests or pasts. Several years ago, I was pointed to a Facebook Site called "Agent Orange in Panama" headed by Donna Tornoe and told to check it out. I was intrigued and now concerned after spending 16 months in Country (Panama)! Donna further suggested reading her book "The Travels of Orange" for more insight. So, I've kept pretty current with the information provided over these years.

On February 29, 2020 my wife, daughter and myself flew to Panama City, Panama for Spring Break. Neither one had ever been there, and both had been wanting to go for many years! Last year (7th Grade) my daughter had to write a Country profile for Geography Class and was assigned Panama. This heightened their anxiety to see Panama soon and everything I've told them about.

John Wells
22 Mar 20
Page 2

When we arrived, we met up with a Panamanian friend whose Niece would arrange travel for us to see the "Tourist Spots" that were farther away from Panama City at a cheaper price. On one of those trips on 3-1-20 I wanted to show my family the difference between the "Pacific" Side and the "Atlantic / Caribbean" side. I also in the past jokingly told them how while at PLDC we would walk right out of the barracks and do Physical Training (PT) right on the Caribbean-Blue beach! So, I asked the driver to take us to Old Ft. Sherman to show them this area. When we arrived at the gate there were armed guards stopping all vehicles. Our driver asked if he could bring us in to see the old Fort because I was in the Military here prior and wanted to see the changes, and they let our van in. Just past that front gate where a few of the old Military Houses started I saw a fence made with old rusted 55-gallon barrels with orange stripes and green data areas still visible... These looked like "Agent Orange" barrels described by Donna. I immediately asked the driver to stop! I got out of the van in front of Old Housing Unit A309 and started taking pictures of that fence and the drums.

Attached are the photos that I personally took with my camera. They are un-altered except being enlarged.

#1 Shows a rusted 55-gallon barrel with distinct orange stripe and green data area in front of old Housing unit A309

#2 Shows EIGHT rusted 55-gallon barrels with distinct orange stripe and green data area starting from the barrel mentioned in photo #1 in a line towards Housing Unit B307 (to be identified in the next picture) with a steel cable laying over them forming a fence / barrier as confirmed with the visible sign that "appears to say" "No Entry, Property of the State".

#3 Shows FIVE rusted 55-gallon barrels with distinct orange stripe and green data area linked with steel cable, warning sign present, and identifies Housing Units A&B307

#4 Shows a clearer view of the rusted 55-gallon barrel with distinct orange stripe and green data area listed as Photo #1

#5 Shows a rusted 55-gallon barrel with distinct orange stripe and green data area. This barrel was separate from the previously listed ones. This one was located behind the old small airstrip on the road leading to the NOW Marina. This photo was taken from that road towards the old barracks. So, the barrel is on the far side of the old airstrip near that road in relation to the barracks.

#6 Shows My wife and daughter at the Marina @ Old Ft. Sherman

#7 Identifies the Catamaran "Dragonfly" moored at the Marina @ Old Ft. Sherman and the old barracks visible in the background.

John Wells
22 Mar 20
Page 3

#8-11 Shows conversations between me and my friend's niece, Karen (a-n) setting up the excursion to Old Ft Sherman, and with my friend, Luis (A&B) telling me the name of the driver and that he's a "Chauffeur", not a tour operator.

Keeping in mind everything that I've read about on the "Agent Orange in Panama" site and the Military Veterans Advocacy site, I want to submit my photographs and descriptions of them as proof of what I saw on Old Ft. Sherman on 3-1-20 with my family.

Sincerely,

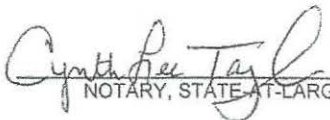


Eric Dziekan

State of Kentucky County of Jefferson

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me by Eric Dziekan on this the 27th day of April 2020.

My commission expires: 12-11-21


NOTARY, STATE-AT-LARGE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

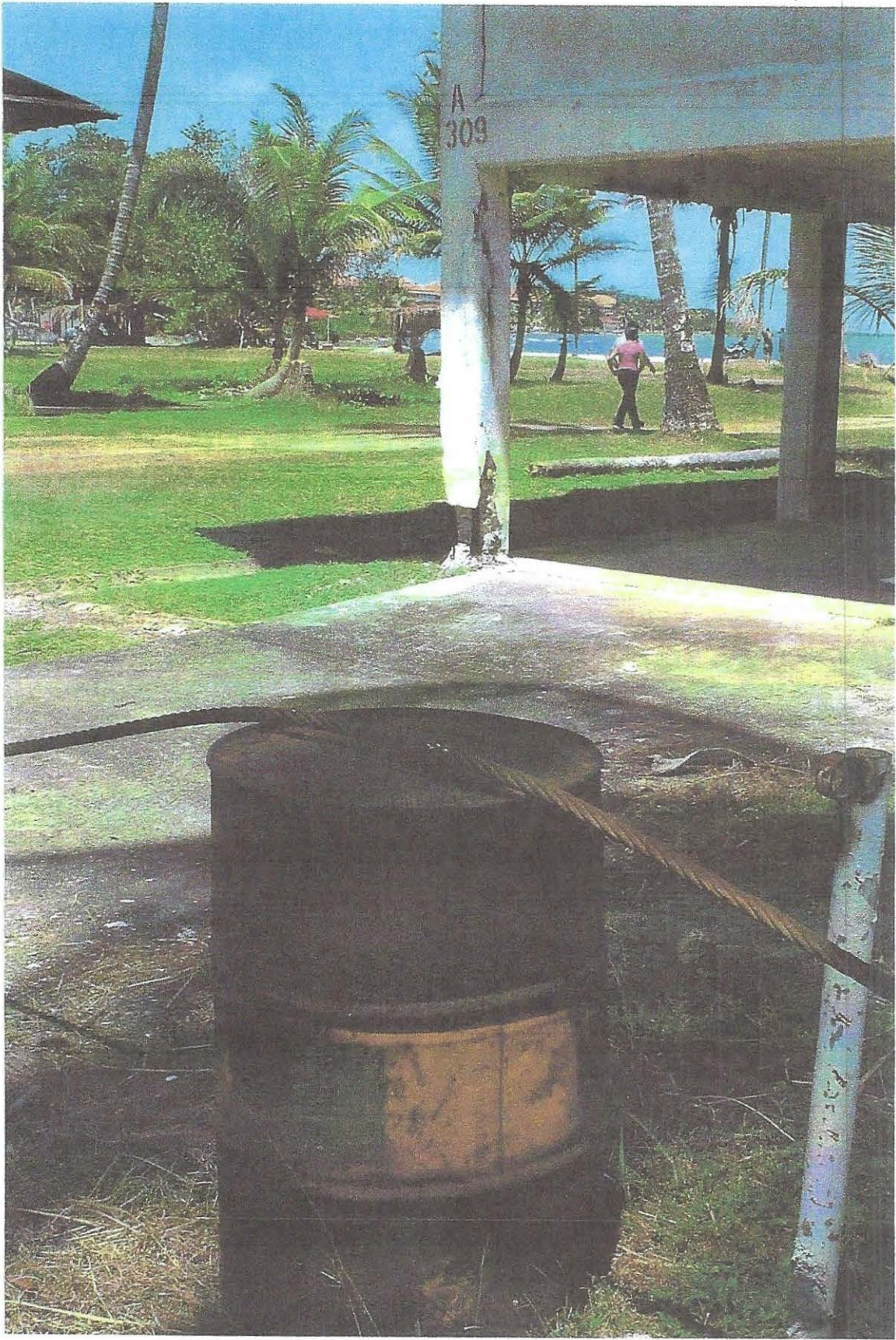


Photo By: Eric Dziekan 3-1-20 E

1

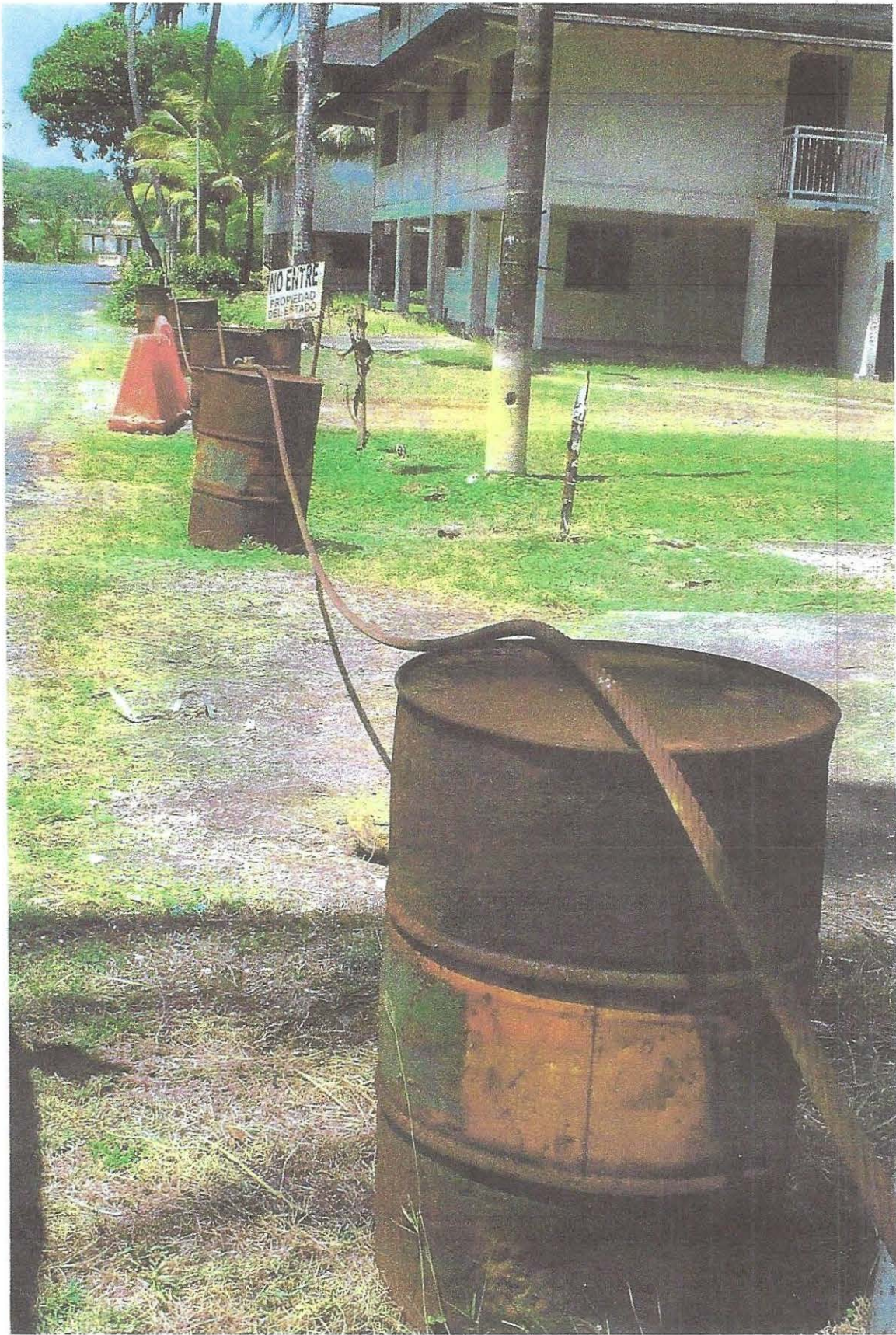


PHOTO BY: Eric Dziekan 3-1-20 Ed

2

3



Photo By: Eric Dziekan 3-1-20 *ED*



PHOTO BY: ERIC DZIEKAN 3-1-20 EJ

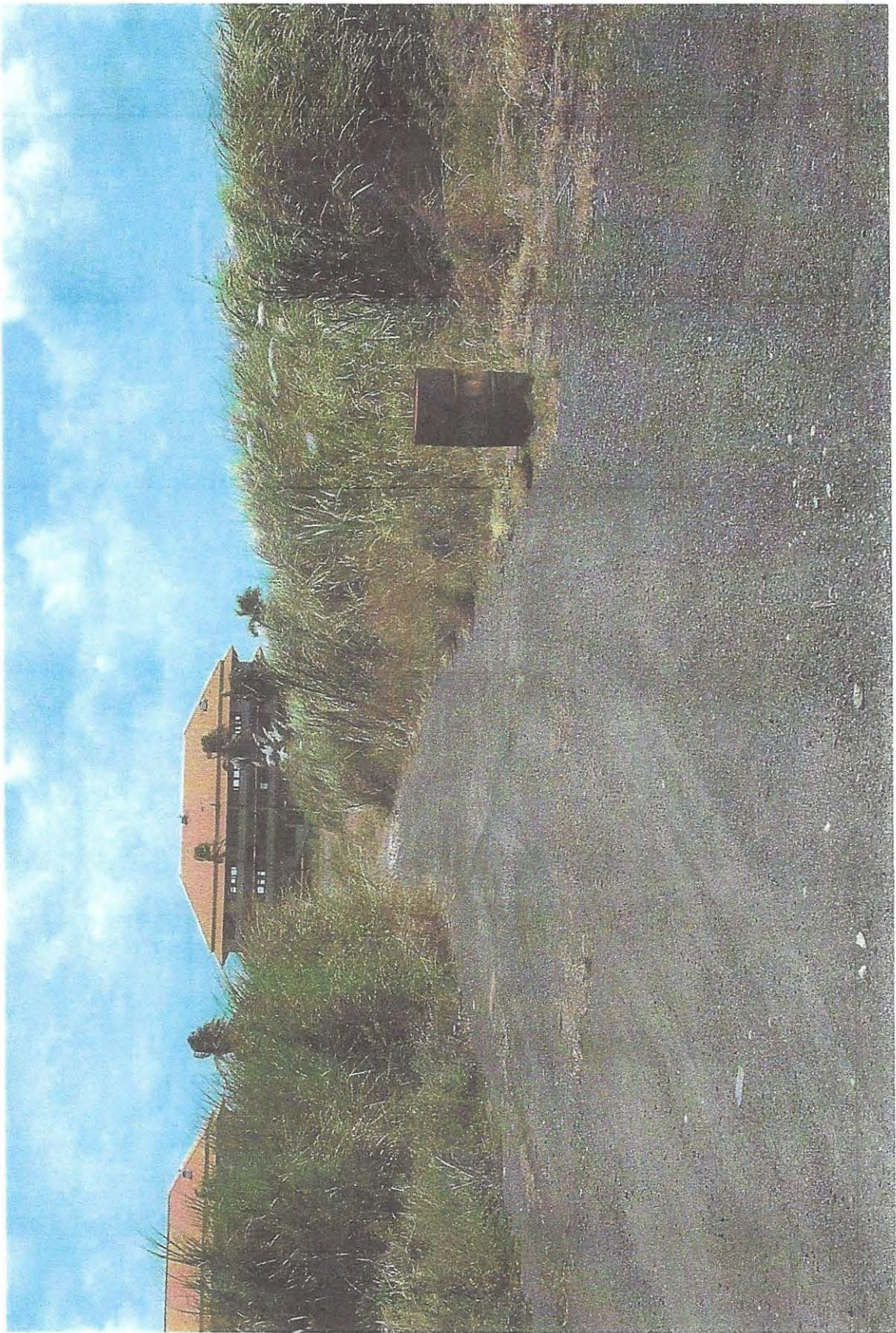


Photo By: Eric Dziekan 3-1-20 *ED*

6



Photo By: Eric Dziekan 3-1-20 EJ

7

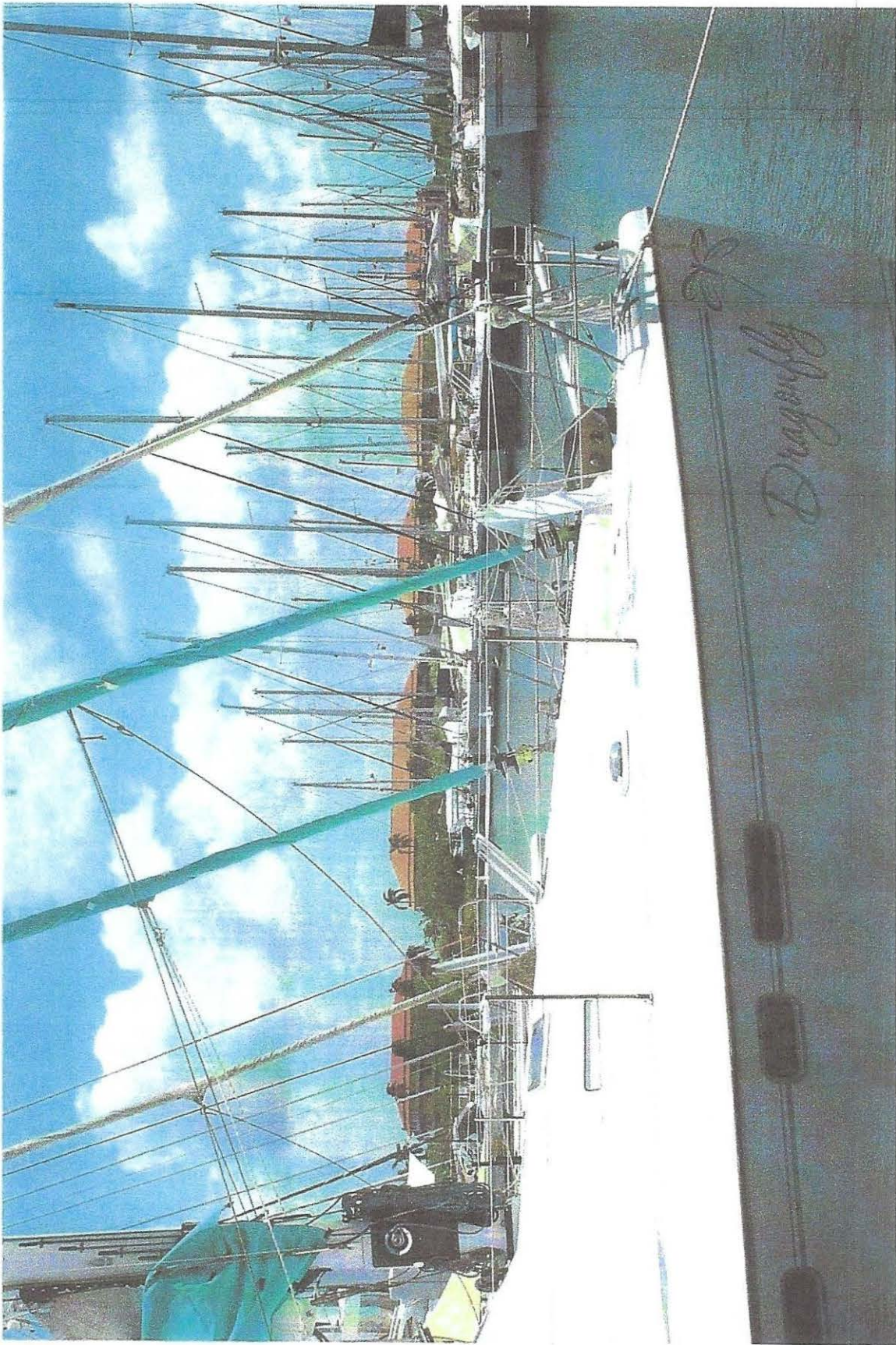


Photo By: Eric Dziekan 3-1-20 Ed

9

T-Mobile 9:45 AM 98%

< +507 6275-0490

Hello

Karen

Luis niece

Sun, Mar 1

Hello

Sorry! I didn't see this yesterday

Hello

Good morning

Good morning

We're in the lobby

Am I going to send the driver to look for you, what are you planning to do today? I am a little complicated in the morning because I am moving to my new apartment but do not worry then I meet you in the afternoon

+ 📷 📹 🗣️

C

T-Mobile 9:39 AM 98%

< +507 6275-0490

Christ today?

Yes, no problem

Do you want to leave the hotel directly to Portobelo

?

Yes

Ok Perfect..

I warn you when the driver is there to leave

Gracias, about how long before he arrives

En 25 minutes

We're waiting outside the entrance enjoying the breeze

+ 📷 📹 🗣️

b

T-Mobile 9:38 AM 98%

< +507 6275-0490

Sun, Mar 1

Hello

Sorry! I didn't see this yesterday

Hello

Good morning

Good morning

We're in the lobby

Am I going to send the driver to look for you, what are you planning to do today? I am a little complicated in the morning because I am moving to my new apartment but do not worry then I meet you in the afternoon

Is it possible to go to Portobello to see the Fort then see the Black Christ today?

+ 📷 📹 🗣️

d

T-Mobile 9:39 AM 98%

< +507 6275-0490

The driver is already in 2 minutes

The day is beautiful

Yes it is

Ready to go to Portobelo?

Yes

👍👍👍👍👍👍

Thank you

You keep data on your cell phone or just wifi

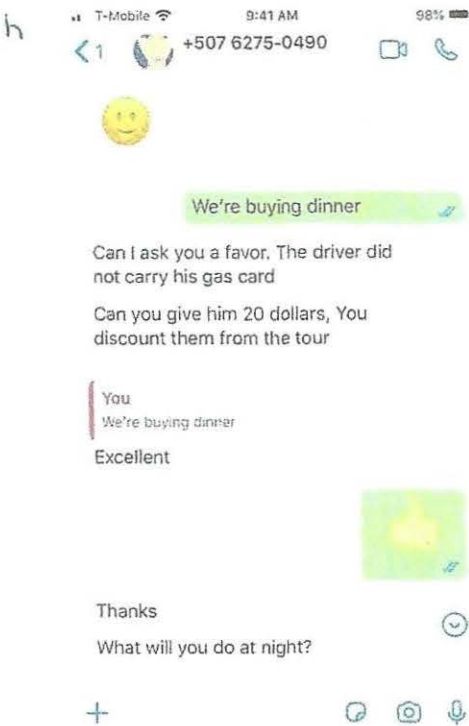
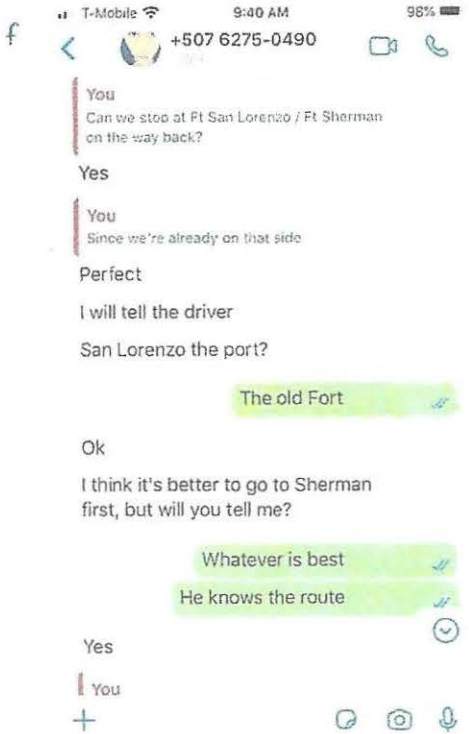
Both

Perfect

The driver is there

Write me anything

+ 📷 📹 🗣️



9:42 AM 98%
+507 6275-0490

What will you do at night?

going to the hotel?

Hotel tonight, and we'll just walk around tomorrow. Easy day

How much is the cost to San Blas?

You
Hotel tonight, and we'll just walk around tomorrow. Easy day

Ok ready

You
How much is the cost to San Blas?

Let me check

For what day

Tuesday and hopefully Wednesday or Thursday we can see your Uncle

9:43 AM 98%
+507 6275-0490

Ok, we'll go, just need to know exact time for pick up and what to do for breakfast. The hotel breakfast isn't open until 6am.

Tuesday San Blas, the departure time would be 5:30 a.m, breakfast is also included on the way to San Blas

It looks good?

Yes

How did you finish going?

It is in the hotel?

Yes, everything went well today, relaxing together with a drink outside

Excellent, will you stay at the hotel at night? Tomorrow will you need transportation? What is your plan?

9:42 AM 98%
+507 6275-0490

Perfect .. I consulted San Blas price for Tuesday and you tell me if u go on Wednesday or Thursday where my uncle

Whatever is best for him

Ok i will ask my uncle

The day tour San Blas includes

- round trip
- transportation
- county taxes
- port taxes
- beach taxes
- boat tour to 3 places
- lunch without drinks

This package comes in:

- 130 for nationals and residents
- 160 for foreigners.

The cars we use have capacity for

9:44 AM 98%
+507 6275-0490

Excellent, will you stay at the hotel at night? Tomorrow will you need transportation? What is your plan?

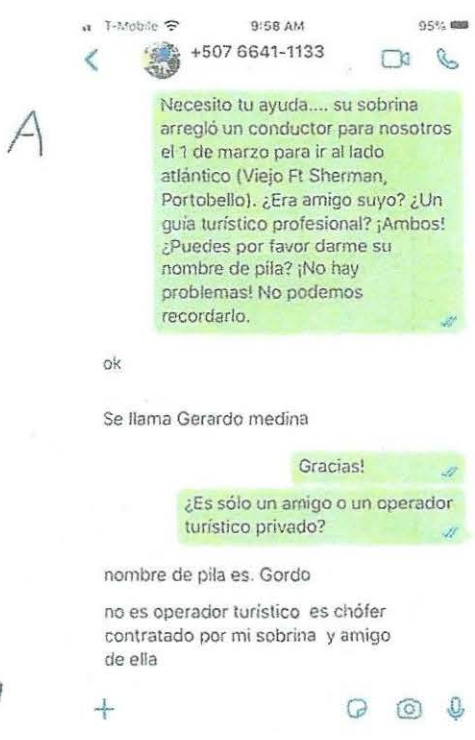
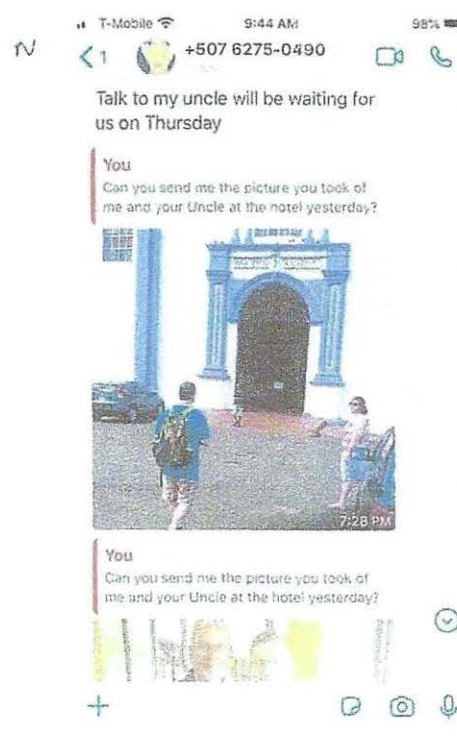
Tonight just here, tomorrow we will just walk around and use the pool after, relaxing day.



You
Tonight just here, tomorrow we will just walk around and use the pool after, relaxing day.

10

10



Tarjap Condolencia

2020011218.88(2)00.jpg

25253KB

Tarjap Condolencia

2020011218.88(2)00.jpg

2.52MB

