

## Chronology

- 1010:** The Ly dynasty founds the city of Hanoi as its capital
- 1858:** The French navy attacks Da Nang, starting 25 years of struggle between France and Vietnam
- 1867:** Cochinchina (South Vietnam) becomes a French colony
- 1883:** Tonkin (North Vietnam) and Annam (central Vietnam) become part of French Indochina
- 1940:** Japan invades Indochina
- 1941:** Ho Chi Minh starts the Viet Minh, declaring Leninism an ideological weapon against colonialism
- 1945:** The Viet Minh ousts Emperor Bao Dai; Ho Chi Minh declares the country's independence
- 1954:** Vietnam defeats the French at the battle of Dien Bien Phu. At the Geneva peace conference, Vietnam is partitioned at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel into North and South Vietnam.
- 1961:** U.S. President John F. Kennedy sends the first military advisers to South Vietnam. Testing of Agent Orange and other herbicides begins in August
- 1962:** Operation Hades, later renamed Operation Ranch Hand, begins aerial spraying of herbicides
- 1965:** U.S. troops arrive in Da Nang; aerial raids begin. Agent Orange spraying continues nationwide
- 1968:** The Viet Cong's Tet offensive is a military failure but stuns the West and sparks U.S. anti-war feeling, including protests against the use of Agent Orange
- 1971:** U.S. ends use of Agent Orange after spraying 11.4 million gallons. Remaining stocks are collected at Da Nang, Bien Hoa and Tuy Hoa airbases, re-barreled and shipped to the South Pacific for incineration
- 1973:** After the Paris Accords are ratified, the U.S. military withdraws from Vietnam
- 1975:** North Vietnamese forces enter Saigon; the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is proclaimed in 1976
- 1979:** U.S. veterans file class action lawsuit against chemical companies that produced Agent Orange
- 1984:** Veterans' lawsuit is settled out of court for \$180 million
- 1987:** Vietnam begins liberalizing economy with new foreign investment law. First U.S. tourists arrive

(more)

- 1991:** U.S. Congress approves Agent Orange Act, creating a list of “presumptive illnesses” for which government compensation and medical care will be provided to US Vietnam veterans
- 1994:** U.S. ends trade embargo against Vietnam
- 1995:** U.S. and Vietnam establish diplomatic relations
- 2002:** U.S. and Vietnam hold joint scientific conference, sign a research memorandum of understanding
- 2004:** Vietnamese citizens file suit in U.S. courts against Agent Orange-producing chemical companies
- 2005:** U.S. District and Appeals courts dismiss Vietnamese case. U.S. Supreme Court later refuses a review
- 2006:** U.S. and Vietnamese presidents meet and agree that cooperation in addressing Agent Orange residues in Vietnam would strengthen the bilateral relationship
- 2007:** The U.S. Congress appropriates \$3 million to address remediation of dioxin hotspots in Vietnam and to support public health programs in the surrounding communities
- 2009:** Congress appropriates an additional \$3 million for the same purposes.
- 2010:** Congress appropriates an additional \$3 million for the same purposes.

**For More Information Contact:** Kathy Bonk or Phil Sparks, Communications Consortium Media Center, 401 Ninth St. NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20004. [kbonk@ccmc.org](mailto:kbonk@ccmc.org), [psparks@ccmc.org](mailto:psparks@ccmc.org), 202-326-8700

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