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NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOC
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MORTON BLACKWELL
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

THIS IS A CONFIRMATION OF A MAILGRAM SENT TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE USA (NCOA) IS IN
AGREEMENT WITH YOUR NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE HARRY N WALTERS AS
THE NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

IF THE ASSOCIATION CAN BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE PLEASE HAVE YOUR
STAFF CALL ME AT 7035490311

SINCERELY

CA MACK MCKINNEY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NATIONAL
CAPITAL OFFICE
219 NORTH WASHINGTON ST
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

15:21 EST

MGMCCMP

*Copy to
Wilson
11/9*

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES
OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

(EXCEPT IN NEW JERSEY 800-632-2271)

FROM TWX 910 420 1212

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date:

11/10/82

To:

Morton Blackwell

From: **MARYANN URBAN**
Presidential Personnel

fyi the attached!



AMVETS

AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II - KOREA - VIET NAM

4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20801

file
VA.

Robert Martin
NATIONAL COMMANDER
1982-1983

108598

November 5, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President:

I read of the expected naming of Harvey N. Walters as the new Administrator of Veterans Affairs in today's Washington Post. While AMVETS was informed of the meeting held yesterday at the White House with veterans organization representatives after the meeting, we were not invited and had to read the Washington Post to discover the positions taken by "the nation's three largest veterans' groups".

Kindly be advised that AMVETS is, to say the least, less than enthusiastic about the pending nomination of Mr. Walters and would have made this opinion known had we been invited to the veterans' organizations meeting with your staff.

In reviewing the Washington Post article on Mr. Walters' background, which is all we have ever seen on him, we find little or nothing that would indicate he will be an effective VA Administrator.

This nomination is rather amazing as far as AMVETS is concerned. At one time you enjoyed tremendous popularity among the nation's organized veterans. This has since eroded. The causes of your loss of support are many and varied, yet two things do stand out; your attempt to cut the VA budget for Fiscal Year 1983 and the ill-advised public statements and comments of your VA Administrator, Robert P. Nimmo.

AMVETS, and perhaps all veterans' groups, anticipate another attempt to cut the VA budget for fiscal 1984. Furthermore, all the nations veterans groups were in agreement that Mr. Nimmo's replacement should be an individual who had professional

The President
November 5, 1982
Page 2

experience in national-level veterans affairs and who would be a Vietnam veteran in order to reassure the 30 million voters who happen to be veterans that you have not wavered in your support of their benefits and programs. Your nomination of Mr. Walters cannot be interpreted in any way as the support for veterans which we expected.

AMVETS would have been happy to inform your staff of this had we been invited to the White House meeting.

We cannot support you on the nomination of Mr. Harry N. Walters for VA Administrator. We will of course try to work with him if he clears the Senate process, but his apparent lack of qualifications in the area of national veterans affairs, his limited peacetime military service and the abundance of other highly qualified candidates precludes our support for this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert Martin
National Commander

RM:bv

cc: Edwin Meese III
James Baker
Michael Deaver
Elizabeth Dole



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

file V.A.

October 8, 1982

The Honorable Edwin Meese, III
Counsellor to the President
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Meese:

In light of the recent resignation of the Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, I want to bring to your attention an individual whose appointment to this important position I know would bring credit to the country, the Administration, the Veterans' Administration and to all the veterans who have served our country in three recent wars. He is a combat veteran of all of these conflicts; served 32 years in the Army as both an enlisted man and an officer; and is a proven administrator ---

COLONEL CHARLES E. THOMANN, USA, (Retired)
of ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

I have known Chuck for seven years and based on my personal knowledge can attest to his management and organizational abilities and to his loyalty. Although I am enclosing a resume which highlights his extensive resource management experience, I would like to explain why I so strongly believe he deserves your consideration and support.

Chuck Thomann served in World War II; in the Korean Conflict, and had two tours of duty in Vietnam. He rose through the ranks from basic recruit to Sergeant (and was an Infantry Squad Leader) during World War II. As an R.O.T.C. Distinguished Military Graduate, he was given a Regular Commission in the United States Army. As a Platoon Leader and then Company Commander, he received a battlefield promotion in Korea where he was seriously wounded. While serving in Vietnam, he became the only Military Intelligence Officer in the history of the United States Army to command a Combat Battalion in war.

Chuck joined the Army during the latter part of World War II upon his graduation from high school. After receiving his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, he was aboard a troop ship on his way to participate in the invasion of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped and the American invasion force became the American Occupation force. He saw action in the

Philippine Islands as remnants of the Japanese Forces were rounded up. Later in Japan, Chuck came across an orphanage in the mountains where the children were suffering from severe malnutrition. Through his efforts, a people-to-people food lift was begun and the lives of a number of those children were saved by an American G.I. who cared. This intense concern for people has continued. During his military career he earned a reputation for being a Commander who was both fair and concerned.

After the occupation ended, Chuck returned to Colorado where he graduated from the University of Denver, attending on the G.I. Bill. It was at D.U. that he participated in the R.O.T.C. program and, as a Distinguished Military Graduate, received a Regular Army Commission.

Chuck was one of the first soldiers sent to the Korean Conflict. He was wounded twice while fighting with the 2nd Infantry Division. When the Chinese entered the War in late 1950, Chuck was seriously wounded while evacuating other wounded during the 2nd Infantry's forced retreat down the Kuneri Valley.

After spending nine months in Fitzsimmons Army Hospital (Denver) recovering from his wounds, Chuck returned to active duty.

Chuck served twice in Vietnam. In 1964 he was Chief of the Current Intelligence and Reports Branch at MACV Headquarters (Saigon). During his second tour of duty in Vietnam (1968-69), he was the G-2 of the 4th Infantry Division in the Highlands and received the distinction of being the only Military Intelligence officer in the history of the United States Army to command an infantry battalion in combat, commanding the 2nd Infantry (Mechanized) Battalion, 8th Infantry.

In addition to his battlefield service, Chuck also served in Europe with the 7th Corps in Stuttgart, Germany. He has held many senior staff positions serving in both Joint and Army Commands. He is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff School and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Among his decorations are: the Silver Star; Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Bronze Star with "V" and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters; Joint Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross of Galantry with Gold Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Chuck Thomann has been a leader in his military career and a leader in his community as well. Chuck has served three times as the President of the Lower Broadneck Federation, a Federation of 22 community associations representing over 35,000 people in Anne Arundel County (Annapolis), Maryland. He has served as President of his own community's Association. He has received the local Junior Chamber of

The Honorable Edwin Meese, III
October 8, 1982

Page 3

Commerce's "Man of the Year Award" in recognition of his community service. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Annapolis Symphony, the Annapolis Chorale and the Annapolis Civitan Association. He is presently the President of the Annapolis Chorale. He served for two years on the Vestry of his Church and is the lead baritone in the choir.

Chuck presently serves as the Executive Director of the National Military Intelligence Association, the only professional association for active duty multi-service, multi-discipline military intelligence professionals and is working on a program leading to a Ph.D in Communications at the University of Maryland. He has been appointed to the Maryland Diocesan (Episcopal) Committee on Military Services.

His political activities have included running for the Maryland House of Delegates (Republican ticket) in 1978. In 1976 he worked as a volunteer manning phone banks after his regular working hours and on weekends in the Reagan for President effort. In 1980, he served as Coordinator of the Anne Arundel County Reagan for President Committee. He is a staunch supporter of the President and of the goals and programs of this Administration, and has given talks to local civic groups explaining those programs.

Chuck and his wife, Joyce, will celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary on December 28th. They have three grown children. A son, Mark, graduate of The Citadel (Charleston, South Carolina) is presently employed by the Milliken Company in New York City and, with his wife and son, resides in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. A daughter, Debra, who with her husband and two sons resides in Andover, Massachusetts. A son Bradley, a 1978 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, is a Navy pilot assigned to the U.S.S. Eisenhower.

In closing, I believe the Administration would be sorely pressed to find anyone with the qualifications of Chuck Thomann for the position of Administrator, Veterans' Administration, and I commend him for your favorable consideration. If you have questions, I can be reached at 523-4096.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours, .



Joan D. Aikens,
Commissioner

JDA:jet
1 Enclosure a/s

CHARLES EDWIN THOMANN
Colonel, United States Army, Retired
1606 Laurel Lane, Route #10
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Telephone: (301) 757-2345

Experience: Executive Director, National Military Intelligence Association. A world-wide, multi-Service professional organization. Work with Members of Congress and other Associations on legislation effecting all aspects of military intelligence resource management. Supervise all administrative and financial matters of the Association. Edit and publish the AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE JOURNAL. Former President of the Association. (1977 to present.)

MAJOR RESULTS: Since 1977, the Association has increased its membership by 70%. Good fiscal management has increased assets by 100%. Originated and published the quarterly AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE JOURNAL. Have initiated and expanded Congressional and other political contacts. Hosted and planned successful national conventions. Currently engaged in extensive expansion of JOURNAL and the membership to include Corporations and other organizations.

Senior Military Analyst, Kappa Systems, Inc., Arlington, Virginia. Have worked on logistical, behavioral and intelligence projects for DoD. Work involved proposal writing, study and report writing, research projects, survey technology, automated systems and marketing. (1979 to present.)

MAJOR RESULTS: Solutions to major problems in military logistics; a new helicopter design for NATO forces; better understanding of Soviet negotiation behavior; successful survey results for DoD and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Enlarged military contacts. Capitalized on writing, research and analytical abilities as well as organizational ability.

Washington Representative, Lansdowne Steel and Iron Company, Morton, Pa. Keep close working liaison with appropriate members of Congress on matters concerning the Company, and coordinate the activities of the Company with government agencies. Marketing of products. Other companies use my services on an as needed basis. (1980 to present.)

MAJOR RESULTS: An excellent working relationship with Congress and the Military Services which has greatly enhanced the image of the Company. Through this relationship the Company was saved from going out of business, thus keeping a small business and over 250 jobs in a depressed area.

Experience:
(Military)

Executive Officer, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence (ACSI), Department of the Army (1977); and Commander of the Army Special Security Group (1975-1977). Handled staff functions of eight staff divisions of ACSI and two field operating agencies. As Special Security Group Commander (Brigade level) provided management for six sub-area commands headed by Colonels and Lt. Colonels, responsible for over one hundred detachments of various sizes serving Army and State Department officials throughout the world. Managed multi-million dollar budget. Oversight of major personnel and organizational changes throughout Army intelligence. Major planner for reorganization of ACSI resources which cut into all staffs and units. Responsible for establishment of policy.

MAJOR RESULTS: Streamlined ACSI staff and SSG organization to meet mandated 20% personnel reductions. Cited for increasing the efficiency of the organization despite cuts. Managed smooth transition of this major program. Introduced new data transmission system which is being enlarged upon today. Effort caused review and rewriting of over 200 job descriptions which were badly out of date. Estimated savings to the government in excess of two million dollars. Trouble shooter for major organizational projects and known for finding areas where savings could be made without effecting efficiency. Managed over 40,000 security clearance procedures.

Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence United States Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia (1974-1975). I was sent to this job on an emergency basis to solve major personnel and organizational problems. Had the responsibility for the intelligence resources, policy and readiness of all tactical intelligence units in the CONUS Army. Served in a General Officer billet much of the time. Job included direct supervision of the Forces Command Intelligence Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

MAJOR RESULTS: Upgrade in staff morale and a recognized upgrade in the staff's responsiveness to the field. Policy reviewed and refined so that field units had a better understanding of what was expected of them. Intelligence units in the Army Divisions were reorganized to better reflect mission and effect a more efficient use of resources. Readiness reporting reviewed and steps implemented to ease the reporting burden. Special efforts were made to preserve intelligence resources in Panama. Intelligence training at the unit level was reviewed and positive measures taken to upgrade training. Participation in FORSCOM exercises received several special commendations by the Commanding General, who also recognized the improvements made in staff actions and field assistance during this trouble shooting assignment. Special assistance given to the FORSCOM intelligence Group which enabled it to modernize much of its equipment and clarified its command and reporting lines. The FORSCOM intelligence staff was carefully honed to assure that the most capable individuals were given responsible jobs. Several senior individuals and others were not retained as a result of this effort.

In the interest of brevity, the following job descriptions will not be discussed in detail. However, questions are welcome.

* Chief, Counterintelligence Division, ACSI, Department of Army. Acting Chief, Operations Directorate, Department of Army (1975).

* Commander, 109th Military Intelligence Group, Fort Meade Maryland (1972-74).

* Deputy Chief, Pacific Division; Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Department of Army, and Chief of Vietnamization (1970-71).

* Commander, 2d Infantry Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry Division, Vietnam (1969). I am the only Military Intelligence Officer to command a combat battalion in war.

* Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, 4th Infantry Division, Vietnam (1968-69).

* Chief, South Vietnamese Section, Pacific Division, Defense Intelligence Agency. Briefed the Secretary of

Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a daily basis. The President and others in the White House and State Department on a frequent basis. Primary coordinator of intelligence concerning Vietnam for DoD (1967-68).

* Chief, Current Intelligence and Reports Branch, MACV Headquarters, Saigon, Vietnam (1964-65). (Also, primary intelligence liaison with members of the national press corps and foreign military attaches.)

* Corps and Army level Operations Officer; taught and formulated doctrine at the Infantry School; taught and administered to 1200 University students in an ROTC assignment; been the aide to a General Officer.

* Public Information Officer, VII Corps, Stuttgart, Germany.

* Platoon and Company Commander, Korea.

* Sergeant and Infantry Squad Leader, World War II.

* Extensive radio broadcast and other media work in both military and civilian capacity.

Military
Honors:

Silver Star
Legion of Merit (3)
Bronze Star (4)
Meritorious Service Medal (2)
Air Medal (5)
Joint Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal
Purple Heart (2)
Cross of Gallantry (Vietnam)
Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star

Community
Activities:

President, Lower Broadneck Federation of Community Associations, Annapolis, Maryland. A Federation of 22 Community Associations representing over 25,000 people (3 Terms). Various community committees.
President, Amberley Community Association and community committees.
President, Annapolis Chorale (2 terms).
Member, Board of Directors, Annapolis Symphony.
Member, Board of Directors, Annapolis Civitans.
Member, Vestry, All Hallow's Episcopal Church.
Member, Maryland Diocesan (Episcopal) Committee on Military Services.
Member, Rotary International

Member, Sons of the American Revolution

Selected as "Man of the Year" by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lower Broadneck, Annapolis, Maryland in recognition of community service.

Organizations: The Association of the United States Army
The Retired Officers' Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Disabled American Veterans
The American Security Council
The National Military Intelligence Association
The Association of Former Intelligence Officers
University of Denver Alumni Association
Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association
Anne Arundel County Republican organizations

Political: Since before 1977, have been active with political groups at National and State levels. Activity included public relations, fund raising and legislative work as well as close contact with Members of Congress and certain State Legislatures. Grassroots worker, Reagan for President, 1976. Republican nominee for Maryland House of Delegates, 1978. Coordinator, Anne Arundel County Reagan for President Committee, 1980.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, University of Denver, 1950.
Graduate Work: Southwest Missouri State College.
Presently working toward Ph.D at the University of Maryland in Communications Arts.
Command and General Staff College, Army.
Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Personal Data: Born - 1926, Pawnee City Nebraska
Married, December 28, 1949 to Joyce Elaine Thompson.
Three grown children:
Son - Mark Charles Thomann
Dau.- Debra Joyce Thomann (Carroll)
Son - Lt. Bradley Gordon Thomann, USN

References: Commissioner Joan D. Aikens,
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

CHARLES E. THOMANN

Page 6

Mr. Joseph Coors
President
The Adolph Coors Company
Golden, Colorado 80401

Lieutenant General (Ret) Daniel O. Graham
2427 Fort Scott Drive
South Arlington, Virginia 22202

Rear Admiral (Ret) Donald P. Harvey
8203 Jeb Stuart Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854

The Honorable Marjorie S. Holt
United States House of Representatives
Suite #2434, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Lieutenant General (Ret) Donn Pepke
18 Bray Wood
Kings Mill-on-the-James
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

The Honorable Loren A. Smith
Chairman
Administrative Conference of the United States
2120 L. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

General (Ret) Richard Stillwell
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
2E812 The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Major General A. N. Stubblebine, III
Arlington Hall Station
4000 Arlington Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22212

Mr. Herbert W. Taylor
8431 Overbrook Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22039

Major General Edmund R. Thompson
Qtrs 16B
Fort Meyer, Virginia 22211

CHARLES E. THOMANN

Page 7

Lieutenant General (Ret) Eugene F. Tighe, Jr.
8331 Carrleigh Parkway
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Lieutenant General James Williams
Director, The Defense Intelligence Agency
Room 3E258 The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
September 16
1982

*Agent
Orange*

MEMORANDUM FOR RED CAVANEY

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL
THRU: DIANA LOZANO
SUBJECT: The Agent Orange Program

Attached is a memo and attachments prepared for me by Mark Loveday setting out the current situation in the Administration regarding Agent Orange.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16
1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON C. BLACKWELL

FROM: MARK LOVEDAY
SUBJECT: AGENT ORANGE PROJECT

Following this morning's press articles concerning the Agent Orange project at the Veterans Administration, I have set out the current situation below.

At present there are some 60 different studies being conducted by various govt. departments covering the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam and its effects on Veterans exposed to the defoliant. The majority of these are based on animal and tissue sampling.

In December 1979 Congress mandated the Veterans Administration to undertake a major study on the subject. The study is divided into three phases- study design, pilot project and the main study- and would utilise between 600-800 and 12,000-18,000 men as a basis during the second and third stages.

The contract for the study design was signed between the Veterans Administration and the University of California at Los Angeles in May 1981 and has since been approved, with certain specific recommendations, by a number of groups including the White House Agent Orange Working Group. The protocol review process is scheduled to be completed within the next month.

The contract for the pilot project phase is due to be signed early next year. This period will continue for 18 months to 2 years before entering the main study project phase. The entire study is scheduled to be completed in 1987.

The dispute that led to the adverse press articles arose between the Veterans Administration and the Army. It would appear that this resulted from a lack of co-ordination.

The Army has been funded by the Defense Department to document the use of herbicides used in Vietnam and to select the groups of military personnel required for the Veterans Administration study. The selection process, known as "cohort selection" was the main point of controversy. The Army paper on cohort selection met with resistance within the Veterans Administration primarily as a result of its reliance on non-scientific data.

Page 2.

On June 10 this opposition was endorsed by the Agent Orange Working Science Panel, a board with both Veterans Administration and Army representatives which handles the scientific aspects of the project. The Science Panel orally asked the Army to suspend work on Cohort Selection at this meeting. On September 8 the attached paper was sent to the Army with scientific guidelines for selection, and the process can now resume.

It must be stressed that the dispute has not affected the time scale of the entire project. Cohort Selection is ancillary to the main planning process.

However, many of the press criticisms are to some degree justified. Some of our Veterans Administration sources consider the project has received a low priority there. The study still lacks qualified scientific staff and suffers particularly from the absence of an epidemiologist. In some instances staff requests have taken over 6 months to process.

Given the facts outlined above it may prove possible to advance the completion date by up to a year should greater support be forthcoming.

Also enclosed are the two press articles from this morning's papers and a background paper on the progress of Agent Orange research prepared by the Veterans Administration for the Vice-President's Office.

September 8, 1982

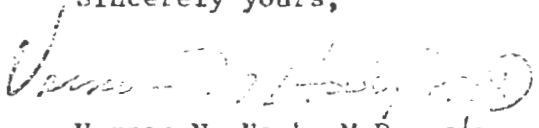
Captain Peter Flynn
Special Assistant for
Professional Activities
Office of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense (Health Affairs)
The Pentagon - Room 3E182
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Peter:

As you requested at the last meeting of the Agent Orange Working Group Science Panel, I am enclosing the draft of a Subcommittee Report for the development of cohorts for the VA Epidemiology Study. I am told by Dr. Keller that there is basic agreement with Dick Christian on the contents of this document. Please note on page 4 that the "low likelihood of exposure" units will not have been within 5 kilometers within 60 days. I believe this addresses your concerns about the 15 kilometer distance.

Even though this is a draft document, I believe it can be used to initiate the selection of the cohorts.

Sincerely yours,


Vernon N. Houk, M.D. gb
Acting Director
Center for Environmental Health

Enclosure

cc:

Ms. Maureen Corcoran
Mr. Maurice LeVois
Dr. Barclay Shepard

September 3, 1982

Status Report for Development of Exposure Cohorts
to be used in VA Epidemiology Study

Of prime importance to the interpretation of any results from the proposed VA Epidemiology Study of Vietnam Veterans' Health Status which might be associated with exposure to Agent Orange or the "Vietnam Experience" will be an understanding of the process used to identify potential study subjects. It is understood that the procedures developed by the Army Agent Orange Task Force have been designed to make this selection both feasible and as efficient as possible, and entail a multistage process to minimize the very large number of records to be reviewed and data to be entered. Since one of the major goals of the pilot phase of this study is to determine whether and how meaningful exposure cohorts can be selected, the successful completion of the pilot phase will entail an evaluation of the cohort selection process as well as other aspects of the proposed study. In order to accomplish this goal, it is necessary that there be maintained a thorough documentation of the disposition of those units identified but not selected and the basis for inclusion or exclusion of all units considered. Furthermore, the procedures used to select study subjects for the pilot phase should mimic those to be used during the full study.

In order to insure a meaningful comparison of health outcomes among subjects "exposed" and "unexposed" to Agent Orange, cohorts should be similar with respect to other aspects of their Vietnam experience. Thus, the units from which individual subjects will be chosen should be "matched" in some ways. Sufficient similarity should be maintained if exposed and unexposed units are selected from the same branch of service and a similar type of unit, and operating in the same Corps

area, preferably in similar terrain. A more clearcut difference in exposure can best be assumed if unexposed units are selected from among those that were operating beyond the reasonable maximum drift for Ranchhand spraying and/or following a sufficient length of time for degradation of sprayed herbicide. Of course, it will be necessary to evaluate other potential exposures (e.g., perimeter spraying, dumps, etc.) for a final classification of both exposed and unexposed units.

Since the availability, completeness and accuracy of the various record systems is unknown at present, this will have to be determined during the pilot phase. This both prevents a more precise procedural guideline at this time and forces the AAOTF staff to make eligibility decisions at several steps in the cohort selection process. The detailed documentation of the basis for decision at each step in the selection of units from which subjects will be chosen will facilitate an evaluation of the cohort selection process for potential selection bias during the pilot phase and will be necessary for determining the feasibility of the proposed epidemiological study.

The following procedures are for selection of Vietnam service subjects with high and low likelihood of exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides while in Vietnam and do not include the selection of a non-Vietnam cohort. The outlined steps have been included in the guidelines supplied by the AAOTF and should provide a list of subjects who can be recruited for a pilot study. The documentation requirements should provide information for an evaluation of the feasibility of identifying adequate cohorts to be used in a large full-scale morbidity study among Vietnam Veterans.

- I. Prepare a map of Vietnam with Ranchhand spray tracks indicated for the period 1967-1968 (this has already been provided).
- II. Define geographically homogeneous areas with both Ranchhand tracks and ground troop activity during the 2-year period.

This step should include areas which might be selected and the rationale for choosing selected areas, including the presence or absence of ground troops as determined from Command Post locations (if available).

- III. a. Obtain appropriate station lists for each area selected.
- b. Determine potentially eligible units which were operating throughout all or most of the 2-year period in the same area.

This step should include documentation of all units identified from station lists determined to be potentially eligible and how this determination was made.

- IV. Determine availability and completeness of all eligible units' records of movement.

- V. a. Select units to be recorded as to daily movements.

This is a crucial step, and documentation of how and why a unit (or units) were selected should include the eligibility of all units which were potentially eligible and might have been selected. The potential for the selection of adequate numbers of units (or subjects) for a full scale study may depend on records' completeness and availability at this step.

- b. Record to machine readable format the daily location coordinates for selected units during the entire 2-year period.
- VI. Develop "enhanced" HERBS Tape by including information from herbicide applications not identified from Ranchhand missions. This will include perimeter sprayings, road clearings, helicopter missions, aborts and other identifiable applications. It should not be necessary to do more than those areas previously identified in Step II above and it will be necessary to include the entire period of study (2 years) for this effort in those areas to be studied.

A necessary part of evaluating the reliability of exposure estimates will be the assessment of errors in and completeness of the available records for herbicide applications. Documentation of the type and number of errors and changes as well as some method for assessing completeness will assist in this effort.

VII. a. Match daily location coordinates of selected units via computer with the "enhanced" Herbs tapes to determine the number and type of "hits" sustained by each eligible unit between January 1, 1967 and December 31, 1968. Each "hit" will be defined and recorded according to all of the following 5 parameters for each unit:

- i) Type of Agent (Orange, White, Blue, Unknown).
- ii) Date.
- iii) Type of application (Ranchhand, Helicopter, Aborts, Ground, incidents)
- iv) Time in days since application (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th through 60th).
- v) Distance from application site in km. (0-.49, .5-.99, 1.0-1.99, 2.0-4.99).

b. List the "hits" for each unit matched.

An index or weighting scheme will have to be developed (not by AAOTF) by this time. While it may not be possible to satisfactorily quantify exposure, at least a weighing rule must be developed in order to identify high and low exposure units. The last category in both time and distance parameters is intended to provide a buffer between exposure and non-exposure. A "hit" in either of these categories will not constitute an additional exposure in otherwise exposed units but will exclude otherwise unexposed units from being considered as unexposed. Thus, "low likelihood of exposure" units will not have been within 5 kms. within 60 days of a Ranchhand application target.

VIII. Select high and low likelihood of exposure units.

This step should be documented, but will depend on selection via the weighting system developed for the previous step. The rationale for selection should be indicated and should include other criteria for the type of units chosen as well

as herbicide exposure. Depending on the results of Step VII, it may be possible to identify "low likelihood of exposure" units with no "hits" of any kind. If this is the case, then a specific weighting system to discriminate between high and low exposed units will not be crucial for selection. "High likelihood of exposure" units can then be selected from among those units with at least several "hits" of various kinds (exclusive of buffer zone hits).

- IX. a. Obtain daily morning reports for the period January 1, 1967 to December 31, 1968, for each unit selected in the previous step.
- b. Track individuals through service with their respective units during this time period and record presence on "hit" days for their unit.

Some criteria for eligibility will have to be developed and documented, including the minimum number and quality of individuals' "hit" days, reliability of records for identification of individuals during this step, and their minimum length of assignment to the unit.

- X. a. Obtain service records for selected individuals and verify service information obtained via morning reports.
- b. Record personal information from service record and include location of medical record for each selected individual.

At this step, it may be desirable to retain the individual's identification as either exposed or unexposed during the period covered in these procedures. This should enable closer matching of the two groups based on individual characteristics obtained from the service record. It will be necessary to identify multiple tours of duty in Vietnam and perhaps other criteria pertaining to military service which will influence his final selection into either of the Vietnam service cohorts. Documentation of these inclusions and exclusions will be necessary in order to assess bias in the final selection.

VA Is Prodded on Agent Orange

From News Services

The Veterans Administration was warned yesterday that unless it starts a pilot project on the health effects of Agent Orange within a month, legislation will be introduced to turn the project over to the federal Centers for Disease Control.

The warning came from Rep. Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) as a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee opened hearings on the VA's progress on the project.

VA officials recently said that it could probably take until 1988 or 1989 to complete a study comparing veterans who might have been exposed to the defoliant while serving in Vietnam to those who were not exposed.

In the meantime, the VA said, veterans cannot be compensated for disabilities attributed to Agent Or-

ange because research has not established that the ailments are service-connected.

Several lawmakers said that Congress may decide, without waiting for the research, to compensate veterans for certain disabilities, even if evidence is lacking that they were caused by Agent Orange.

Rep. Margaret Heckler (R-Mass.) said \$5 million on Agent Orange out of a \$140 million research budget "is an incredibly small amount."

Daschle accused the VA of "bureaucratic and bungling delays." Rep. Bob Edgar (D-Pa.) said the VA had been reluctant to act "until we hit them over the head with a two-by-four."

Dr. Donald L. Custis, chief of the VA's department of medicine and surgery, denied that the agency was purposefully delaying the studies.

— Washington Post

Sept 16 1982

USA Today Sept 16 1982.

VA blamed for Agent Orange delay

of the Center for Disease Control, "I would have proceeded more rapidly if I had the resources available."

Daschle and the experts said the Veterans Administration had failed to hire an expert on epidemiology. Also, the agency was slow in approving a plan developed by a California university and then changed the direction of the plan by proposing to add another feature to the study.

The plan is to study 6,000 veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and 6,000 who were in Vietnam but did not come into contact with the herbicide. In July, the VA proposed adding 6,000 non-Vietnam servicemen to the study, but that decision has not yet been made on that option. As a re-

sult, the earliest a study could be completed is 1987, said Bart Kull, an official from the Department of Health and Human Services who sits on a special White House committee on the Agent Orange issue.

At the hearing, representatives of several veterans groups asked that the study be removed from the Veterans Administration, or that Congress set a specific deadline.

Rep. Margaret M. Heckler, R-Mass., said she plans legislation allowing veterans to collect Agent Orange disability payments before the study is completed.

Examinations already have been given to 91,000 veterans by the VA to identify potential medical problems caused by exposure to the defoliant.

By Tara Connell
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — America's 2.5 million Vietnam veterans won't see the results of a study on the effects of Agent Orange until at least 1987 — 18 years after the last spraying of the deadly herbicide in Southeast Asia.

The Veterans Administration admitted Wednesday during a House hearing that it has yet to begin key inquiries about the effects of the herbicide, used to defoliate suspected Viet Cong areas.

Suspicious about the herbicide first were raised 11 years ago, and Congress ordered the five-year study in 1979.

At the hearing Wednesday, Rep. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D.,

— a Vietnam veteran — said the study has been delayed because of "foot dragging." And Rep. Bob Edgar, D-Pa., said the VA had been reluctant to act at all on the Agent Orange issue "until we hit them over the head with a two-by-four."

The results of the study will determine whether the VA should compensate U.S. veterans for a wide range of health problems — including cancer, liver and kidney disorders, impotence and birth defects — that may be linked to the herbicide.

"I believe there are certain men inside the VA that are deliberately delaying the start of this study," Daschle said.

Dr. Donald L. Custis, the chief medical director of the Department of Medicine and

Surgery in the VA, denied the agency had been intentionally slow in developing the study.

"I categorically deny that the Veterans Administration ever purposefully sought to delay (the study)," Custis said.

The doctor said delays in starting the study were due to the slow process of determining how the study was to be done.

During the hearing, representatives from the Center for Disease Control, the Air Force and the Army testified that they were ready to proceed with their aspects of the study, but had been blocked by the failure of the Veterans Administration to approve a final plan.

"If I were directing the study," said Dr. Vernon Houk

Mark Lunday



**Veterans
Administration**

September 8, 1982

Ms. Lilly Bailey
Office of the Vice President
Old Executive Office Building, Room 285
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Ms. Bailey:

As you requested, please find enclosed questions and answers on Agent Orange.

I have also enclosed a fact sheet and a white paper for your information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maurice E. Levois

MAURICE E. LEVOIS
Director, Agent Orange Research
and Education Office

Enclosures (3)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. What is the government doing about Agent Orange?

Several government agencies are involved in Agent Orange research - the Veterans Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency are all involved in studies related to Agent Orange, to try to determine if exposure to Agent Orange causes health problems. Approximately 60 studies are now underway, or in the planning stage, including: the U.S. Air Force "Ranch Hand" Study; the VA Agent Orange Epidemiology Study; the VA Vietnam Veteran Mortality Study; the VA Vietnam Veteran Identical Twin Study; and the Centers for Disease Control Birth Defects Study.

2. Why won't the VA compensate Vietnam veterans who were exposed to/harmed by Agent Orange?

VA compensation may be awarded for documented service-connected disabilities. The VA is not compensating veterans with claims based solely on Agent Orange because, at the present time, there is no conclusive medical evidence that exposure to Agent Orange causes health problems.

NOTE: This question might be prefaced by a reference to the lawsuit brought against Norfolk & Western Railway by railroad workers who were exposed to dioxin, a contaminant that was also present in Agent Orange. 58 million dollars was awarded to 47 railroad workers, and the railroad plans to appeal. We are not aware of any new scientific evidence introduced in the trial. At this time we do not know how the jury's decision will effect the VA's compensation policy. (Copy of New York Times article attached.)

3. What can veterans do if they feel they have a health problem caused by exposure to Agent Orange?

Any eligible veteran who feels he has a health problem caused by exposure to Agent Orange can obtain a free physical exam at his nearest VA medical center. Also, Public Law 97-72, signed by President Reagan on

Questions And Answers:

November 3, 1981, authorizes the VA to treat Vietnam veterans for any health problem that could possibly have been caused by Agent Orange. If service in Vietnam can be documented, exposure to Agent Orange is presumed.

4. Why hasn't the VA started the Agent Orange study mandated by Congress? Is it true that the Agent Orange study won't be finished for 6 or 7 years?

Results are expected from the Air Force "Ranch Hand" study, the CDC Birth Defects study, the VA Mortality study, and the VA Identical Twin study within one to two years. The VA is progressing with the Agent Orange study mandated by Congress. The process has been complicated by legal challenges, which resulted in procedural delays, the need for independent reviews of the study protocol, and by the difficult task of identifying exposed and unexposed subjects. A pilot study to test and fine-tune the research methods will be completed in 1984. The expected completion date for the full scale study is 1987.

5. Is there any evidence that exposure to Agent Orange causes medical problems?

At present, there is no sound scientific evidence that exposure to Agent Orange causes health problems. One effect sometimes observed after dioxin exposure is chloracne, a skin disorder.

6. Does Agent Orange exposure cause birth defects?

There is no medical evidence to establish that Agent Orange exposure caused birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans. Industrial workers exposed to the ingredients of Agent Orange have not fathered an increased proportion of children with birth defects. A study of male mice treated with Agent Orange revealed no effect on fertility nor on the rate of birth defects. However, since some veterans are concerned about this possibility, the VA is providing one third of the funding for the Centers for Disease Control Birth Defects Study.

Jury Awards \$58 Million to 47 Railroad Workers Exposed to Dioxin

By RICHARD SEVERO

Forty-seven railroad workers who were exposed to the deadly chemical contaminant TCDD, or dioxin, have been awarded a total of nearly \$58 million in damages by an Illinois jury.

The trial, in a suit brought by present and former employees against the Norfolk & Western Railway, began April 3 in Madison County Circuit Court and more than 700 exhibits were entered in evidence.

Albert E. Schoenbeck, attorney for the railroad, indicated that he planned to appeal the decision, but declined to comment further. Paul L. Pratt, attorney for the railroad workers, also declined to comment.

Spokesmen for veterans groups said yesterday they hoped that the award would influence the Federal Government to approve their claims for injuries caused by Agent Orange, a defoliant used in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Agent Orange Contained Dioxin

There is no direct legal connection between the two cases, but Agent Orange also contained dioxin. The dioxin became a critical point in hundreds of claims brought by veterans since the war. Thus far, all Agent Orange claims have either been rejected or placed in abeyance by the Veterans Administration.

The symptoms the railroad workers, as described to the Illinois jury, were similar to those described by veterans exposed to Agent Orange: cancer, liver damage, neurological problems, loss of sex drive, dizziness and problems in breathing.

The railroad case grew out of an incident on Jan. 11, 1979, when a tank car carrying 30,000 gallons of orthochlorophenol crude, a chemical solvent, ruptured near Sturgeon, Mo. The solvent was being shipped to a woodworking firm in Tacoma, Washington.

The orthochlorophenol was manufactured by the Monsanto Company plant at Sauget, Ill. Monsanto, along with Dresser Industries Inc., which made the tank car, and the General American Transportation Company, which made the coupling on the car, were originally named as defendants and recently settled out of court. A local news report said the settlement was for approximately \$8 million. However, the figure has not yet been publicly confirmed nor

is it known how the settlement money was divided.

Each Plaintiff Gets Award

It remained unclear how the \$58 million awarded by the jury has been ordered paid, although 32 out of the 47 plaintiffs were awarded damages of at least \$1 million. The jury awarded something to each of the plaintiffs, with \$1.85 million as the highest individual award.

Among those receiving awards were Wild Smith, 43 years old, of Jacksonville, Mo., \$550,000; Dean Coleman, 31, of Huntsville, Mo., \$600,000; John Little, 28, of Clark, Mo., \$650,000, and Richard Tremblay, 36, of Mexico, Mo., \$650,000. The names of the other plaintiffs were not immediately available.

Lewis M. Milford, a lawyer at the National Veterans Law Center in Washington, D.C., said yesterday that he had not seen the decision, which was made late Wednesday.

"It is the first major award that I know of involving dioxin," Mr. Milford said. "It makes the Government's rejection of the Agent Orange claims even more absurd. The Veterans Administration has commissioned a study that will take decades to complete, while a jury of sensible Americans has shown the compassion that the Government lacks."

Workers Called to Clear Tracks

Testimony in the Illinois case indicated that the Norfolk & Western Railway mustered laborers, yard men, engineers and other railroad workers to assist in clearing the tracks after the tank car ruptured. According to testimony in the trial, the rupture occurred when the yoke connecting the tank car to another car broke, forcing one set of wheels off the track and sending another set of wheels into the belly of the tank.

The 30,000 gallons of orthochlorophenol contained only a tiny amount of dioxin, which occurs as a contaminant in the manufacturing of certain chemi-

cals. The dioxin accounted for only 22 parts per billion of the total amount of material carried in the car. Lawyers for the railroad argued that the total amount of dioxin involved in the spill was less than half a teaspoon.

But in controlled experiments with laboratory animals, scientists have found that dioxin causes cancer in amounts as little as 5 parts per trillion. Matthew Meselson, a professor of biochemistry at Harvard, has called dioxin "the most powerful carcinogen known."

Although the accident occurred less than four years ago, one of the workers exposed to dioxin during the clean-up has developed cancer of the testicles and the skin.

Called Deadlier Than Cyanide

The principal witness for the workers was Dr. Berthram Carnow, a professor at the University of Illinois School of Occupational Medicine in Chicago. He testified that, in his opinion, exposure to dioxin was 200,000 times more deadly than exposure to cyanide and that there was no safe exposure to it at any level. He said that exposure to dioxin could cause birth defects in children yet unborn.

The trial was conducted at the Circuit Court in Edwardsville under terms of the 1910 Federal Employee Liability Act, which allows any railroad worker to bring a personal injury claim to any court existing wherever the railroad's

tracks go. It is not known why Edwardsville in particular was selected.

Nor was it clear what effect, if any, yesterday's decision would have on the Agent Orange cases.

The Veterans Administration's announced study, which has been sharply criticized by veterans, is being conducted by Dr. Gary E. Spivey of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. Spivey's objectivity was questioned last year after veterans groups learned that he had appeared before a committee of the California General Assembly and said that he doubted that many troops were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, that there was little evidence of any adverse health effects from exposure to the chemical, and that "The fear which is generated by the current publicity is very likely to be the most serious consequence of the use of Agent Orange."

X
incorrect

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

AGENT ORANGE FACT SHEET

History - Agent Orange was a herbicide, or defoliant, used in Vietnam to kill unwanted vegetation and to defoliate trees which otherwise would have provided cover from which the enemy could attack American personnel. Agent Orange was a reddish-brown liquid made of two chemicals, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Both chemicals have been used widely throughout the world since the 1940's. One of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a highly toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The herbicide was called "Agent Orange" because it was shipped to Vietnam in orange-striped barrels.

White House Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) - Reports to the White House Cabinet Council on Human Resources. The AOWG is chaired by a representative from DHHS and has the responsibility for monitoring and coordinating Federal research and information activities related to the possible health effects of Agent Orange. The AOWG Science Panel is a subcommittee of scientists responsible for reviewing research and advising the AOWG on technical and scientific matters.

VA Agent Orange Budget - \$12.6 million through 1984.

Government-wide Agent Orange Studies - There are currently over 60 government sponsored Agent Orange related studies: VA - 21; Agriculture - 8; Defense - 3; EPA - 7; and DHHS - 25.

Congressional Interest - Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA)
Sen. Jim Sasser (D-TN)
Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Rep. Don Bailey (D-PA)
Rep. David Emery (R-ME)
Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)
Rep. Jim Mattox (D-TX)
Rep. Clarence Miller (R-OH)

ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

- o Historical Overview
- o Major Studies
- o White House Agent Orange Working Group and Other Review Committees

STATUS REPORT

- o VA Agent Orange Program Management
 - Agent Orange Research and Education Office
 - Department of Medicine and Surgery
 - Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee
- o VA Agent Orange Epidemiology Protocol
 - The review process and the third cohort
- o VA Agent Orange Program and Budget Initiatives

VA AGENT ORANGE POLICY

- o Medical Care
- o Compensation

ATTACHMENTS (NOT ATTACHED)

- o Brief Agent Orange Chronology
- o VA Agent Orange Program and Budget Documents

INTRODUCTION

Historical Overview

Agent Orange was a herbicide, or defoliant, used in Vietnam to kill unwanted vegetation and to defoliate trees which otherwise would have provided cover from which the enemy could attack American personnel. Agent Orange was a reddish-brown liquid made of two chemicals, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Both chemicals have been used widely throughout the world since the 1940s. One of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a highly toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The herbicide was called "Agent Orange" because it was shipped to Vietnam in orange-striped barrels.

Agent Orange became a prominent issue late in 1977 when a non-medical Veterans Administration (VA) employee became convinced that Agent Orange caused a wide variety of disabilities among Vietnam veterans and prompted several veterans to file claims for compensation. Early in 1978 a Chicago television program featured these and other veterans allegedly harmed by exposure to herbicides. A three part television series followed. It was of little scientific merit, but of enormous persuasive impact. That series appears to have been a catalyst which focused national attention on the problems of Vietnam veterans.

The VA responded by consulting with specialists on herbicides, providing instructions to VA hospitals to examine veterans and process claims, setting up a system to capture and correlate information obtained during examination of veterans, and encouraging research proposals among VA's medical researchers. A search of worldwide scientific literature on Agent Orange was completed with VA funding, and the Agency has contracted for the development of a design for an epidemiological study to determine what effects veterans might have suffered from exposure to Agent Orange.

In October 1978 the first Agent Orange Congressional committee hearing was held. Since then there have been 12 more hearings. Congress has mandated medical care and major epidemiological research in an effort to resolve this issue. (Public Law 96-151 and Public Law 97-72.)

In December 1979 the White House announced the establishment of an Interagency Work Group (IWG) to Study the Possible Long-term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants.

In July 1981 the White House Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) was established at the Cabinet Council level. This reconstituted committee was formerly designated as the IWG.

In August 1981 the Administrator of Veterans Affairs formalized an ad hoc Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC).

In November 1981 the Administrator testified before the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs concerning Agent Orange-related activities.

In February 1982 the VA created a new Agent Orange Research and Education Office (AOREO) to coordinate and oversee all VA activities and policy pertaining to Agent Orange.

In June 1982 the Administrator approved the first comprehensive Agency Agent Orange program and budget.

Attachment A summarizes in more detail significant events pertaining to Agent Orange.

Major Agent Orange Studies

There are several important Agent Orange epidemiology research projects planned or underway at this time:

(1) VA Epidemiologic Study of Ground Troops Exposed to Agent Orange

Public Law 96-151 charged the Veterans Administration to "design a protocol for and conduct an epidemiological study..." In May 1981, the VA contracted with the School of Public Health of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), to design the mandated study. The UCLA contractor's first submission was severely criticized by peer reviewers. Although offering information and assistance, the VA has carefully avoided any attempts to influence the design. The recommended study protocol uses an historical cohort design comparing the health status of presumed highly and minimally exposed cohorts. The study cohorts are being defined through the use of Army and Marine Corps records for the period 1967-1969. All members of the final cohorts will be traced as necessary to determine current vital status, and will be examined by a standard protocol, including an extensive questionnaire, physical examination, and laboratory testing. Final results from this study are not to be expected for at least 4 to 5 years.

(2) U.S. Air Force "Ranch Hand" Study

The objective of this study is to determine whether there are or will be long-term health effects in "Ranch Hand" personnel, who handled and sprayed Agent Orange, attributable to occupational exposure to Agent Orange and its contaminant TCDD. The current health of this group is considered especially significant because its members were heavily exposed to the chemicals and they are among the few service members whose exposure to the chemicals is fully documented. Results are expected to be published late in 1983.

(3) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Birth Defects Study

The objective of this study is to determine whether an unusually high proportion of fathers of babies born with birth defects served in Vietnam. This comparison will yield an estimate of the risk of siring a child with a defect for Vietnam veterans relative to the risk for non-veterans. If they are found to be at increased risk, it must be determined whether the increase is associated with Agent Orange exposure or with some other factor(s). Results in late 1983.

It should be noted that there is no medical evidence to establish that exposure to Agent Orange has caused birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans. Industrial workers exposed to the ingredients of Agent Orange have not fathered an increased proportion of children with birth defects. A study of male mice treated with Agent Orange revealed no effect on fertility nor on the rate of birth defects. However, some veterans have expressed concern about this possibility, and therefore the VA is providing part of the funding for this study.

(4) VA Vietnam Veteran Mortality Study

The objective is to analyze and compare death rates and cause-of-death profiles of veterans with service in Vietnam and comparable veterans with no service in Vietnam. Results in 1984.

(5) Australian Government Studies

The objective is to determine, through morbidity, mortality, and birth defects studies, whether or not there are or will be long-term health effects in Australian veterans attributable to exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam. Target dates have not been announced.

Review and Oversight Committees

Due to the complexity of the Agent Orange issue, and of the scientific methods required to provide objective data, several committees oversee government Agent Orange activities:

(1) The White House Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) is chaired by a representative from DHHS and has the responsibility for monitoring and coordinating Federal research efforts related to the possible health effects of Agent Orange and is charged with reporting to the public the results of such research. The AOWG Science Panel is a subcommittee of scientists responsible for reviewing research and advising on technical and scientific matters.

(2) The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) and its Agent Orange Advisory Panel are responsible for reviewing and approving the Congressionally mandated VA epidemiology study protocol. The OTA is a non-member participant in all AOWG and Science Panel meetings. The OTA Advisory Panel is composed of both veterans and scientists.

(3) The VA Advisory Committee on Health-Related Effects of Herbicides provides policy recommendations based on its review of the VA epidemiology protocol and other significant herbicide information. Established as an ad hoc interagency group in April 1978, and later expanded, the committee continues to meet quarterly in open meetings at VA Central Office. This committee is composed of Vietnam veterans and veterans' service organization representatives, as well as scientists.

(4) The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is reviewing the VA epidemiology protocol under contract with the VA. The Academy has convened a committee of prestigious epidemiologists to review and comment on the protocol and all previous reviewers' comments. The VA should receive the NAS review comments in late August.

(5) Special independent scientific oversight committees will be established for the VA research studies to monitor the scientific progress of the studies and ensure objectivity, thus assuring the credibility of VA research.

STATUS REPORT

VA Agent Orange Program Management

Because of the importance of this sensitive issue a new office has been established at the VA, the Agent Orange Research and Education Office (AOREO). Its purpose is to ensure direct Agent Orange program oversight and policy guidance. Every VA office and department involved in matters related to Agent Orange now coordinates its activities through AOREO.

An Agent Orange Research Special Projects Office (SPO), within the Department of Medicine and Surgery (DM&S), will be established to consolidate the management of VA Agent Orange research. VA Agent Orange research activities have previously been conducted by several offices within and outside of DM&S.

The VA Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) provides a forum for soliciting the views of top VA managers, discussing current information and events, and disseminating the Administrator's policy guidance concerning Agent Orange.

VA Agent Orange Epidemiology Protocol

Preliminary drafts of the UCLA protocol have now been reviewed three times by the review committees mentioned above, excluding NAS. Each time, the protocol was revised by UCLA and resubmitted. This completes the UCLA protocol contract, but not the review and revision process.

The AOWG Science Panel has recommended that the epidemiology study include a third cohort, composed of veterans of the same era who never served in Vietnam, in order to look at the broader issue of possible health effects resulting from service in Vietnam. This recommendation was made in part to address a revision, by Congress, of the original law to permit such a broadening of the scope of the study. The third cohort would serve as a comparison group providing a means to evaluate effects of the Vietnam experience.

It is important to note that extensive reviews of the protocol by OTA and the AOWG Science Panel have generated unexpected, and occasionally divergent, views. The AOWG recommendation to include a third cohort in the study design, for example, will require an additional round of revision and review before the pilot study can begin.

NAS will comment on the entire protocol, including the third cohort suggestion. Their review comments will also be incorporated into the final study design.

The VA will consolidate a small VA Central Office scientific staff to integrate and complete the UCLA protocol. While the protocol is being finalized, we will seek to identify potential investigators for the pilot study. We are currently developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) and a contract statement of work, so that we will be able to begin the pilot study as soon as possible after the protocol is finished and approved. We hope to commit FY 1982 funds to the pilot study and begin data collection early in 1983.

VA Agent Orange Program and Budget Initiatives

Attached is the first VA Agent Orange Program budget (Attachment B). This budget provides for a balanced scientific research program supported by the VA and conducted both by government and non-government scientists. It also establishes a small staff of epidemiology specialists within the Department of Medicine and Surgery to provide the necessary scientific guidance for these activities. Funding for important scientific monographs and Agent Orange informational activities, designed to make timely and accurate information available to concerned veterans, is also contained in this package.

The VA is making every effort to begin many of these projects in FY 82. Accordingly, this will require fourth quarter spending on Agent Orange related activities.

The major VA scientific effort in FY 82 will be to award a contract for the conduct of a pilot study for the Agent Orange epidemiology research mandated by P.L. 96-151. Revisions in the protocol for that study may delay the start of the pilot study and will require special provisions in the contract to accommodate such a delay if it occurs. We expect to receive a final report on the results of the pilot study sometime in 1984 and to initiate the full study in 1985.

Other Agent Orange research activities contained in this budget package include a Vietnam veteran mortality study; chloracne review activities; developmental work on a Vietnam veteran identical twin study; other specially solicited VA Medical Center research projects; and collaborative support of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted study of dioxins and furans in adipose tissue of Vietnam veterans.

This budget package also provides for continued support of the CDC Birth Defects Study and the Agent Orange Registry; the placement of a Vietnam service indicator on the Patient Treatment File medical records of Vietnam era veterans; and a follow-up to the Review of Literature on Herbicides, Including Phenoxy Herbicides and Associated Dioxins.

We believe this is a comprehensive and ambitious program. These activities are warranted by the widespread concern among Vietnam veterans about possible adverse health effects caused by exposure to Agent Orange or other environmental health hazards present in Vietnam.

VA AGENT ORANGE POLICY

Medical Care

Public Law 97-72, signed by the President on November 3, 1981, authorizes the VA to "provide certain health care services to any veteran of the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975) who, while serving in Vietnam, may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in a herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes. Health care services may not be provided, under this law, for the care of conditions which are found to have resulted from a cause other than exposure to these substances."

This is a very permissive law which now guarantees medical care for all but a few categories of diseases where the cause is well known and could not be associated with herbicide exposure. If the veteran can document service in Vietnam, exposure to Agent Orange is presumed. Veterans who obtain medical services under this law are given priority second to service-connected medical care recipients and equal to former Prisoners of War.

Compensation

Public Law 97-72 provides for health care only. A determination that a veteran is eligible for care under this law does not constitute a basis for service-connected disability or in any way affect determinations regarding service-connected disability. The VA position on the Agent Orange compensation issue is consistent with prevailing medical and scientific opinion. At the present time there is no sound scientific or medical evidence establishing a cause-and-effect relationship between exposure to Agent Orange and health problems of Vietnam veterans, with the exception of chloracne, a skin disorder.

#

Prepared by: Maurice E. LeVois, Director
Agent Orange Research and Education Office

Attachments

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

file U.F.

DATE: 6/28/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: FYI

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY RICHARD SCHWEIKER RE MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input type="checkbox"/> →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WEIDENBAUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 25, 1982

Claire Dorrell - (202) 245-6343

Statement by
Richard S. Schweiker
Secretary of Health and Human Services

I am pleased to announce today that President Reagan has ordered action to help Meharry Medical College achieve self-sufficiency.

Meharry, founded in 1876 in Nashville, Tennessee, has played a unique role in American medical history.

It is one of only three institutions dedicated to the training of black physicians. Indeed, more than 40 percent of all black physicians in the United States were trained at Meharry.

Historically, many of its students have come from families with disadvantaged economic backgrounds. Its graduates have established a strong record of practicing primary care medical specialties where they are desperately needed: in areas of physician shortages, particularly areas with high minority populations. Meharry's existence as a predominantly black medical school poses a unique set of complex financial challenges today. President Reagan personally directed that his administration help Meharry face those challenges so it could continue its historic service to America. This is consistent with the President's Executive Order of last September, directing additional federal support for historically black colleges and universities.

At the President's direction during the past month, an interdepartmental task force, formed by the Cabinet Council on Human Resources and consisting of representatives from the departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Justice, The Veterans Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget, has been studying possible ways to deal with the public interest at stake in Meharry's situation.

(more)

Earlier this week, task force recommendations were sent to the President.

Today, I am announcing that we will implement the President's decision to assist Meharry in fulfilling its medical training mission by putting into effect the following recommendations:

Access to Veterans Administration Resources

The Veterans Administration will move expeditiously to expand the existing affiliation between Meharry Medical College and the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Veterans Administration Hospital. This will provide, over the next one to three years, an additional 100 to 200 teaching beds in internal medicine and surgery.

This action will both expand the resources in the mid-Tennessee area for providing services to veterans, as well as provide Meharry with an expanded educational base for its medical student and housestaff training programs.

Hubbard Hospital

The Department of Health and Human Services will seek to arrange to pre-pay the outstanding balance of the loan under which Meharry's Hubbard Hospital was financed with an HHS loan guarantee.

Interim Arrangement for Increased Clinical Teaching Resources

Along with the above federal initiatives, Vanderbilt University has indicated its willingness to enter into discussions with Meharry Medical College, with members of the Meharry Task Force as participants, related to providing interim access to Vanderbilt educational programs for a number of Meharry housestaff and medical students.

The effort to assist Meharry Medical College is not solely a federal responsibility. The President strongly urges and expects the appropriate state and local officials, as well as the private sector, to fully cooperate in this undertaking. He is also confident that the medical community will use its resources to participate in and further this common endeavor.

The administration will continue to encourage local interests in the Nashville area, working with Meharry, to provide expanded access to other local clinical teaching resources that may be available, through private and public institutions.

I want to stress that these actions will bring together a cooperative effort involving all three levels of government: local, state and federal.

Ultimately, Meharry's ability to stand on a firm financial footing, independent

(more)

of special federal support will depend on continuing cooperation on the state and local levels. There is certainly reason for optimism, based upon the voluntary spirit along these lines that has been evident thus far.

Meharry Medical College has faced formidable financial challenges. Considering the unique contribution Meharry has, and continues to make to the health care of the Nation, particularly to minority and disadvantaged Americans, the President believes the public benefits of the plan we announce today will be substantial and lasting. His action offers this historic and vital medical training resource a realistic chance to survive and continue its special service to the health needs of the United States.

#

V A
Administrator

N103

UN

NINMO QUIT

URGENT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- ROBERT P. NINMO RESIGNED MONDAY AS HEAD OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, CITING PERSONAL REASONS.

HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, WHO REPLIED THAT HE WAS "SINCERELY SADDENED TO HEAR OF YOUR DECISION TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT."

NINMO, 60, TOLD REAGAN "CONPELLING PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS" CAUSED HIM TO RETURN TO CALIFORNIA, WHERE HE HAD A RANCH AND NUMEROUS OTHER INVESTMENTS.

HE TOLD A REPORTER ECONOMIC FACTORS COMPELLED HIM TO LEAVE.

NINMO WAS CRITICIZED IN AN INVESTIGATION BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE IN JUNE FOR REDECORATING HIS OFFICE AND FOR USING HIS GOVERNMENT CHAUFFEUR FOR PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION. HE REIMBURSED THE GOVERNMENT \$6,641 FOR THE DRIVER'S SERVICES.

NINMO, A CLOSE FRIEND OF EDWIN MEESE III, COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT, WAS SELECTED FOR THE JOB AFTER A LONG WHITE HOUSE SEARCH FAILED TO COME UP WITH A VIETNAM VETERAN FOR THE POSITION.

HIS POLICIES HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED BY LEADERS OF SOME VETERANS GROUPS, BUT HE SAID THEIR OBJECTIONS WERE NOT A FACTOR. HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT IN RECENT WEEKS HE HAD WON THEIR UNDERSTANDING. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED STANDING OVATIONS IN SPEECHES TO CONVENTIONS OF LARGE VETERANS GROUPS.

AP-WX-10-04-82 1524EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 30, 1982

MEMO FOR: SALLY KELLY
FROM: KATHY RATTE' JAFFKE *Kathy*
SUBJECT: Attached Memo from VA

The id's which VA refers to are files which did not originate in Legislative Affairs. The letters are from private citizens associated with veterans groups. I think the confusion arose because the VA has used our replies to various Members of Congress as examples.

File Va.



REFERENCE SLIP

TO (Name or title-Mail routing symbol)	INITIALS-DATE
1. Sally Kelley	
2. Director of Agency Liaison	
3. Presidential Correspondence	
4. The White House	
5.	

REASON FOR REFERENCE

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED | <input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR FILES | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS | <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE |

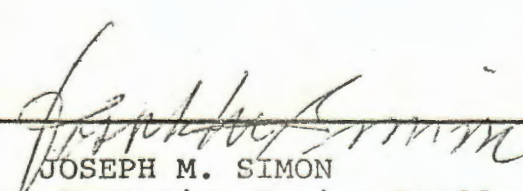
REMARKS

ID: 093717, ID: 095693

These correspondents are demanding the dismissal of Administrator Nimmo.

We do not believe it would be appropriate for them to receive a response from the person that they want fired.

We would recommend a reply over the signature of a White House staff member similar to those that were written to previous correspondents on this matter. (See the attached copies.)

FROM	DATE
 JOSEPH M. SIMON	8/28/82
Director, Executive Review Staff	TEL. EXT.
(00AL)	389- 5151

VA FORM
MAY 1980 3230

EXISTING STOCKS OF VA FORM 3230,
AUG 1976, WILL BE USED.

630436

August 13, 1982

Dear John Paul:

Your letter regarding the Veterans Administrator, Robert Nimmo, has been thoughtfully reviewed. We appreciate your sharing your views with us, and I apologize for the delay in providing this further response.

The President intends to keep Mr. Nimmo in the post of Administrator. They recently met and discussed many of the problems facing the Veterans Administration and the veterans of this country. Mr. Nimmo is committed to provide maximum benefits possible to the veterans in light of the budget limitations facing the entire government.

As you know, the President has also chosen Everett Alvarez, Jr. to serve as Deputy Administrator of the VA. Mr. Alvarez's service for his country provides him with a unique perspective of the sacrifices of veterans and their government's responsibility when their service is over. His nomination is pending on the Hill.

Your specific concerns will be brought to Bob Nimmo's attention and I am certain that he will give serious consideration to them. It is our hope that the Veterans Administration and the Members of Congress will work together for the well-being of the veterans and their families.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: w/copy of inc. to Robert Nimmo - VA for appropriate
action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIG. INC.

August 17, 1982

Dear Gary:

Your June 30 letter regarding Veterans Administrator Robert Nimmo has been thoughtfully reviewed. We appreciate your sharing your constituent's views with us, and I apologize for the delay in providing this response.

The President intends to keep Mr. Nimmo in the post of Administrator. They recently met and discussed many of the problems facing the Veterans Administration and the veterans of this country. Mr. Nimmo is committed to provide maximum benefits possible to the veterans in light of the budget limitations facing the entire government.

As you know, the President has also chosen Everett Alvarez, Jr., to serve as Deputy Administrator of the VA. Mr. Alvarez' service for his country provides him with a unique perspective of the sacrifices of veterans and their government's responsibility when their service is over. His nomination is pending on the Hill.

Your specific concerns will be brought to Bob Nimmo's attention, and I am certain that he will give serious consideration to them. It is our hope that the Veterans Administration and the Members of Congress will work together for the well-being of the veterans and their families.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Gary A. Lee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

KMD:BND:CMP:NAP

cc: w/copy of inc, Robert Nimmo, Veterans Administration, WASHDC
20420 -- for appropriate action

August 13, 1982

Dear Allen:

Your letter regarding the Veterans Administrator, Robert Nimmo, has been thoughtfully reviewed. We appreciate your sharing your views with us, and I apologize for the delay in providing this response.

The President intends to keep Mr. Nimmo in the post of Administrator. They recently met and discussed many of the problems facing the Veterans Administration and the veterans of this country. Mr. Nimmo is committed to provide maximum benefits possible to the veterans in light of the budget limitations facing the entire government.

As you know, the President has also chosen Everett Alvarez, Jr. to serve as Deputy Administrator of the VA. Mr. Alvarez' service for his country provides him with a unique perspective of the sacrifices of veterans and their government's responsibility when their service is over. His nomination is pending on the Hill.

Your specific concerns will be brought to Bob Nimmo's attention and I am certain that he will give serious consideration to them. It is our hope that the Veterans Administration and the Members of Congress will work together for the well-being of the veterans and their families.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Allen E. Ertel
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

KMD/BND/CMP/pt--v

cc: w/copy of inc. to Robert Nimmo - VA for appropriate action.

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIG. INC.

June 30, 1982

Dear Mr. Frank:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of June 23 recommending that Mr. Robert Nimmo be replaced as the head of the Veterans' Administration.

We appreciate your contacting us in this matter. You may be assured that a copy of your correspondence has been shared with the President's advisory staff, and that your comments regarding Mr. Nimmo will be carefully studied.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Barney Frank
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

KMD:CMF:MDB:Ljm(KMD-11)
cc: w/copy of incoming to Craig Fuller - for further Action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING



**Veterans
Administration**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Robert P. Nimmo has appointed a 10-member advisory committee to assist him in directing Veterans Administration rehabilitation programs.

The committee, established by Congress, will hold its first meeting March 16 in Washington. Agenda items will include rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation and employment and training for the nation's veterans.

Committee members, each of whom received a three-year appointment ending December 31, 1984, are:

. R. Jack Powell, Executive Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc., Washington, committee chairman.

. Russell C. Williams, former chief of VA's Blind Rehabilitation Office, Bethesda, Md.

. William Gearhart, former National Service Director, Disabled American Veterans, Northampton, Pa.

. Sol Kaminsky, Secretary, National Amputation Foundation, New York.

. Dr. John L. Melvin, chairman, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, The Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Ex-Officio Members:

. Dr. Cecilia Frantz, director, National Institute for Handicapped Research, Department of Education, Washington.

. George Conn, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education, Washington.

. William C. Plowden Jr., Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment, Department of Labor, Washington.

. Dr. Earl Brown Jr., Acting Deputy Assistant Chief Medical Director for Rehabilitation Services, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration, Washington.

. Dr. Stephen L. Lemons, director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service, Department of Veterans Benefits, Veterans Administration, Washington.

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February 24, 1982