

**Item ID Number** 01823

**Author** Eisen, Soth

**Corporate Author**

**Report/Article Title** Typoscript: Report of Contact, July 17, 1984

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 0000

**Month/Day**

**Color**

**Number of Images** 4

**Description Notes** Alvin L. Young filed this item under "Vietnam Veterans Twin Study." Item includes cover note from Soth Eisen to Dr. Alvin Young and a Report of Contact describing Drs. W. Henderson and Jack Goldberg's call to Soth Eisen regarding the scheduling of the VETS protocol review. Also included in this item is a letter from Soth Eisen to Alvin Young dated July 20, 1984, regarding internal squabbles surrounding the VETS protocol.



### REFERENCE SLIP

TO (Name or title—Mail routing symbol)	INITIALS—DATE
1. DR Alvin Young	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

REASON FOR REFERENCE

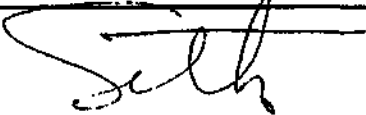
- AS REQUESTED
- COMMENTS
- CONCURRENCE

- FOR YOUR FILES
- INFORMATION
- NECESSARY ACTION

- NOTE AND RETURN
- PER CONVERSATION
- SIGNATURE

REMARKS

For your info

FROM 	DATE
	TEL. EXT.

## REPORT OF CONTACT

CONTACTED BY: Drs. W. Henderson and Jack Goldberg, Hines CSPCC  
DATE OF CONTACT: July 17, 1984

Drs. Henderson and Goldberg informed me that Dr. Greene, Medical Research Service, VACO, had called to say that the VETS review has been scheduled for August 30, 1984 in Washington, D. C.

Members of the review committee are:

Theodore Colton, Department of Public Health, Boston University  
Walter Nance, Department of Human Genetics, Medical College of Virginia  
Lewis Kuller, Department of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh  
Pat Buffler, School of Public Health, University of Texas  
John Wilson, Department of Psychology, Cleveland State University  
Andre Ognibene, Director, San Antonio State Chest Hospital  
Day, Director, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center  
Parloff, National Institutes of Mental Health (retired)  
Melby, Division of Endocrinology, Boston University  
Miller, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, National Cancer Institute

The August 30 meeting has been designed to provide the reviewers with 3 hours of detailed background information on the current status of research in the area of Vietnam experience and Herbicide Orange Health effects, followed by 9 hours of group discussion. The entire 12 hour session will be closed with the exception of the two hour afternoon discussion with the VETS co-PI's.

8:00 - 8:30 - Introduction (Greene)  
8:30 - 9:15 - Review of Ranch Hand study (Wolfe, co-principal investigator)  
9:15 - 10:00 - Review of CDC Birth Defects & Epidemiology studies (Erickson, co-principal investigator)  
10:00 - 10:30 - Review of VETS Registry (Robinette, NAS)  
10:30 - 10:45 - Review of National Needs Assessment study (Greene)  
10:45 - 11:00 - Break  
11:00 - 3:00 - Working lunch and review of VETS protocol  
3:00 - 5:00 - Discussion of VETS protocol with VETS co-PI's  
5:00 - 8:00 - Discussion of VETS protocol by reviewers, writing of critique and recommendations.

It is my understanding that at the end of the day, the action of the review group on the VETS will be announced.

Seth Eisen  
cc: Acting ACOS/RD  
COS  
Medical Center Director

July 20, 1984

Dear Al,

A few days ago, Bill, John, and I had dinner with Barkley Shepard and Don Rosenbloom in St. Louis. They were visiting the St. Louis VA Media Production Service to continue to develop the script for an update videotape on Agent Orange.

The following are some points of interest.

Barkley is more suspicious than ever of Greene's intentions in relation to the VETS. He said that Greene has been acting "paranoid" about the VETS and seems to be trying to construct an environment so that it will be killed. At every opportunity, Greene apparently talks disparagingly about the project. Barkley said that he has been unsuccessful in getting Greene to be specific about the reasons for his critical attitude. Shepard feels that Greene's criticism seems so unreasonably strong that he might be discrediting himself in the eyes of higher level VACO staff.

Shepard said that Greene told Robinette of NAS that he should not talk with any of the staff of the Agent Orange Projects Office. Shepard thought this was totally inappropriate.

The extent of Shepard's suspicions about the VETS is indicated by his comments that Greene is reportedly shifting a large sum of money from the VETS FY '84 budget to another category. Shepard wondered whether this was an effort to hasten the VETS demise.

Shepard (to my surprise) suggested that we <sup>at the Aug 30 VETS review</sup> do everything possible to counterbalance Greene's biased control of the review process. Unfortunately, our ability to do this in an acceptably subtle manner is relatively limited. I hope that Wolfe, during his presentation of the Ranch Hand data, will make some supportive comments about the VETS. I have only talked with Erickson briefly a couple of times. I have no idea what he might say to the review group. Wilson has been approached indirectly through a third party, and I believe he strongly supports our project. Shepard said that he will be meeting with Miller in mid-August and will talk with him about the VETS at that time. I'm not sure what else can be done.

Shepard wondered who might be permitted to attend the review group session. Shepard said that "I won't be invited, but I sure will try to be there." We discussed whether Hagans will be present. Shepard noted that Hagans has apparently been excluded from all administrative responsibilities and decisions in relation to the VETS. Shepard felt that Hagans has been managed in a rather insulting fashion. Noone knows whether Hagans will be invited.

Shepard said that a congresswoman recently asked the VA to develop a research project which will examine the effect of the Vietnam experience (or perhaps it was exposure to Agent Orange) on

the health of female Vietnam veterans. Apparently this request was eventually referred to Greene's office who referred it to CDC. CDC has now submitted an outline of a protocol which proposes to examine all the estimated 7,000 female Vietnam experienced veterans and a control cohort. The cost is about \$35 million! The VETS is a real bargain.

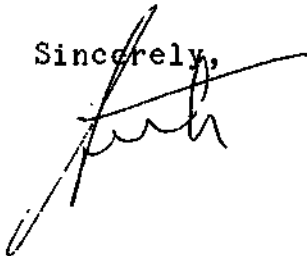
Of interest Shepard related a story about Donati and Nora Kinzer. Apparently during the farewell party for Custis, Shepard noted Kinzer's presence to Donati. Donati then introduced himself to Kinzer and the two talked for several minutes. When Donati returned, he told Shepard that Kinzer was about the dumbest person he had met in a long time. Several days later, Kinzer passed Shepard in the VACO halls and mentioned that Donati had been very insulting to her. The details of the interchange between Donati and Kinzer are known only to them.

Some other information:

Jack Goldberg (Hines VA, CSPCC) had been attempting to find an acceptable meeting date for the review group for the past four weeks. Difficulties repeatedly developed because Greene's office didn't approve of the proposed dates. Two alternatives were finally presented: August 30, 31 or two days in November. We stated that we much preferred the earlier date. Greene's office continued to delay in making a decision. Rather precipitously, early Monday morning, July 9, Greene phoned Goldberg to state that the meeting would be held on August 30 and that all arrangements (even travel for the co-PI's) would be made by his office. (Contacting participants and handling travel arrangements is traditionally the responsibility of the Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center.) Jack suggested that Greene might have been delaying in hopes that the review group would be forced to convene in November, increasingly the likelihood that he could develop more support for rejecting the project. Henderson commented that Greene reportedly was told by "someone in the CMD's or Administrator's office" that further delays are unacceptable and that the meeting will be held in August.

I hope you enjoyed your time in Colorado as much as Marion and I enjoyed ours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hines', written over a horizontal line.