

Item ID Number 04943 ☐ **Not Scanned**

Author

Corporate Author Veterans Administration, Office of Public and Consumer

Report/Article Title VA in the News: Agent Orange News Clips, May 6 - June 29, 1982

Journal/Book Title

Year 0000

Month/Day

Color ☐

Number of Images 0

Description Notes Photocopies of newspaper clippings. Also included are a VA bumper sticker, and a VA brochure entitled "Agent Orange: Meeting Veterans' Concerns" from November 1985.

November 1985

AGENT ORANGE

Meeting Veterans' Concerns

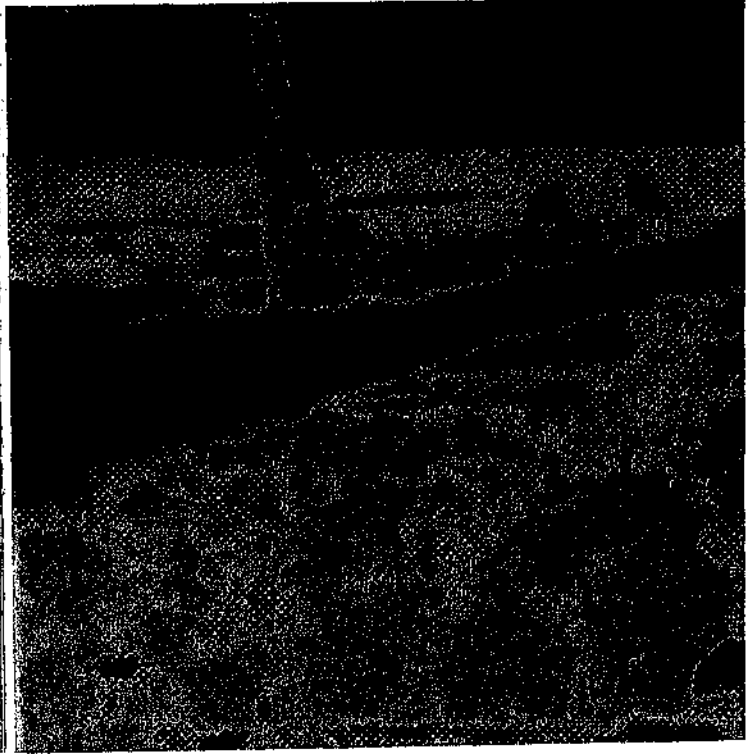
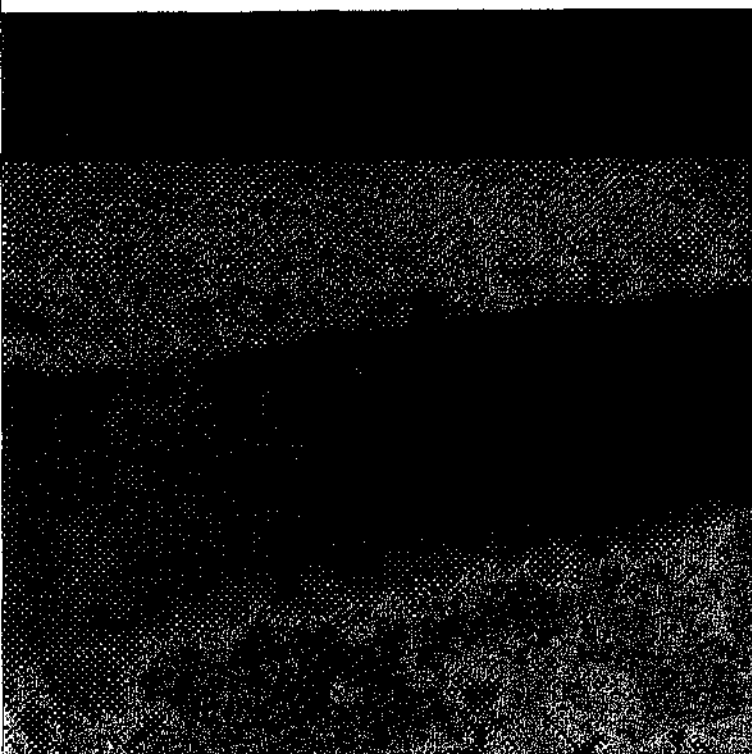
SOUTH VIETNAM



**A COMMITMENT
TO SERVING
VIETNAM VETERANS
CONCERNED ABOUT
AGENT ORANGE**

AGENT ORANGE

The Veterans Administration (VA) has been directly involved in the conduct and monitoring of a wide variety of research and other activities related to the many and complex pieces of the Agent Orange puzzle. A number of these major efforts are discussed on the following pages. Additional information is available from the Agent Orange Projects Office (10X2), Veterans Administration Central Office, Washington, DC, and the environmental physician at the nearest VA Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic.



MEETING VETERANS' CONCERNS

RANCH HAND BASES

RESEARCH

Vietnam Veterans Mortality Study

This effort is designed to assess mortality patterns among U.S. Army and Marine Corps veterans who served during the Vietnam era. A sample of 75,000 veteran deaths has been randomly selected from VA files. For each of these veterans, military service and cause of death information is being collected and coded. The two types of data will be merged and analyzed to compare the mortality experience of veterans who served in Vietnam with veterans who served elsewhere during the Vietnam era. An important element of this study will examine and compare the prevalence of suicide in the two groups.

Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study

The study is a joint project of the VA and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) to provide information concerning the possible relationship between Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam and the development of a relatively rare form of cancer known as soft tissue sarcoma (STS). The project is based on several hundred cases of STS seen between 1975 and 1980 and entered into the AFIP's STS registry. The records of each case will be reviewed to determine if the individual served in the military and if so, whether in Vietnam or not. For those who served in Vietnam, an assessment will be made as to the likelihood of exposure to Agent Orange or other environmental factors which may have effected the risk of developing soft tissue sarcoma.

Soft Tissue Sarcoma Review

This is a parallel effort to the VA/AFIP Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study. This health survey obtains information from the VA's Patient Treatment File, a large medical data base of all veterans admitted to VA medical centers. Any Vietnam era veteran treated in a VA hospital with a diagnosis of soft tissue sarcoma from 1969 to 1982 will be included in the survey. The data will be analyzed in order to compare the anatomical site, histopathology and frequency of various types of soft tissue sarcoma among Vietnam and non-Vietnam veterans.

Dioxins and Furans in Human Adipose Tissue

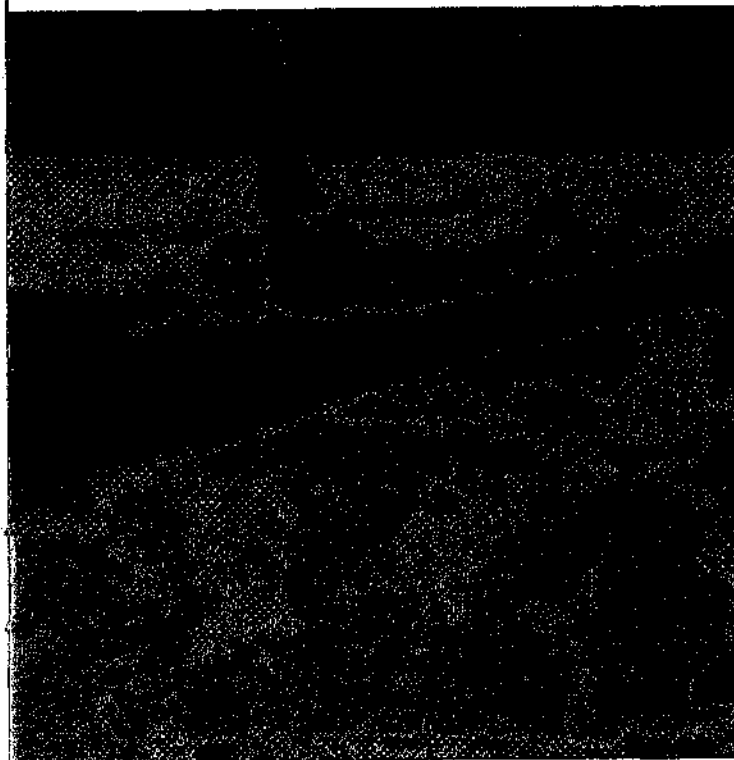
This study is a cooperative project between the VA and the Environmental Protection Agency to determine if military service and duty in Vietnam are correlated with levels of TCDD in human adipose tissue. This retrospective study will consist of a chemical analysis for selected chlorinated dioxins and furans and will provide data on the background levels of TCDD in the U.S. male population and compare these levels among veterans who served in Vietnam, veterans who served elsewhere and non-veterans.

Investigator Initiated Research

A number of Agent Orange-related research projects are underway at various VA medical centers across the nation. Most of these efforts are animal studies examining the biological and psychological effects of TCDD. The selected projects include studies of the impact of Agent Orange components on liver cell function, skin cell chemistry relating to chloracne, and problems relating to the nervous system.

Epidemiological Study

Under an interagency agreement with the VA, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia is conducting a large-scale study to see if military service in Vietnam and exposure to Agent Orange have caused an increased risk of adverse health effects. This project has three components: the Vietnam Experience Study, the Agent Orange study, and a study of selected cancers. The Vietnam Experience Study will involve two groups of Army enlisted veterans. One group consists of 6,000 individuals who served in Vietnam and the second, or control group, is composed of 6,000 veterans who served elsewhere during the same period of time. The Agent Orange study will look at a total of 18,000 Army



AGENT ORANGE

veterans in three groups of 6,000 each. The groups will differ with respect to levels of Agent Orange exposure and combat experience. The selected cancer study is designed to determine the risk of developing specific types of cancer among Vietnam veterans. This study will utilize resources of several state and metropolitan tumor registries.

Birth Defects Study

With partial funding from the VA, the CDC addressed the question: Are Vietnam veterans at an increased risk of fathering children with birth defects? Investigators concluded that Vietnam veterans, in general, did not have an increased risk of fathering babies with defects. Vietnam veterans who had greater estimated opportunities for Agent Orange exposure did not seem to have a greater risk of fathering babies when all types of defects were combined. However, for a few specific types of defects the estimated risks were slightly higher for subgroups of Vietnam veterans that may have had a greater likelihood of exposure to Agent Orange. The investigators concluded that these seemingly higher risks could be chance events or possibly the result of some unidentified factor. They do not believe that the evidence suggests an increased risk due to Agent Orange exposure.

Air Force Health Study (Ranch Hand II)

This is a long-term investigation of the possible adverse health effects of herbicide exposure on Air Force personnel attached to Operation Ranch Hand, the military command responsible for the great majority of herbicide spraying missions in Vietnam. These individuals are believed to be among the most heavily exposed of all

service personnel in Vietnam. This project uses a matched cohort design incorporating mortality, morbidity and prospective follow-up studies. Reports were issued in June 1983, February 1984, and December 1984. Results have revealed no indication at the present time that Ranch Hand personnel have experienced increased mortality rates or any unusual causes or patterns of death. Analysis of the morbidity data does not suggest a cause and effect relationship between herbicide exposure and adverse health among the Ranch Hand personnel.

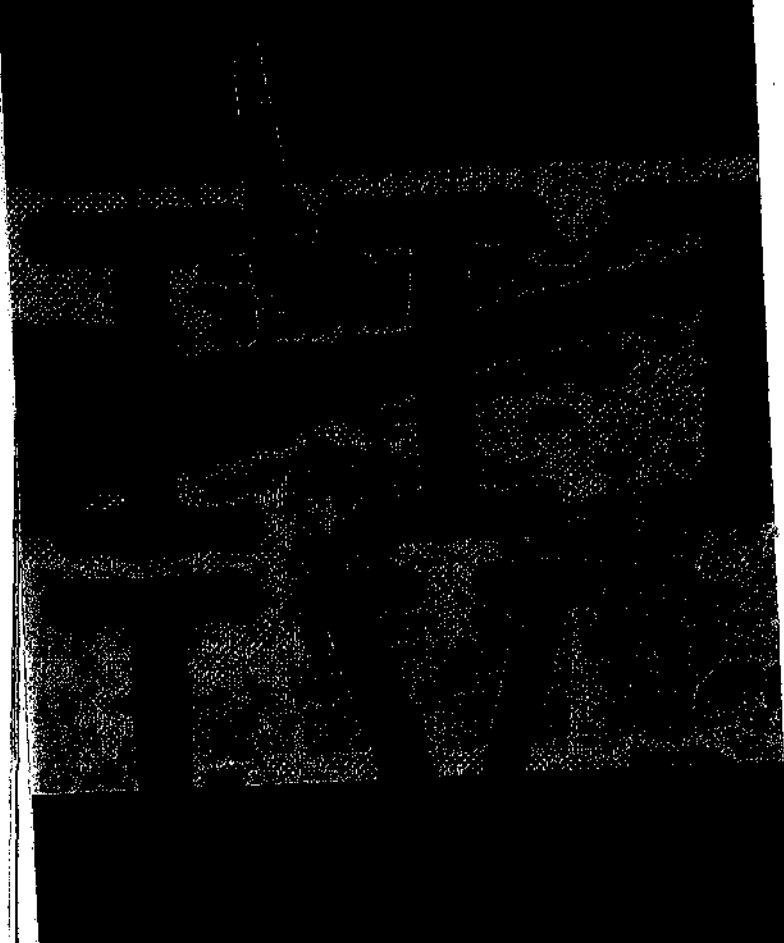
Australian Studies

The VA is closely monitoring research activities in Australia. The Australian government has released the results of two important studies conducted by Australian scientists to address the birth defects issue and assess mortality patterns among Australian veterans of the Vietnam conflict. Investigators concluded that Australian Vietnam veterans showed no increased risk of fathering a malformed child. Using accepted statistical standards, the mortality of Vietnam veterans from all causes was not found to be significantly higher than the mortality of veterans who did not serve in Vietnam as well as non-veterans.

States Studies

A number of State governments (e.g., Texas, Massachusetts, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey) have completed or initiated efforts to investigate the health impact of Vietnam service among their veteran populations. The VA is following these efforts and has provided assistance to many of these programs.

I CORPS
II CORPS
III CORPS
IV CORPS



HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND OTHER BENEFITS

Agent Orange Registry Examinations

The Agent Orange Registry examination program is an important service offered by the VA to every Vietnam veteran concerned about the health effects of herbicide exposure. Participating veterans are asked about their contact with herbicides and receive a comprehensive medical examination including a series of base-line laboratory tests. Where medically indicated, consultations with specialists and follow-up services are provided. Veterans are advised of the results in person and by letter. Information from the examination is documented in each veterans' permanent medical record and included in the computerized registry file. More than 200,000 Vietnam veterans have received the registry examination.

Treatment

Under the provision of Public Law 97-72, special priority health care services are provided to eligible Vietnam veterans for any condition possibly related to exposure to her-

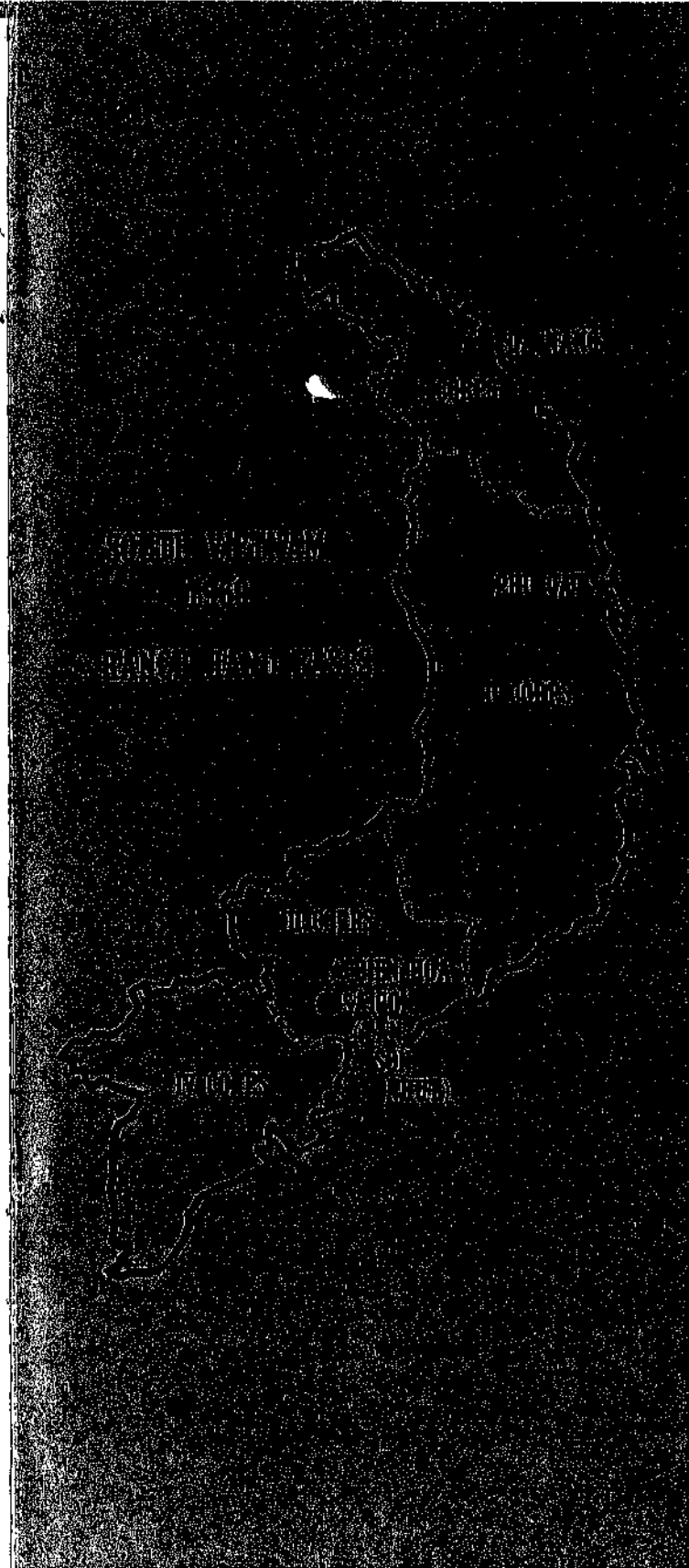
bicides used in Vietnam. Eligibility information is available at all VA medical centers.

Disability Compensation

Vietnam veterans with injuries or illnesses incurred in or aggravated by military service may be entitled to compensation benefits. Veterans do not have to prove that Agent Orange caused their medical problems to be eligible for compensation. Additional information regarding disability compensation can be obtained at any VA facility.

Interim Benefits

Vietnam veterans may be eligible for temporary benefits if they are suffering from chloracne or porphyria cutanea tarda, occurring within a specified period of time following departure from Southeast Asia. These benefits were authorized by Public Law 98-542.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Literature Review

The VA has an on-going program for the review and analysis of all scientific publications concerning the herbicides used during the Vietnam conflict, with special emphasis on the biological and possible adverse health effects of exposure. The first two volumes of this scientific report were published in 1981 and additional volumes and lay language summaries are published at regular intervals. For information on how to obtain these documents, contact the Agent Orange Projects Office, Veterans Administration Central Office, Washington, D.C.

Agent Orange Review

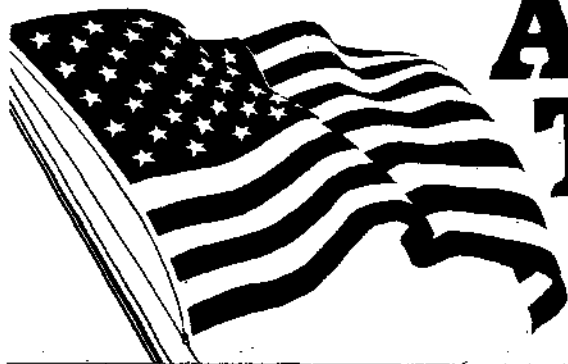
These pamphlets describing VA Agent Orange-related activities, significant developments, research, congressional action, and similar matters are periodically published by the VA and are sent to veterans who have participated in the Agent Orange Registry, veterans service organizations, and other interested individuals. Anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list to receive the "Review," should send name, complete address and social security number (if a veteran) to the VA Data Processing Center (200/392), 1615 E. Woodward Street, Austin, Texas 78772, ATTN: Agent Orange Clerk.

Monograph Series

The VA is engaged in publishing a series of scientific monographs on birth defects and genetic counseling; Agent Blue, a cacodylic acid herbicide; human exposure to phenoxy herbicides; and chloracne.

Videotapes

The award-winning videotape "Agent Orange: A Search for Answers" is available for viewing by VA employees, veterans groups and the general public. In addition, Agent Orange-related films for training of VA staff are produced from time to time.



**America is #1
Thanks to our
Veterans**





**Veterans
Administration**

Date: **MAY 6 - JUNE 29, 1982**

**Office of Public
and Consumer Affairs**

Washington DC 20420

VA in the News

Agent Orange News Clips

SOURCE

BEE

CITY AND STATE

SACRAMENTO, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 6, 1982

Possible Link Of Agent Orange, Rare

BOSTON (UPI) — Three Vietnam veterans exposed to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange developed a rare form of lung cancer, but it's not known if the chemical caused the disease, Emory University researchers reported Wednesday. The veterans are from the Atlanta area.

One of the veterans died of the cancer, known as soft-tissue sarcoma. The tumors grew in the veterans' lungs, and in the fatal case, the brain also was affected, the doctors wrote in a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine.

A spokesman for the Veterans Administration Hospital of Atlanta, where the doctors work, said three cases is not enough to establish any link between the chemical and cancer.

The report will be part of a larger study coordinated by UCLA, in which the national VA is participating.

"To jump to conclusions about cause and effect would be irresponsible, at the very least, I would say," said Charles Grim, the hospital's associate director. The doctors, P. Ravi Sarma and Julian Jacobs, were unavailable for comment.

American Cancer Society officials estimate soft-tissue sarcomas affect two people per 100,000 population each year. A total of 4,500 new cases and 1,600 deaths are expected this year.

Agent Orange is believed to be linked with various forms of cancer, paralysis, nerve damage, stomach, kidney and liver problems, loss of libido and other ailments. It also has been shown to cause chloracne, a severe skin irritation resembling ordinary acne which is easily treated.

The effects allegedly are caused by dioxin, a byproduct in the manufacture of Agent Orange. Dioxin cannot be eliminated from the herbicide.

The federal General Accounting Office reported at least 21,000 Marines and "numerous" Army personnel were within a third of a mile of the Vietnam countryside sprayed with Agent Orange.

Estimates of the number of GIs exposed to the chemical range from 250,000 to 350,000.

Edward Moen, a spokesman for the VA in Washington, said the UCLA study would involve thousands of veterans and would take four to five years.

"It is intended to provide the very best evidence possible of any adverse health effects

Cancer

which might be due to exposure to Agent Orange," he said.

The Air Force is studying about 1,000 members of air crews who handled and sprayed Agent Orange in Vietnam. Participants will be followed for 20 years.

In addition, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is studying 10,000 births to determine if exposure to chemicals such as Agent Orange is related to birth defects.

Moen said the VA allows veterans who believe they have been exposed to dioxins to undergo testing and examinations. Their cases are filed in a central data bank for future reference.

SOURCE

REGISTER

CITY AND STATE

NAPA, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 6, 1982

A Rare Form

Agent Orange Suspected In Cancer

BOSTON (UPI) — Doctors are trying to determine if the toxic herbicide Agent Orange was responsible for three cases of a rare lung cancer in three Vietnam veterans.

Emory University researchers, writing in the recent edition of the New England Journal of Medicine, said one of the men died of the cancer, known as soft-tissue sarcoma. The tumors grew in the veterans' lungs and in the fatal case, the brain also was affected.

A spokesman for the Veterans Administration Hospital of Atlanta, where the doctors work, said three cases is not enough to establish a link between the chemical and cancer.

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In the Emory cases, two patients, one a member of an Air Force helicopter rescue team and the other a Marine, were stationed in areas of Vietnam where defoliants were used in 1966 and 1967.

The Air Force man underwent lung surgery in 1979 for a tumor and died in 1981.

The Marine, who claimed to be twice "completely soaked with Agent Orange," had his left lung removed because of a tumor. The cancer spread in 1981 and the researchers said currently he is receiving chemotherapy.

The third patient, an Army man who served in 1971 in an area where defoliants were used, was discovered to have a lung tumor in 1981.

May 6, 1982

veterans get rare cancer

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MAY 6 1982

New
England
Chronicle

Agent Orange, Cancer Tie Possible

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MANCHESTER UNION LEADER
MANCHESTER, NH
D. 64.477

MAY 6 1982

New
England
Newspaper

Science Panel To Research Agent Orange Health Effects

A proposed design for a research study on possible health effects of exposure to Agent Orange by Vietnam veterans has been approved by a science panel of the White House Agent Orange Working Group.

HHS Secretary Richard S. Schweiker, who chairs the Cabinet Council on Human Resources to which the working group reports, said:

"With the incorporation of some recommended refinements, we feel the Veterans Administration now can proceed with a pilot study as the forerunner for a more comprehensive study of veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam."

The pilot study will test the mechanisms to be used in the full study and work out any design problems. The main survey will involve some 18,000 Vietnam veterans.

Schweiker said this study is only one of several efforts being made to find answers to this problem.

Other research efforts coordinated by the Agent Orange Workshop Group include:

Ranch Hand Study — This is a special survey of some 1,200 Air Force personnel who were involved in Agent Orange spraying missions during the Vietnam war. Physical examination and questioning is being done with these flight crew members on a voluntary basis.

Birth Defects Study — HHS Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta expects to complete a study related to birth defects by September of next year. From a registry of 7,500 children with birth defects, CDC will isolate those born to Vietnam veterans to determine if these veterans have an increased risk of fathering children with birth defects. If so, CDC will attempt to determine if the increase is associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

NIOSH Toxic Study — The Department's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is looking into work place exposure of persons exposed to Dioxin, a highly toxic contaminant formed during the manufacture of the defoliant 2, 4, 5-T, a component of Agent Orange.

EXAMINER

CITY AND STATE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 6, 1982

Agent Orange may be linked to rare lung cancer

BOSTON (AP) — Doctors are trying to determine if the toxic herbicide Agent Orange was responsible for three cases of a rare lung cancer in three Vietnam veterans.

Harvard University researchers, writing in a recent edition of the New England Journal of Medicine, said one of the men died of the cancer, known as soft-tissue sarcoma. The tumors grew in the veterans' lungs and and in the fatal case, the brain also was affected.

A spokesman for the Veterans Administration Hospital of Atlanta, where the doctors work, said three cases are not enough to establish a link between the chemical and cancer.

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The Air Force is studying approximately 1,000 members of air crews who handled and sprayed Agent Orange in Vietnam. The participants will be followed for 20 years.

SOURCE

Bedford County Press

CITY AND STATE

Everett, Pa.

DATE OF PUBL.

May 7, 1982

Agent Orange victims to receive aid

HARRISBURG - Gov. Thornburgh recently signed a bill creating the Vietnam Herbicide Commission, a commission created to aid Pennsylvania war veterans suffering from health problems that may be

related to herbicides used in Vietnam.

Chaired by the state health secretary, the commission will issue information about the health effects caused by Agent Orange and other chemical defoliants, as well as help veterans find state and federal assistance.

In Pennsylvania alone, an estimated 200,000 Vietnam veterans are believed to have health problems related to exposure to poisonous herbicides.

MAY 7 1982

New
England
Newspaper

GI's illnesses: color them Agent Orange

By JANE EAGLESON
Daily News Staff Writer

At 41, a Newport Navy commander was forced to retire because of his affliction with Multiple Sclerosis. Two years later, Tom Brugman is now thinking his disease could be related to his Vietnam experience and his exposure to Agent Orange.

Richard Ruggeri of Middletown also thinks he was affected by Agent Orange, but in a different way. Ruggeri's 5-year-old daughter is severely mentally retarded and he fears her condition is a delayed effect of his contact with the chemical.

Agent Orange, a herbicide used in Vietnam, is now posing a threat of delayed health effects to those Vietnam veterans who were exposed to it. It is unknown how many of the 17,000 Vietnam vets in Rhode Island are possible victims.

"I don't have any bitterness," Brugman said. "I know Agent Orange saved lives. I just wish they could have used something less toxic," he said.

Agent Orange was a herbicide used in Vietnam to defoliate trees which would have provided cover for the enemy. It was used between 1962 and 1971.

Agent Orange exposure is a complicated issue. Veterans have reported a variety of symptoms, but a definite connection to the herbicide has not been established. The issue hastily surfaced in recent years.

Three cases of rare lung cancer in Vietnam veterans are being added to evidence that is being collected in an effort to determine if Agent Orange causes diseases. The information was in a letter that appeared Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine. This evidence is insufficient to establish a link between the chemical and cancer.

The University of California at Los Angeles is conducting a study of cases allegedly linked to Agent Orange. The study will involve thousands of veterans and will take four years. Estimates of GI's exposed to the chemical range from 250,000 to 350,000.

Some of the symptoms reported include loss of sex drive, chloracne, liver damage, changes in skin color and sensitivity to light, numbness or tingling in the extremities, psychological changes, sore joints, cancer and birth defects in the children of exposed

veterans.

It is difficult for leaders of local veterans' groups to determine how many local former GI's may have been exposed to the herbicide, Max Loudenslager of the Disabled American Veterans, Kerins Hogan Chapter of Newport County, said. Vietnam veterans usually do not join veterans' organizations because they try to forget the war and avoid any association with it.

Local veterans' groups have tried to educate vets to the possible dangers of exposure to Agent Orange. Brugman received a letter from the Newport DAV chapter about a meeting to discuss Agent Orange. Brugman attended the meeting, but he found he had more questions than there were answers.

Brugman found that of the 10.6 million gallons of Agent Orange dumped during one year he was in Vietnam — a third of it was sprayed in the area he served. He was potentially exposed to a very concentrated level of the chemical.

While in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967, Brugman served in the Rung Sat special zone. It was a free fire zone in South Vietnam located on the Saigon River. He was never informed of the defoliation spraying, but he could see it. He remembers one particular night when the stench of the spray pervaded the American camp.

Elephant grass encircled the area where the American soldiers were camped. "The grass seemed to evaporate," he said. The area had been sprayed the night before, he said.

Brugman's condition was diagnosed as MS in November, 1974. But he is convinced that it is related to Agent Orange. The Veterans Administration doesn't have enough information on Agent Orange to determine if his

disease could be related.

"I just want to know what caused my health to go to hell," Brugman said. "I'm convinced the VA is doing its best to get a handle on the situation."

"The government or chemical companies are not going to admit messing up," Ruggeri said. "It's a dangerous chemical — I don't think they'll ever admit it."

The VA has asked that veterans who were possibly exposed to the herbicide to report to a VA hospital for screening. The VA is attempting to gather the histories of those vets who were exposed, but medically not much can be done right now.

For this reason, Ruggeri has not gone for a medical screening. "They're not going to be able to do anything for my daughter," he said. Ruggeri said he is frustrated by this situation. "There is not anything anyone can do. Nothing at all," he said.

Two bills have been introduced into the Rhode Island General Assembly that would give Vietnam vets three years to file a claim in court against the Agent Orange chemical manufacturers.

One bill has already passed in the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The other is still in the house.

Other states have set up Agent Orange commissions to study the problem. "I would like to see a commission established, but nothing has been done," Wayne Smith, an outreach counselor at the Vietnam Veterans Center in Pawtucket said. The Vietnam vet works in his spare time trying to push Agent Orange legislation through the General Assembly.

"There is not much concern about it," Smith said. "If the vets don't speak up about it, no one else does."



Agent Orange on suspect list of rare cancer

Can News Service

ATLANTA — Emory University Medical School doctors say they have diagnosed a rare type of cancer in three Vietnam War veterans, but more studies are needed before the possibility of a connection between the disease and the herbicide Agent Orange can be established.

"If there is a risk of these (tumors) in veterans who served in Vietnam, follow-up studies should be able to define it," Drs. P. Ravi Sarma and Julian Jacobs wrote in a letter published in the most recent edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

THE DOCTORS, who are on the staff of the Atlanta Veterans Administration Hospital, diagnosed a general type of cancer called soft-tissue sarcoma in the three veterans. All three men said that they probably were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

One of the patients was a member of a helicopter-rescue unit in Vietnam in areas where defoliants were used. The patient died in July 1981 from cancer at age 48.

Another patient, 34, was a Marine in Vietnam who said he was twice "completely soaked with Agent Orange." He is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. The third patient, 32, has undergone surgery for treatment of cancer.

"If there is an increased risk of malignant disease in (Vietnam) veterans," Sarma and Jacobs wrote, "then a more critical question that has to be addressed is: Are the defoliants (Agent Orange) causative, or is some other unidentified environmental factor responsible, acting alone or in concert with the defoliants?"

The doctors declined to talk to the press about their findings.

SOURCE

TIMES STAR

CITY AND STATE

ALAMEDA, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 8, 1982

Rare cancer in 3 Viet vets found

ATLANTA **Emory** University Medical School doctors said Thursday that they have diagnosed a rare type of cancer in three Vietnam War veterans, but more studies are needed before the possibility of a connection between the disease and the herbicide Agent Orange can be established.

"If there is a risk of these (tumors) in veterans who served in Vietnam, follow-up studies should be able to define it," Drs. P. Ravi Sarma and Julian Jacobs wrote in a letter published in Thursday's edition of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The doctors, who are on the staff of the Atlanta Veterans Administration Hospital, diagnosed a general type of cancer called soft-tissue sarcoma in the three veterans. All three men said that they probably were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

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The doctors declined to talk to the press about their findings.

However, Charles Grim, associate director of the Atlanta VA Hospital, said: "You really can't draw any conclusions from only three patients. For one thing, it has not been verified if these veterans were exposed to Agent Orange."

"This information eventually will become part of overall studies (concerning the possibility that exposure to Agent

Orange caused a variety of health ills in veterans)."

During the Vietnam War, U.S. planes dropped more than 12 million gallons of Agent Orange to wipe out crops and jungle hiding places of the enemy and to clear base camps, landing zones, waterways and communications lines. The spraying stopped when the number of birth defects increased among Vietnamese women.

Agent Orange contains dioxin, one of the most toxic substances in existence. About 80,000 Vietnam veterans have sought VA physical examinations to see if their health was impaired by contact with the chemical.

The Emory doctors noted that studies from Sweden have reported a fivefold to sixfold increased risk of soft-tissue sarcoma in lumberjacks exposed to herbicides containing dioxin. Also, long-term follow-up studies of industrial workers in the manufacture of chemicals containing dioxin have disclosed seven cases of soft-tissue sarcoma to date.

Rare cancer found in 3 veterans studied for Agent Orange link

The Atlanta Journal

ATLANTA — Emory University Medical School doctors have said that they have diagnosed a rare type of cancer in three Vietnam War veterans but that more studies are needed before the possibility of a connection between the disease and the herbicide Agent Orange can be established.

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"If there is an increased risk of malignant disease in (Vietnam) veterans," Sarma and Jacobs wrote, "then a more critical question that has to be addressed is: Are the defoliants (Agent Orange) causative, or is some other unidentified environmental factor respon-

sible, acting alone or in concert with the defoliants?"

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Several large studies are being carried out to determine whether Agent Orange is linked to birth defects and other health problems.

SOURCE

Knoxville News-Sentinel

CITY AND STATE

Knoxville, Tenn.

DATE OF PUBL.

5-12-82

JACO

Vietnam Vets Fighting New Battle for 'Orange' Aid, Jobs and Benefits

By ALAN THOMPSON

Scraper-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Tents on the grassy mall near Capitol Hill . . . Crude designed newspapers and pamphlets stacked on a table, staples piled on top to keep the May breeze from blowing them away . . . Men and women in jeans and shirts or Army fatigues hammering and sawing, building an impromptu stage.

In a scene that seems like a repeat out of the 1960s, a group called the Vietnam Veterans Against the War is rallying in Washington this weekend to press the case of Vietnam veterans and warn against a new Vietnam-like involvement in Central America.

But they are older now. Some are in their 40s, and their zeal is moderated by the passage of time.

"I don't have any illusions that the Veterans Administration or the Pentagon is going to turn around tomorrow and say, 'You're right,'" says Walter Klim, 30, an infantry veteran from Milwaukee. "But I think we bring some credibility with us. Even if there are only 300 of us, I think we can make an impact by reminding the country that the problems of the Vietnam veterans still exist."

At the top of their list is Agent Orange, the defoliant used in Vietnam in the 1960s to reduce food supplies and cover for the enemy. Agent Orange contained dioxin, a highly toxic chemical, and thousands of Vietnam veterans have filed suits blaming exposure to the chemical for medical problems and genetic damage.

But the Government has balked at any widespread program to deal

with Agent Orange, mainly on grounds that there is no certain link between the defoliant and the veterans' illnesses.

"We would like to see a realistic testing program, treatment, if it can be treated, and if not, compensation for the victims of Agent Orange," says Peter Zastrow, 43, a former infantry unit commander now employed as a mailman in Chicago.

Also on the agenda are a call for an emergency job training program geared to the approximately 700,000 Vietnam-era veterans now out of work, opposition to any cuts in veterans benefits, and opposition to any additional "Vietnam-type" involvement of U.S. military forces.

Zastrow, a graduate of Dartmouth with a master's degree from Indiana University, admits that his organization's activist role in opposing U.S. involvement in places like El Salvador separates VVAW from the mainstream veterans groups and may alienate some potential members.

But he says opposition to such

military adventures is a cornerstone of the organization.

"We're doing it because we think it's right," says Zastrow. "When VVAW started it was to get us out of Vietnam and keep us from getting into that kind of war again."

Zastrow, one of four national coordinators for the group, says the warm welcome that greeted the American hostages returning from Iran and the deepening recession prompted this week's rally.

"The thing with the hostages was here they were heroes and all they did was get captured," states Zastrow. "We were never heroes. That hit a lot of Vietnam veterans, who never thought about it before."

Both Zastrow and Klim have mixed feelings about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is now under construction not far from where these veterans are rallying.

Medical treatment or a jobs program might mean "a helluva lot more" to most Vietnam veterans right now, both say.

Orange



SOURCE

DES MOINES TRIBUNE

CITY AND STATE

DES MOINES, IOWA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 14, 1982

U.S. cites evidence of toxins used by Viets

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The Reagan administration says Vietnam still is using deadly mycotoxins in its warfare in Southeast Asia, despite efforts by the U.S. State Department to obtain international condemnation of the chemical attacks.

The State Department disclosed Thursday what it said was "conclusive evidence" that the mycotoxins have been used in chemical warfare attacks in Cambodia.

Blood samples taken from two Khmer Rouge guerrillas showed the presence of the substances, the department said. It was said to be the first time that people claiming to have been under chemical attack actually had the toxin in their body systems.

The blood samples are said to have been drawn less than 24 hours after an attack Feb. 13 by Vietnamese forces inside Cambodia at Tuol Chrey, the department said. The substance reportedly was contained in artillery shells used in the attack.

A report distributed to reporters said the blood samples showed the

presence of two poisons, T2 and HT2, "indicative of high levels of toxin exposure." Samples from two other alleged victims showed the presence of T2 toxin.

It said the "symptoms experienced by victims of the attack included severe eye irritation, prolonged and repeated vomiting episodes, difficult breathing, trembling and severe diarrhea."

The report said Dr. Amos Townsend, a private American physician, took additional blood samples from the victims March 3. It said two of the five other individuals who provided samples had detectable levels of toxin circulating in their blood 18 days after the attack.

WESTERN PRESS
CLIPPING BUREAU
BERTHOUD, COLO.

PUEBLO, COLORADO
CHIEFTAIN

MAY 14 1982

Vietnam vets, twins to be tested

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an attempt to learn if service in Vietnam damaged the health of GIs, the Veterans Administration may try to find 400 men who served there and who have identical twin brothers who did not take part in the war.

Officials said Thursday they want to compare the twins' physical conditions to find out if there is a basis for complaints by many Vietnam veterans that exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange has damaged them in a variety of ways.

Specifically, the brothers would be examined to see whether those who served in Vietnam complained more often than their brothers of headaches, apathy, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, loss of appetite and weight, sleep disturbances, decreased learning ability and memory and sexual dysfunction.

The research project was described Thursday to the Veterans Administration's Advisory Committee on Health-Related Effects of Herbicides by Air Force Maj. Alvin L. Young, an expert on herbicide toxicology.

The idea came from researchers at the VA's Medical Center in St. Louis. To go forward, it must be approved by VA headquarters and by a review panel which would consider its scientific

validity.

Young said population statistics suggest that there were 93,000 pairs of twins among the 2.5 million men who served in the war.

Of the 93,000, the statistics suggest, 7,200 meet the stipulation that one twin saw Vietnam service while his brother served in the military but was not assigned Vietnam duty, Young said.

Only 400 sets would be needed for a statistically valid study, he said.

Wisconsin, which keeps better records than most states, reports that 89 pairs of qualifying twin brothers live in Wisconsin.

"We think it can be done," Young said of the research proposal, calling it "a very exciting concept."

The Veterans Administration says it has no evidence that exposure to Agent Orange, and dioxin, a toxic contaminant it contained, damaged the health of servicemen, but it is conducting research to find a final answer to that question.

About 8 percent of the land in South Vietnam was sprayed with the herbicide to destroy crops and defoliate trees to uncover communist hiding places in the jungles.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

MAY 14 1982

Twins may face VA study

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an attempt to learn if service in Vietnam damaged the health of GIs, the Veterans Administration may try to find 400 men who served there and who have identical twin brothers who did not take part in the war.

Officials said Thursday they want to compare the twins' physical conditions to find out if there is a basis for complaints by many Vietnam veterans that exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange has damaged them in a variety of ways.

Specifically, the brothers would be examined to see whether those who served in Vietnam complained more often than their brothers of headaches, apathy, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, loss of appetite and weight, sleep disturbances, decreased learning ability and memory and sexual dysfunction.

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Young said population statistics suggest that there were 93,000 pairs of twins among the 2.5 million men who served in the war.

Of the 93,000, the statistics suggest, 7,200 meet the stipulation that one twin saw Vietnam service while his brother served in the military but was not assigned Vietnam duty, Young said.

SOURCE

THE FLORIDA UNION-TIMES

CITY AND STATE

Jacksonville, Fla.

DATE OF PUBL.

May 14, 1982

Vietnam-era twins sought for VA study

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an attempt to learn if duty in Vietnam damaged the health of service members, the Veterans Administration (VA) may try to find 400 men who served there and who have identical twin brothers who did not take part in the war.

Officials said yesterday that they want to compare the twins' physical conditions to find out if there is a basis for complaints by many Vietnam veterans that exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange has damaged them in a variety of ways.

Specifically, the brothers would be examined to see whether those who served in Vietnam complained more often than their brothers of headaches, apathy, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, loss of appetite and weight, sleep disturbances, decreased learning ability and memory, and sexual dysfunction.

Air Force Maj. Alvin L. Young, an expert on herbicide toxicology, described the research project yesterday to the VA's Advisory Committee on Health-Related Effects of Herbicides.

The idea for the project came from researchers at the VA's hospital in St. Louis. The project must be approved by VA headquarters and by a review panel that would consider its scientific validity.

Young said population statistics suggest that there were 55,000 pairs of twins among the 2.5 million men who served in the Vietnam War.

Of the 55,000, the statistics show, 7,300 meet the stipulation that one twin served in Vietnam while his brother served in the military but

was not assigned Vietnam duty, Young said.

Only 400 sets of twins would be needed for a statistically valid study, he said.

Wisconsin, which keeps better records than most states, reports that 80 pairs of qualifying twin brothers live in Wisconsin.

"We think it can be done," Young said of the research proposal.

The VA says it has no evidence that exposure to Agent Orange and dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, damaged the health of servicemen, but it is conducting research to find an answer to that question.

About 8 percent of the land in South Vietnam was sprayed with Agent Orange to destroy crops and to defoliate trees to uncover Communist troops' hiding places in the jungles.

Over the objections of one of its members, the panel decided to go in to secret session to review plans for the most ambitious research project — an examination of the health of 18,000 men to see if differences exist between those who served in the war and those who did not. The project will take five years and cost millions of dollars.

Barclay M. Shepard, the VA's chief medical officer concerned with Agent Orange, said the session would have to be secret so that surveyed veterans would not know what questions to expect.

David Erickson, the panel member representing the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said secrecy would undermine the project's credibility.

SOURCE

Herald Examiner

CITY AND STATE

Los Angeles, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 14, 1982

VA may use twins in Viet vet study

WASHINGTON — In an attempt to learn if service in Vietnam damaged the health of GIs, the Veterans Administration may try to find 400 men who served there who have identical twin brothers who did not take part in the war.

Officials said yesterday they want to compare the twins' physical conditions to find out if there is a basis for complaints by many Vietnam veterans that exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange has damaged their health.

Many Vietnam veterans have blamed Agent Orange for a variety of maladies including headaches, apathy, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, loss of appetite and weight, sleep disturbances, decreased learning ability and memory, and sexual dysfunction.

Officials said population statistics suggest there were 93,000 pairs of twins among the 2.5 million men who served in the war. Of the 93,000, the statistics say, 17,200 meet the stipulation that one twin saw Vietnam service while his brother served in the military but was not assigned Vietnam duty.

SOURCE

APPEAL DEMOCRAT

CITY AND STATE

MARYSVILLE, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 14, 1982

Identical Twins Sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Administration says it may launch a search for 400 sets of identical twins with a special characteristic: one with Vietnam service and the other without it. Officials said Thursday that if plans receive final approval, they will compare the twins' physical conditions to help find out if there is a basis for complaints by many Vietnam veterans that exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange damaged their health. Air Force Maj. Alvin L. Young, a expert on herbicide toxicology, said there were 93,000 sets of twins among the 2.5 million men who served in Vietnam. He said statistics indicate that 7,200 sets meet the criterion and that only 400 would be needed for a statistically valid study.

Dow, VA pressured to

unlock answers to afflictions

By NANCY KALEY

Staff Writer

An act of Congress has opened the door to more research and medical help for Vietnam veterans suffering apparent effects from the defoliant Agent Orange.

But a Battle Creek veteran affairs leader believes it will take an act of Dow Chemical Co. to give teeth to the movement.

Thomas Holles of Battle Creek, who is president of the National Association of Concerned Veterans — along with representatives of the National Council of Churches and the national office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars — went on record Friday at Dow's annual meeting in Midland asking that it publicly release all research information and studies completed during the development of the defoliant.

They also asked for studies showing the effects of the defoliant on employees involved in the manufacturing process of the toxic chemical.

"That's one of the keys needed to open the Agent Orange safe," said Holles, who works as a counselor at Kellogg Community College.

Holles and others have been involved in a four-year effort to get governmental acknowledgment of the toxic chemical and side effects from using the spray to kill vegetation in the jungles of Vietnam, along with medical treatment and compensation for some of its veteran victims.

He said congressional action in late 1981 ordering hospitalization, testing and medical care for Vietnam veterans who were exposed to toxic substances found in defoliants such as Agent Orange was a first step.

"But there's got to be more," said Holles who is concerned

"Soldiers often tell me how they watched a jungle full of trees and foliage wither and die within a day. But today, many of these same soldiers are watching each other, in some cases, wither and die."

about the thousands of veterans who have been identified as having suffered health-damaging effects attributed to the defoliant spray.

He talks of a local Vietnam veteran in his early 30s "who sat in my office and cried because he looks like a leper. His hands, arms, shoulders and chest were a mass of peeling, cracking skin and lesions. I'll never forget when the man, who like 500,000 other Vietnam veterans are unemployed, said 'I can't even go to the beach — who could stand to look at me?'"

Another veteran he counseled is a "street person who continually breaks out in rashes," Holles said.

Veterans Administration officials, according to Holles and other veteran leaders, often say the rashes and lesions are a result of what they call post-Vietnam trauma syndrome.

Although Holles acknowledges that some skin irritations could be attributed to stress conditions, which have surfaced years after the conflict, he doesn't believe that the syndrome is responsible for the extent of many of the skin and other disorders attributed to coming into contact with the spray.

Dr. Kenneth Kobes, chief of staff at the Battle Creek Veterans Administration Medical Center, said that 406 Vietnam veterans have requested Agent Orange medical examinations in the past four years at the Battle Creek hospital — an additional 314 at its Grand Rapids' outpatient clinic.

But Kobes said most of the skin disorders of these patients have been diagnosed as suffering from such things as psoriasis and acne.

He said that all information on veterans tested at the Battle Creek center is sent to Washington, D.C., where the Veterans Administration and federal government have established a medical registry to compile and analyze physician's findings of the veterans.

"We're also encouraged by early findings of 1,100 veterans participating in the Ranch Hand Operation — men who lived, drank and slept with Agent Orange," Kobes said. "They all were actively involved with the defoliant and are being closely monitored for any long-term medical effects because of their exposure."

Holles said he becomes distressed at the irony of a 1971 Army publication which advised that those handling Agent Orange should promptly rinse their eyes, skin and clothing after coming into contact with the defoliant.

"You couldn't just run into a nearby shower after spraying gallons of Agent Orange. They say contaminated clothing should be washed before used, but sometimes you went days before you could do this," Holles said.

"Agent Orange, according to the Army, is relatively nontoxic to man and animals, but will remove aircraft paint and walkway coatings," Holles said. "It will deteriorate rubber hoses and other parts of spraying equipment, the Army

Introduction to Lathrop

May 16, 1982

It was no rainbow... it was Agent Orange

By CAROLYN PRISCE

Gannett News Service

Copyright 1982, Marietta Times

The rash on Carl Gillespie's face keeps coming back. The scars heal, but then his skin cracks open again, and it hurts. Pimples on a 40-year-old face.

The burning sensation in his lungs never goes away, neither do the terrible headaches and the stomach pains. And the depression.

And the memory.

For Carl Gillespie of New Matamoras, Ohio, it came in the Demilitarized Zone in Vietnam. His job that day was to dig bunkers into the side of a cliff, but first the vegetation had to be killed.

The spray planes came, and the wind shifted.

"The change of wind blew mist down on us," Gillespie recalls. "If you caught it in the sunlight, you could see a rainbow color."

It was no rainbow. It was Agent Orange.

Agent Orange — a combination of compounds known as 2,4,5-T, and 2,4-D, to be exact — was dumped on Vietnam in staggering amounts to help Americans fight a war on terrain they did not know. A virulent herbicide, it could wither a forest cover overnight.

Combining the two compounds produces dioxin, termed the deadliest compound made by man. Three ounces of dioxin introduced into New York's water supply could kill the city's population.

Some 350 pounds of dioxin probably fell on Vietnam, combined in the 10 million gallons of Agent Orange sprayed there between 1965 and 1970. It also wafted over many, if not all, of the 2.4 million American troops there. Says one veteran, "If you were in Vietnam, you were exposed, unless you were in Saigon sipping Perrier water."

Among those troops were some of the young men of Washington County, Ohio, a county of 64,000 residents, with farms and industry and Vietnam veterans — much like any other county in America.

Its largest city is Marietta, with brick streets and trolley tracks. The Ohio River winds its way nearby, heavy with boat traffic carrying coal and supplies to the factories that line it.

There, this reporter spent close to a year getting to know some of the area's Vietnam vets, the ones exposed to Agent Orange, the ones who think Agent Orange damaged their lives.

Joe Lucas isn't sure where he got his worst dose of Agent Orange.

It could have been near Phikha, where he and some Air Force buddies

were building a schoolhouse-orphanage, and suddenly realized that all the vegetation in the area was dead.

Or it could have been the mist that trailed from a C-130 passing overhead one day.

Whatever the source, Lucas, like Gillespie, lives with scars and rashes, and bad nerves and depression.

He also lives with his wife and their two daughters, Missy and Shelly. The children were born three years apart after he came back from Vietnam. Both were born albino. They are both legally blind, attend special classes, and say they wish they looked like other kids.

"I'm not ashamed of them," says Lucas, 35. "They're good kids. I'm not saying for sure they're like that because of Agent Orange, but I would sure like to know. I don't know what else it could be."

To Victor Yannacone, it boils down to one simple fact: "All of the men who went to Vietnam went there healthy and came back sick."

Yet he knows that resolving the Agent Orange issue is not that simple.

Working in a cluttered office in Patchogue, N.Y., he is the lead attorney in the largest class-action product liability case in history — a suit against the manufacturers of Agent Orange.

More than 30,000 veterans from all corners of the country have joined in some aspect of the suit, and Yannacone estimates another 50,000 could claim some disability from Agent Orange. Veterans from Australia, New Zealand and Canada are joining in too.

Besides being the largest, it also is one of the most complex of lawsuits, juggling questions of legal liability

and scientific evidence.

Are the Agent Orange manufacturers responsible for its ill effects, or is it the federal government — or no one?

And can it be said for sure that the ailments were caused by exposure to Agent Orange?

Roger Phillis thinks he is sure. Phillis works as a policeman in Marietta. It's the same job he wanted when he joined the Marines, but someone thought he was too small to be a military policeman, so he was made a machine gunner and sent to Vietnam.

On one mission, he says, he remembers walking through elephant grass so sharp it cut his skin. The grass was oily; it had just been sprayed. In a matter of days, he says, he was treated for a severe skin rash, but the Marines kept no records.

Now, on a hot and humid day in Marietta, Phillis feels like tearing his skin apart. And in the wintertime his irritated skin turns purple and looks like scar tissue. "If it was just jungle rot, it would have cleared up with an antibiotic and not still be affecting me 10 years later. This stuff stays with me," Phillis says. "I suspect that Agent Orange might have caused my problem."

The Veterans Administration has denied his compensation claim because he can't prove he was treated.

★ LUMB

VA denies compensation

One man's war with Agent Orange

By Carolyn Pesce

Gannett News Service

©1982, Marietta Times

The scab on Carl Gillespie's face keeps coming back. The scars heal, but then his skin cracks open again, and it oozes. Pimples on a 38-year-old face.

The burning sensation in his lungs never goes away completely; neither do the terrible headaches and the stomach pains. Or the depression.

Or the memory.

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It was no rainbow. It was Agent Orange.

...

Talking in his living room in nearby Marietta, Joe Lucas isn't sure where he got his worst dose of Agent Orange, the powerful plant-killer used in Vietnam.

It could have been near Pleiku, where he and some Air Force buddies were building a schoolhouse-orphanage. Suddenly he realized that all the vegetation in the area was dead.

Or it could have been the mist that trailed from a C-130 plane one day.

Whatever the source, Lucas, like Gillespie, lives with scars and rashes and bad nerves and depression.

He also lives with his wife and their two daughters, Missy and Shelly. The children were born three years

apart after he came back from Vietnam. Both are albinos.

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A Vietnam legacy

First in a three-part series

Three men from Washington County, Ohio. A county of 64,000 residents, with farms and industry and Vietnam veterans — much like any other country in America.

Nearly 2,000 Vietnam veterans live in Washington County, and the five mentioned here are among the growing number asking questions about Agent Orange.

Agent Orange — a combination of compounds known as 2,4,5-T, and 2,4-D, to be exact — was dumped on Vietnam in staggering amounts to help Americans fight a war on terrain they did not know. A virulent herbicide, it could wither a forest cover overnight.

Combining the two compounds produces dioxin, termed the deadliest compound made by man. Three ounces of dioxin introduced into New York's water supply could kill the city's population.

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Some of those troops are taking action. They say Agent Orange left them with a wide range of ailments, from cancers to skin problems, from depression to birth defects in their children.

Nationwide, 80,000 veterans are represented in lawsuits against the government or the companies that produced Agent Orange. At least another 50,000 who say they were affected have not yet contacted attorneys.

Billions of dollars and thousands of lives are at stake — figures hard to comprehend in the abstract.

Next: The Agent Orange lawsuits.

SOURCE

THE UNION LEADER

CITY AND STATE

Manchester, New Hampshire

DATE OF PUBL.

Thursday, May 20, 1982

THE UNION LEADER, MANCHESTER, N.H. — Thursday, May 20, 1982

'Agent Orange' Problems Explored in TV Series

DURHAM — The problems of living with victims of Agent Orange are explored on "Warrior's Women," Friday at 10:30 p.m. on New Hampshire Public Television/Channel 11.

"Warrior's Women" is part four of the 13-part series Matters of Life and Death which explores issues of urgency to contemporary American society.

An estimated 500,000 of the 2.9 million Americans who fought in Vietnam are currently suffering post-traumatic stress from exposure to the chemical defoliant, Agent Orange.

This film explores five families who represent a range of problems that many American veterans seem to be experiencing — alcoholism, unemployment, violence, depression, suicide or merely moral confusion about their role in Vietnam and why society hasn't chosen to welcome them home yet.

Four women speak candidly about the problems they faced and how their lives were affected. They raise questions about society's neglect of the Vietnam veterans and how this will effect the next generation.

"Warrior's Women" may be seen on Channels 11 in Durham, 15 in Hanover, 49 in Littleton, 52 in Keene, 59 in North Woodstock and 70 in North Conway.

SOURCE

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

CITY AND STATE

WALNUT CREEK, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 22, 1982

Martinez man suing Agent Orange makers

RENO — Two California men have filed \$11 million lawsuits against the makers of Agent Orange, charging that the herbicide manufacturers showed "reckless and wanton disregard" for their safety.

The U.S. District Court suits by James E. Blake, 32, of Martinez, and Robert Scott Fierner, 33, of Rough and Ready, are among hundreds of similar actions filed around the nation. Fierner has filed a similar suit in state court, his attorney said Friday.

The two men say they suffered severe mental and physical harm from exposure to the herbicide, which was used to defoliate Vietnamese jungles in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The suits, filed Thursday, charges seven companies involved in the manufacture of Agent Orange with failing to warn soldiers handling the herbicide that it was dangerous.

The companies' handling of the chem-

ical "amounts to a willful, intentional and reckless disregard for the rights, lives and safety of the plaintiffs, and further amounts to extreme and outrageous conduct," the suit says.

Blake served in the Army in Vietnam from 1965 to 1970, and Fierner between 1967 and 1970.

Their attorney, Jeffrey Toff of Nevada City, said Friday that Fierner has developed several tumors throughout his body, apparently due to exposure to Agent Orange, and "has noticed some personality changes and general ill health."

Blake has had "severe emotional and physical problems," including bronchitis, severe headaches and depression, according to Toff.

The companies named as defendants in the suit are: Dow Chemical Co., Monsanto Co., Hercules Inc., Diamond Shamrock Corp., Thompson Hayward Chemical Co., North American Phillips Co. and Uniroyal Inc.

*Introduction
for Martinez*

SOURCE

NEWS GAZETTE

CITY AND STATE

MARTINEZ, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 22, 1982

Martinez Vet 31 Files 'Agent Orange' Suit

A Martinez Vietnam veteran has filed an \$11 million lawsuit in Reno against the makers of Agent Orange, charging that the herbicide manufacturers showed "reckless and wanton disregard" for his safety.

The U.S. District Court suit by James E. Blake, 32, is among hundreds of similar actions filed around the nation.

Blake says he suffered severe mental and physical harm from exposure to the herbicide, which was used to defoliate Vietnamese jungles in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The suit filed Thursday,

charges seven companies involved in the manufacture of Agent Orange with failing to warn soldiers handling the herbicide that it was dangerous.

The companies' handling of the chemical "amounts to a willful, intentional and reckless disregard for the rights, lives and safety of the plaintiffs, and further amounts of extreme and outrageous conduct," the suit says.

Blake has had "severe emotional and physical problems," including bronchitis, severe headaches and depression, according to his attorney, Jeffery Toff.

The companies named as defendants in the suit are: Dow Chemical Co., Monsanto Co., Hercules Inc., Diamond Shamrock Corp., Thompson Hayward Chemical Co., North American Phillips CO. and Uniroyal Inc.

SOURCE

SAN RAMON VALLEY HERALD

CITY AND STATE

LIVERMORE, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 22, 1982

County veteran sues herbicide maker

RENO (AP) — Two Northern California men have filed \$11 million lawsuits against the makers of Agent Orange, charging that the herbicide manufacturers showed "reckless and wanton disregard" for their safety.

The U.S. District Court suits by James E. Blake, 32, of Martinez, and Robert Scott Fierner, 33, of Rough and Ready, are among hundreds of similar actions filed around the nation. Fierner has filed a similar suit in state court, his attorney said Friday.

The two men say they suffered severe mental and physical harm from exposure to the herbicide,

which was used to defoliate Vietnamese jungles in the late 1940s and early 1970s.

The suits, filed Thursday, charges seven companies involved in the manufacture of Agent Orange with failing to warn soldiers handling the herbicide that it was dangerous.

The companies' handling of the chemical "amounts to a willful, intentional and reckless disregard for the rights, lives and safety of the plaintiffs, and further amounts to extreme and outrageous conduct," the suit says.

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Their attorney, Jeffrey Toff of Nevada City, said Friday that Fierner has developed several tumors throughout his body, apparently due to exposure to Agent Orange.

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The companies named as defendants in the suit are: Dow Chemical Co., Monsanto Co., Hercules Inc., Diamond Shamrock Corp., Thompson Hayward Chemical Co., North American Phillips Co. and Uniroyal Inc.

SOURCE

Salt Lake Tribune

CITY AND STATE

Salt Lake City, UT

DATE OF PUBL.

May 23, 1982

10

\$7.5 million suit cites Agent Orange

BOISE (AP) — Six companies that manufactured or distributed Agent Orange, a defoliant used in the Vietnam War, have been sued for \$7.5 million by a Pocatello Vietnam veteran who claims he has suffered medical problems because of his exposure to the chemical.

Stephen Hendrix, who served in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, claims he has been disabled and is suffering from medical complications because he was exposed to aerial spraying of the chemical during his Vietnam tour.

The suit also seeks to represent up to 4.5 million other former and present armed forces personnel it claims may have been exposed to Agent Orange.

Dow Chemical Co., Hercules Inc., Diamond Shamrock Inc., Thompson-Hayward Chemical Co., Uniroyal Inc., and Diamond Alkali Co. are named as defendants.

The suit does not name the U.S. government as many other Agent Orange actions have in the past.

Hendrix is asking the court to award him \$2.5 million in general damages

and \$5 million in special damages.

The suit also wants Hendrix's two attorneys, Gaylen Box and Robert Huntley of Pocatello, to be allowed to argue on behalf of the class-action participants. That includes any unborn children who may have birth defects as a result of a parent's exposure to Agent Orange, the lawsuit alleges.

Hendrix said that the six companies violated an implied warranty that humans would not be adversely affected by exposure to the chemical.

The suit also charges that the companies knew, or should have known, that the chemical was dangerous, and still sold it to the U.S. government.

Hendrix said in the lawsuit that inadequate testing was done on Agent Orange and alleged that the results of whatever testing was done were wilfully covered up by the companies.

Agent Orange was sprayed from helicopters in high-combat areas in Vietnam to kill jungle vegetation that provided shelter for Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops.

Midland, TX
Reporter Telegram
(Cir. D 22,496)
(Cir. S 25,591)

MAY 25 1982

New pamphlet says Agent Orange worries only based on 'theory'

By MIKE FEINSILBER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

The publication discussed reports linking dioxin with a variety of health disorders — headaches, liver and blood disorders, nerve damage, cancer.

Now veterans asking about Agent Orange get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are only based on "a theory" it may have caused "delayed health effects." The publication does not name any of them.

The Veterans Administration said in revising the pamphlet no effort was made to tone down what veterans are told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

During the war, 8 percent of the land area of Vietnam was sprayed with the herbicide to destroy Viet Cong crops and uncover the jungle hiding places of communist troops. The spraying was halted after health questions were raised.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

He termed the old pamphlet "somewhat outdated." It bore a photograph of Max Cleland, the wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter administration.

Both the old and the new publications assert that facts about possible health damage have not been established.

But the old one was more detailed about what is suspected.

Said the old, orange-colored, pamphlet: "We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne."

"In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported... Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

The new, blue-covered, publication says: "During 1978, a theory was publicized" that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange "might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure."

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process."

"The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen, in an interview, said not many copies of the orange pamphlet were left and those that remained were taken off the shelves. But, he said, the blue pamphlet was not intended to replace the orange one. He said the type is larger in the blue pamphlet so there was not as much room for the detail that the orange pamphlet had.

Moen noted, too, that a second new pamphlet, with a brown cover, has been issued to tell about medical treatment offered veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

A third, to come out next month, will answer frequently asked questions, he said, and another publication is planned to describe research under way or anticipated.

WESTERN PRESS
CLIPPING BUREAU
BERTHOUD, COLO.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
GAZETTE TELEGRAPH
JUN. 29 1982

Agent Orange veteran buried

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A Vietnam veteran whose death a year ago triggered national protests about Agent Orange was finally buried Monday at the National Cemetery here in a quiet ceremony attended by his son, ex-wife and a few friends.

James Roger Hopkins, 33, first drew national attention in March 1981 when he drove his jeep through the glass doors of Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in Los Angeles as a protest over what he contended was inadequate VA care for the effects of the defoliant Agent Orange, widely used in Vietnam.

Inside the lobby, he jumped out of the vehicle and fired nine shots from several weapons into the walls and ceiling, and was arrested. Nobody was injured.

He died two months later, on May 17, 1981, and his death was ruled a suicide. But his body had remained in the Los Angeles County coroner's morgue for more than a year pending a second autopsy paid for by his second wife, Suzanne Hopkins, who contended Hopkins had been murdered.

Last month's autopsy found nothing new to change the suicide verdict reached at an inquest in November 1981.

Agent Orange pamphlet has a softer tone

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

The publication discussed reports linking dioxin with a variety of health disorders — headaches, liver and blood disorders, nerve damage, cancer.

Now veterans asking about Agent Orange get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are only based on "a theory" it may have caused "delayed health effects." The publication does not name any of them.

The Veterans Administration said in revising the pamphlet no effort was made to tone down what veterans are told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

During the war, 8 percent of the land area of Vietnam was sprayed with the herbicide to destroy Viet Cong crops and uncover the jungle hiding places of communist troops. The spraying was halted after health questions were raised.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

He termed the old pamphlet "somewhat outdated." It bore a photograph of Max Cleland, the wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter administration.

Both the old and the new publications assert that facts about possible health damage have not been established.

But the old one was more detailed about what is suspected.

SOURCE

INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

CITY AND STATE

SAN RAFAEL, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 25, 1982

VA tones down pamphlet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

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on Agent Orange

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"It's a different pamphlet, done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

Said the old, orange-colored, pamphlet: "We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne.

"In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver

function and nerve damage have been reported ... Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

SOURCE

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES

CITY AND STATE

Chattanooga, Tennessee

DATE OF PUBL.

May 26, 1982



Max Cleland

Agent Orange Folder Tells Veterans Less

By Mike Feinsilber

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one which lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made, in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question and answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a flier telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may

have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

The new pamphlet is printed with a blue cover. The old one was orange.

The old pamphlet took the form of a message from Max Cleland, a wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter Administration. It carried Cleland's picture.

That publication noted that dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals and added:

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin

condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne. In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported.

"Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

That information is dropped from the new publication. In its place, under the heading, "Why People Are Concerned," it says:

"During 1978, a theory was publicized that the veterans exposed to Agent Orange when it was used in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure.

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

The VA's position is that no link has been established between Agent Orange and any disorder except chloracne, a severe skin rash.

May 26, 1982

VA reduces information on Agent Orange dangers

Washington, D.C. —AP— The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused delayed health effects.

The pamphlet replaces one which lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made in revising the pamphlet to tone it down. He said no diseases were named because the new version was in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information would be provided in forthcoming publications — a question and answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe that they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices.

The old publication noted that dioxin had caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals and added:

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a skin condition known as chloracne, which closely resembles the common forms of acne. In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported.

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TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

Established 1910

Wichita Falls, Texas
Record News
(Cir. 46,516)

MAY 28 1972

VA cuts back Agent Orange information

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

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In addition, the VA has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in

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"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and

SOURCE

THE FLORIDA TIMES UNION

CITY AND STATE

Jacksonville, FL.

DATE OF PUBL.

May 26, 1982

VA limits mention of herbicide effects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Administration (VA) has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one that identifies the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by

different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs.

Moen said no effort was made to tone down the pamphlet in the revisions. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question-and-answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a fly-

(See VA'S DOCUMENT, Page A-3)

VA's document drops Agent Orange details

(From Page A-1)

er telling about medical treatment available to veterans who think they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

The new pamphlet is printed with a blue cover; the old one was orange.

The old publication took the form of a message from Max Cleland, a wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter administration.

That publication noted that dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals.

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne," the old pamphlet said. "In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported."

It also mentioned that cases of cancer had been reported.

That information is not in the new publication. Instead, it says:

"During 1978, a theory was publicized that the veterans exposed to

Agent Orange when it was used in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure.

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

No one knows how many GIs were exposed to Agent Orange from 1962 to 1971, when 12 million gallons were sprayed to strip jungle cover concealing Communist troops.

An estimated 84,000 Vietnam veterans have taken a special medical examination to see whether they suffer from effects of exposure.

The VA's position is that no link has been established between Agent Orange and any disorder except chloracne, but that research is needed to establish definitively whether a link exists. No claims for disability compensation based on exposure to Agent Orange have been honored.

Hot
Unsub file

Hot Will V. file

★ ★ ★

Agent Orange Folder Tells Veterans Less

By Mike Peimilben
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

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SOURCE
THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CITY AND STATE
Chattanooga TN
DATE OF PUBL.
May 26, 1982

(Fold up here)

STAR-HERALD
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.
W. 6,567

News
England
Newsciji

MAY 26 1982

Agent Orange project extended for veterans

Viet Nam Veterans in Maine are urged to take advantage of the extended program for Agent Orange screening examinations.

"An additional \$8,000 has been made available through legislation I recently signed for the Maine Agent Orange Information Committee to continue efforts to reach approximately 15,000 veterans who may have been exposed to the Agent Orange defoliant during

service in Viet Nam," Governor Joseph E. Brennan said recently.

The committee, comprised of representatives from the state of Maine, Veterans Administration officials and members of veterans service organizations, is credited by Commissioner Michael Petit of the Maine Department of Human Services as "number one in the nation in terms of providing information and encouraging

Viet Nam veterans to obtain Agent Orange examinations."

The examinations include complete physical examinations and laboratory tests. The screening is part of the Veterans Administration's Agency Orange Registry to establish a data base for treatment and research on the effects of the chemical.

"Maine has been a leader in responding to the Agent Orange challenge. The initiative shown here to support our veterans is sincere. We want to

minimize the threat of Agent Orange, and the best way to do that is for veterans to undergo examination," the governor said.

Veterans group to visit Vietnam about missing GIs, Agent Orange

Associated Press

Washington, D.C. — A nine-member delegation will visit Vietnam this week in a second attempt by Vietnam veterans to learn the fate of missing American servicemen and discuss the effects of Agent Orange on those exposed to the defoliant.

The visit, which will begin Friday, is to last a week.

The visit is the second sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), an organization of former servicemen. The first occurred in December. The visit was arranged last fall in visits to Vietnamese officials in London and at the United Nations by Robert Muller, founder of VVA and a former marine lieutenant paralyzed from the waist down in 1969 when a bullet severed his spinal cord.

Television newsman Mike Wallace and a crew from the CBS program, "60 Minutes," will accompany the delegation.

John Terzano, a former navy seaman and director of VVA's Washington office, said the group planned to lay before Vietnamese officials a proposal allowing American and Vietnamese scientists to work together in Vietnam studying the health of people exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide containing the toxic dioxin.

The U.S. government is investigating whether dioxin damaged the health of GIs who entered sprayed areas. Many veterans attribute adverse health conditions to exposure.

About 8 percent of the land area of South Vietnam was sprayed by U.S. forces during the war in an attempt to destroy Viet Cong crops and to reveal Communist hiding places in the jungles.

Terzano said the group also would resume discussions on attempts to learn the fate of 2,500 Americans who remain unaccounted for six years after the war ended.

New York theatrical producer Joseph Papp, founder, producer and director of the New York Shakespeare Festival, is a member of the delegation. Papp has produced a number of plays about Vietnam veterans and is a friend of Thomas Bird, vice president of VVA and the only member of the delegation who also made the first trip. Bird, an infantry sergeant with the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam in 1965-66,

is director of the Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company in New York.

Others in the delegation include lawyer Leslie Platt, who served as staff director of the government's interagency task force on Agent Orange during the Carter Administration; Lynda Van DeVanter, a first lieutenant and nurse in Vietnam in 1969-70, now with the VVA; Gary Belkitch, who won the Medal of Honor during his service as a medical specialist in Vietnam in 1969-70 and is chairman of the New York State Council of VVA.

In other action related to Agent Orange, the Veterans Administration (VA) has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs.

Moen said no effort was made, in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details. But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question-and-answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

Also yesterday, nearly two months after a federal court cast the tax-exempt status of veterans groups

into doubt, two members of Congress introduced legislation that would reaffirm the special position the organizations have enjoyed.

Companion bills offered to the Senate and House by Sen. Jim Sasser, D-Tenn., and Rep. Robert A. Roe, D-N.J., would effectively undo a March 26 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals.

In that decision, the court found no clear congressional intent for the unique, long-time exemption that veterans groups have enjoyed from the law that denies tax-exempt status to organizations that engage in lobbying.

source Minneapolis
STAR and TRIBUNE
CITY AND STATE
Minneapolis, Minn.
DATE OF PUBL.
May 26, 1982

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
GAZETTE TELEGRAPH
MAY 26 1982

VA cuts back information on possible defoliant risk

Veterans head for Vietnam

WASHINGTON (AP) — A nine-member delegation will visit Vietnam this week in a second attempt by Vietnam War veterans to learn the fate of missing American servicemen and discuss the effects of Agent Orange on those exposed to the defoliant.

New York theatrical producer Joseph Papp, founder, producer and director of the New York Shakespeare Festival, is a member of the delegation.

The group, which includes a winner of the congressional medal of honor, planned to leave Tuesday night from New York's Kennedy International Airport for Frankfurt on the first leg of a trip that will bring them to Hanoi on Friday. The visit to Vietnam is to last a week and to include visits to both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

The visit is the second sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America, an organization of former servicemen. The first occurred in December. It was quietly arranged last fall in visits to Vietnamese officials in London and at the United Nations by Robert Muller, founder of VVA and a former Marine lieutenant paralyzed from the waist down in 1969 when a bullet severed his spinal cord.

John Terzano, a former Navy seaman and director of VVA's Washington office, said the group planned to lay before Vietnamese officials a proposal allowing American and Vietnamese scientists to work together in Vietnam studying the health of people exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide containing the toxic dioxin.

The U.S. government is investigating whether dioxin damaged the health of GIs who entered sprayed areas. Many veterans attribute adverse health conditions to exposure.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one which lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made, in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question and answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

The new pamphlet is printed with a blue cover. The old one was orange.

It took the form of a message from Max Cleland, a wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter Administration. It carried Cleland's picture.

That publication noted that

dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals and added:

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne. In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported ...

"Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

That information is dropped from the new publication. In its place, under the heading, "Why People Are Concerned," it says:

"During 1978, a theory was publicized that the veterans exposed to Agent Orange when it was used in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure.

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen said not many copies of the Cleland pamphlet were left and those that remained were taken from the racks.

No one knows how many GIs were exposed to Agent Orange from 1962 to 1971, when 12 million gallons were sprayed to kill Viet Cong crops.

**WESTERN PRESS 60
CLIPPING BUREAU
BERTHOUD, COLO.**

**PUEBLO, COLORADO
CHIEFTAIN**

MAY 26 1982

Pamphlet tells less about Agent Orange

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No one knows how many GIs were exposed to Agent Orange from 1962 to 1971, when 12 million gallons were sprayed to kill Viet Cong crops and strip away jungle cover concealing communist troops. An estimated 8 percent of the land area of South Vietnam was sprayed. The operation stopped when there were reports of high numbers of miscarriages among rural Vietnamese women.

An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

SOURCE

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

CITY AND STATE

BANGOR, MAINE

DATE OF PUBL.

MAY 26, 1982

VA downplaying effects of Agent Orange

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"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made, in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question and answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

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"Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

president (AP Laserphoto)

VA Changes Line On Agent Orange

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That information is dropped from the new publication. In its place, under the heading, "Why People Are Concerned," it says:

"During 1978, a theory was publicized that the veterans exposed to Agent Orange when it was used in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure.

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

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An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

The VA's position is that no link has been established between Agent Orange and any disorder except chloracne, a severe skin rash.

SOURCE
The Dallas Morning News

CITY AND STATE
Dallas, Texas

DATE OF PUBL.
May 26, 1982

Wednesday, May 26, 1982

The Dallas Morning News

VA-scales back Agent Orange information

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the amount of information it provides veterans who ask about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet named to dispel myths and ease veterans' concerns springs from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one that describes the ailments — ranging from headaches to cancer — in which dioxin is a suspected cause.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA Office of Public and Consumer Affairs.

Moen said no effort was made to tone down the pamphlet. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information

will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question-and-answer sheet and a pamphlet that details research efforts.

The VA also has issued a flyer that describes medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. The flyers are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

The new pamphlet is printed with a blue cover. The old one was

orange.

The old publication also noted that dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals and added: "We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne. In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported."

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

CITY AND STATE

Fort Worth, Texas

DATE OF PUBL.

May 26, 1982

MAY 26, 1982 1982 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

VA tones down how it explains Agent Orange

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives veterans who inquire about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases the defoliant is suspected of causing.

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An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

The VA's position is that no link has been established between Agent Orange and any disorder except chloracne, but research is needed to establish whether a link exists. No claims for disability compensation based on exposure to Agent Orange have been honored.

Agent Orange Meeting Set

Copley News Service

SPRINGFIELD - The first public meeting of the Illinois Agent Orange Study Commission has been set for 6 p.m. in the state capitol on June 7.

The session will be the first of a series of five to be held statewide, with future public hearings planned for Chicago, Carbondale, Rock Island-Moline, and Rockford.

Veterans or other involved persons wishing to testify have been requested by the commission to provide 15 written copies of their testimony at the time of the hearing, and were asked to contact the commission offices at Room 218 in the state capitol to register.

Written testimony may be of any length, but oral testimony will be limited to five minutes, to permit a maximum number of witnesses to testify, according to Sen. Karl Berning, R-Deerfield, chairman of the commission and chief sponsor of the legislation under which it was formed.

Berning said the commission's chief purpose will be "gathering data and testimony to document that some of the citizens of Illinois who served in Vietnam may have been adversely affected by Agent Orange and other defoliants and that the federal government has not acted to assist them satisfactorily."

The commission will expire in August, 1983. Prior to that time it is to make a report to the state Legislature on its findings, and recommend ap-

propriate legislation.

The study commission is made up of four members of the Senate, four members of the Illinois House, and five public members who must include three Vietnam-era veterans and two who have "experience in or extensive knowledge of military service."

Other members include George R. Cramer of Woodridge, Philip H. Vision of Deerfield, and Rep. Susan Deuchler, R-Aurora.

Persons wishing to appear at the June 7 meeting in Springfield may register with the commission office by phone, at (217)782-5336, Berning said.

Agent Orange Handout

By MIKE FRINGSBERG

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

The publication discussed reports linking dioxin with a variety of health disorders — headaches, liver and blood disorders, nerve damage, cancer.

Now veterans asking about Agent Orange get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are only based on "a theory." It may have caused "delayed health effects." The publication does not name any of them.

The Veterans Administration said in revising the pamphlet no effort was made to tone down what veterans are told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

During the war, 8 percent of the land area of Vietnam was sprayed with the herbicide to destroy Viet Cong crops and uncover the jungle hiding places of communist troops. The spraying was halted after health questions were raised.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

He termed the old pamphlet "somewhat outdated." It bore a photograph of Max Cleland, the wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter administration.

Both the old and the new publications assert that

facts about possible health damage have not been established.

But the old one was more detailed about what is suspected.

Said the old, orange-colored pamphlet: "We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific

skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne.

"In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported ... Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of

some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

The new, blue-covered publication says: "During 1978, a theory was publicized" that veterans who were exposed to Agent

Orange "might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure."

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process.

"The contaminant dioxin

Adopts Softer Tone

is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen, in an interview, said not many copies of the orange pamphlet were left and those that remained

were taken off the shelves. But, he said, the blue pamphlet was not intended to replace the orange one. He said the type is larger in the blue pamphlet so there was not as much room for the detail that the orange pamphlet had.

Moen noted, too, that a second new pamphlet, with a brown cover, has been

issued to tell about medical treatment offered veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

A third, to come out next month, will answer frequently asked questions, he said, and another publication is planned to describe research under way or anticipated.

VA backs off on Agent Orange ills

By Mike Feinallber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the defoliant that was used widely in the Vietnam War.

The publication dismissed reports linking dioxin with a variety of health disorders — headaches, liver and blood disorders, nerve damage, cancer.

Now veterans get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are only based on "a theory" that it may have caused "delayed health effects." The publication does not name them.

The Veterans Administration said, however, that in revising the pamphlet no effort was made to tone down what veterans were told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

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Both the old and the new publications asserted that facts about possible health damage had not been established, but the old one was more detailed about what was suspected.

The old pamphlet said, "We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne, which closely resembles the common form of acne."

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The new publication says, "During 1978, a theory was publicized" that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange "might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure."

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process."

"The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen, in an interview, said that a second new pamphlet had been issued telling about medical treatment offered veterans who believed they might have been exposed to Agent Orange.

No one knows how many US were exposed to Agent Orange from 1962 to 1971, when 12 million gallons were sprayed in Vietnam. The operation stopped when there were reports of high numbers of miscarriages among rural Vietnamese women.

An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

The VA's position is that no link has been established between Agent Orange and any disorder except chloracne, a severe skin rash, but that research is needed to establish defin-

tively whether a link exists. No claims for disability compensation based on exposure to Agent Orange have been honored.

A 1981 law requires the VA to provide medical care to any Vietnam era veteran who "may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in a herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes." That program has just been established.

Two major research projects are under way. The Air Force is studying the condition of 1,200 "Operation Ranch Hand" veterans who were involved in spraying Agent Orange.

For 20 years or more, their health will be compared to the conditions of veterans who presumably were not exposed. The VA is evaluating the proposed design of a study to compare the health of 6,000 servicemen who are considered to have been exposed with two control groups of 6,000 men each.

GRETNA, LA.

WEEKLY

BOX 64061

B.R., LA. 70804

METROPOLITAN

Press Clipping Bureau of La.

MAY-26-82

Vietnam vet's death remains clouded issue

181
An ex-marine whose death inspired a protest and hunger strike by Vietnam veterans has remained unburied for a year while his widow sought money for a second autopsy.

Suzanne Hopkins, widow of James Roger Hopkins, said last week the second autopsy has finally been scheduled.

She believes her husband, who shot up a Veterans Administration Hospital in 1981, was murdered. A coroner's jury ruled the 32-year-old committed suicide.

She has refused to claim her husband's body, Mrs. Hopkins said, "Because I wanted to make sure when I got enough money for a second autopsy that they couldn't say I had tampered with the body."

Mrs. Hopkins said the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office agreed to repeat the autopsy and toxicological tests for \$600.

Hopkins drove a jeep through the glass doors of the Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in West Los Angeles in March 1981, then fired a semi-automatic rifle into the lobby. No one was injured.

While he was awaiting trial, he was found dead May 17 in his mobile home, with an open whiskey bottle and an empty pill container nearby.

Hopkins had attributed his actions to the effects

of Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used in the Vietnam War. He said the Veterans Administration was indifferent to his claims.

After his death, a group of Vietnam veterans staged a sit-in and hunger strike at the VA Hospital, demanding that the VA seriously investigate the effects of Agent Orange on soldiers.

"I have a widow's pension of \$300 a month," Mrs. Hopkins said, explaining why it took so long to get the second autopsy.

"I've gotten estimates of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 for a private autopsy. That's more than I make in a year, and I have to buy my food and clothes and take care of my stepson.

"I got the offer for an autopsy for only \$600, I jumped at it. But they waited for my check to clear before they scheduled the autopsy."

She believes her husband was knocked out with some drug such as chloroform, and then injected with a drug that would kill him.

Mrs. Hopkins said she plans eventually to have her husband's body cremated and scatter his ashes in an Indian burial ground.

VA gives less information on Agent Orange

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Parents of disabled girl wage

NEW YORK (AP) — Five years after her daughter Kerry was born with multiple birth defects, Maureen Ryan was in a hospital waiting room when she noticed a two-paragraph story in a health magazine.

"Scientists Questioning Herbicide Use in Vietnam," said the headline.

"It did something to me," Mrs. Ryan, 34, recalls. "A light went on."

Thus began the Ryan family's crusade against Agent Orange, a defoliant the Army used when Michael Ryan was in Vietnam in 1967. It contains dioxin, a highly toxic contaminant.

Maureen Ryan began reading all she could about the

crusade against Agent Orange

chemical. One day, she stumbled across the word "teratogen," and the horror of what she and her husband believe happened to their family became clear.

"I looked it up in the dictionary. It's a Greek word meaning monster maker. I remember looking at Kerry and thinking 'monster makers . . . the bastards,' " she says.

Until then, the Long Island couple had accepted the handicaps of Kerry, their only child, as an act of God. Fate.

"We weren't mad at all before Agent Orange," Ryan, 36, said. "When we found out . . . it was like all the scabs of the wound had been ripped off."

They were angry that the government hadn't warned Ryan about the potential hazards of exposure; that they dared not risk having another child; that Ryan might face an increased risk of cancer.

And they were angered again when the Veteran's Administration refused to concede Agent Orange might be causing cancer and other illnesses in veterans and birth defects in their children.

The VA has declined to pay for related treatments. It was not until 1979 that Congress mandated a study of 18,000 veterans to learn the possible ill effects of Agent Orange.

The Ryans have told their story in "Kerry, Agent Orange and an American Family," by Chicago journalist-author Clifford Lindecker.

The heartache began Jan. 23, 1971, when Kerry was born with no rectum, an arm bent back against her side like a tiny chicken wing, a missing thumb and contracted fingers.

Those were just the first of 22 birth defects doctors would discover, including duplicate reproductive organs and a serious heart defect.

But the Ryans welcomed their child. "She enriches our lives every day," Mrs. Ryan says.

VA changes Agent Orange

By Mike Feinell
Associated Press

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That information is dropped from the new publication. In its place, under the heading, "Why People Are Concerned," it says:

"During 1978, a theory was publicized that the veterans exposed to Agent Orange when it was used in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure.

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen said not many copies of the Cleland pamphlet were left and those that remained were taken from the racks.

book

VA changes Agent Orange

book

By Mike Feinsilber

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one which lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made, in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be

provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question and answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

The new pamphlet is printed with a blue cover. The old one was orange.

It took the form of a message from Max Cleland, a wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter Administration. It carried Cleland's picture.

That publication noted that dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals and added:

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne. In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported . . .

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SOURCE

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

CITY AND STATE

PUEBLO, COLORADO

DATE OF PUBL.

MAY 26, 1982

AD

Pamphlet tells less about Agent Orange

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one which lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry B. Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs.

The VA also has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

No one knows how many GIs were exposed to Agent Orange from 1962 to 1971, when 12 million gallons were sprayed to kill Viet Cong crops and strip away jungle cover concealing communist troops. An estimated 8 percent of the land area of South Vietnam was sprayed. The operation stopped when there were reports of high numbers of miscarriages among rural Vietnamese women.

An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

THE EVENING SUN, Wednesday, May 15, 1972

Pamphlet softened on Agent Orange

WASHINGTON (AP)—Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

The publication discussed reports linking dioxin with a variety of health disorders—headaches, liver and blood disorders, nerve damage, cancer.

Now veterans asking about Agent Orange get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are based only on "a theory" it may have caused "delayed health effects." The publication does not name any of them.

The Veterans Administration said in revising the pamphlet no effort was made to tone down what veterans are told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

During the war, 8 percent of the land area of Vietnam was sprayed with the herbicide to destroy Viet Cong crops and uncover the jungle hiding places of communist troops.

The spraying was halted after health questions were raised.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

He termed the old pamphlet "somewhat outdated."

Both the old and the new publications assert that facts about possible health damage have not been established. But the old one was more detailed about what is suspected.

Moen said the new blue pamphlet was not intended to replace the orange one. He said the type is larger in the blue; so there was not as much room for the orange's detail.

Moen also noted a second new pamphlet, with a brown cover, has been issued to tell about medical treatment offered veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Agent Orange discussed at symposium

Vietnam veterans groups are going to have to exert pressure to spur investigations into the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, Randall Trackwell said Wednesday.

Trackwell, a Vietnam veteran who has been conducting his own investigation of the use of Agent Orange, spoke at a symposium on Agent Orange at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center. The symposium was part of Vietnam Era Recognition Week activities. About 20 to 25 people attended the symposium, an organizer said.

Agent Orange is a chemical defoliant that was used in Vietnam to destroy heavy jungle vegetation so that enemy soldiers couldn't hide there. An American government film that was shown as part of the symposium Wednesday stated that the use of Agent Orange consequently "probably saved thousands of lives."

Agent Orange is a herbicide made up of equal parts of two chemicals referred to as 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D. A by-product of the manufacture of 2,4,5-T is

dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known to man, health officials say.

American veterans exposed to Agent Orange have expressed concern that the exposure could cause cancer in them or birth defects in their children, or other health problems. Such symptoms have been reported in dioxin poisoning.

The film said that the Veterans Administration is continuing its study.

Dr. Chester M. Lessenden Jr., a dermatologist at the VA hospital here, also spoke at the symposium. He spoke because certain skin problems have been linked to Agent Orange exposure. He said the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is conducting a study on dioxin poisoning in Georgians.

TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

Established 1910

El Paso, TX
Times
(Cir. D. 55,788)
(Cir. S. 88,483)

MAY 27 1962

Agency tones down Agent Orange flyer

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A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one that lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made,

in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans.

In addition, the VA has issued a flyer telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

The old publication noted that dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals and added:

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne."

Description of Agent Orange Revised in New VA Pamphlet

Associated Press

Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

But now they will get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are only based on "a theory" that it may have caused "delayed health effects," none of which is listed.

The Veterans Administration said that, in revising the pamphlet, no effort was made to tone down what veterans are told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

He termed the old pamphlet "somewhat outdated." It bore a photograph of Max Cleland, VA administrator under President Carter.

Both the old and the new publications assert that facts about possible health damage have not been established. But the old one was more detailed about what is suspected.

For instance, the old, orange-colored pamphlet said: "We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne, which closely resembles the common forms of acne."

"In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver

function and nerve damage have been reported. . . . Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

The new, blue-covered publication says: "During 1978, a theory was publicized" that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange "might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure."

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process."

"The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen said the few remaining copies of the orange pamphlet were taken off the shelves. But, he said, the blue pamphlet was not intended to replace the orange one.

Another new pamphlet, he said, has been issued to tell about medical treatment offered veterans who believe they might have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

A third, to come out next month, will answer frequently asked questions, he said, and another publication is planned to describe research under way or anticipated.

SOURCE

Columbus Citizen Journal

CITY AND STATE

Columbus, Ohio

DATE OF PUBL.

May 28, 1982

Columbus Citizen Journal

May 28, 1982

Agent Orange screening bill signed

By LEE LEONARD

UPI Staffhouse Reporter

Gov. James A. Rhodes signed legislation yesterday, effective in 90 days, that establishes a genetic screening and counseling program for Vietnam veterans who were exposed to the toxic chemical Agent Orange.

The governor also signed a bill that allows big cities next year to set up collection agencies for unpaid parking fines, enabling them to double their collections in some instances.

Sponsors of the new law said, for example, that Columbus's annual parking-fine revenues could go from \$680,000 to \$1.35 million under the new system.

The Agent Orange bill was sponsored by Sen. Thomas A. Van Meter, R-Ashland, a Vietnam veteran.

It requires that the Ohio Board of Regents designate a state-supported

university or college as the medical facility for compiling information, conducting medical studies and performing genetic tests on veterans believed to have been exposed to the chemical.

Agent Orange is a defoliant used in Southeast Asia during fighting in the 1960s and '70s to destroy jungle cover.

The chemical may have caused serious skin and respiratory problems for the affected veterans, as well as deformities in their children.

Thus far, there has been a lack of facilities in the United States for either screening or treating exposed veterans and counseling their families.

The new law establishes an Agent Orange Advisory Council to oversee the studies, counseling and testing, and requires any physician or hospital treating a veteran exposed to Agent Orange to report it to the designated medical facility.

Agent Orange cases will be referred to the U.S. Veterans' Administration for treatment and medical claims.

The state attorney general will be authorized to file a class-action suit in behalf of afflicted veterans against the chemical company that produced the toxic agent. Veterans will have two years after their malady becomes known to be a party to such a lawsuit.

The existing state budget contains \$500,000 to get the new screening and counseling program started.

The new parking-ticket law, effective next Jan. 1, will permit municipalities to treat unpaid parking fines as a civil matter rather than a criminal offense.

Sponsors said this will eliminate the involvement of police officers and prosecutors in the collection process, saving government money.

SOURCE

The Dallas Morning News

CITY AND STATE

Dallas, Texas

DATE OF PUBL.

May 28, 1982

40

Friday, May 28, 1982

The Dallas Morning News

3 A

Vietnamese OK sought for Agent Orange study

Reuters

BANGKOK, Thailand — A delegation of American Vietnam War veterans will ask the Vietnamese government to allow U.S. scientists to study Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Thomas Bird, a former infantry sergeant and vice president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Association, said the 9-member delegation will try to open discussions with the Vietnamese about the effect of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by U.S. forces during the war.

The group, which will leave for Hanoi Friday, will follow up a visit a group of veterans made in December.

"We will ask permission for free access to Vietnam, or territory in the south where Agent Orange was used, for scientists from America to strengthen their studies," he said.

During the week-long visit, dele-

gation members also will ask about the estimated 2,500 Americans missing in action during the Vietnam War and the fate of the estimated 80,000 Vietnamese children fathered by Americans.

"We were told in December that the Vietnamese government would give a sympathetic hearing to the children's case," Bird said. "We now want to let them know of congressional moves to permit their easy entry to the United States."

The group will include theatrical producer Joseph Papp, who will be ignoring U.S. government advice by trying to organize a U.S. tour for Dang Thai Son, an award-winning Vietnamese concert pianist.

Papp produced such hit Broadway shows as *A Chorus Line* and *Pirates of Penzance*.

SOURCE

PEOPLE'S WORLD

CITY AND STATE

BERKELEY, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 29, 1982

Vietnam's expert on Agent Orange dies

BERKELEY—Dr. Ton That Tung, renowned Vietnamese surgeon-scientist and world's leading expert on Agent Orange, died in Hanoi May 7. It was learned here this week.

Dr. Tung was director and chief of surgery at Viet Duc Hospital, a member of the National Assembly of Vietnam and Vice Minister of Public Health, and a member of the Academies of Medicine of the USSR, German Democratic Republic, France and Algeria.

He made a national tour of the U.S. in 1979, testifying in Washington D.C. before a Congressional committee on

herbicide spraying, and working for closer scientific cooperation between U.S. and Vietnamese scientists. In the Bay Area, he spoke at a reception sponsored by the U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Assn.

Dr. Tung chaired a special commission of both Vietnamese and foreign experts on the consequences of U.S. chemical warfare in Vietnam and authored a book "U.S. Chemical Warfare and Its Consequences."

Dr. Tung would have been 70 years old May 10.

A State funeral was held May 9 in Hanoi, organized by members of the Vietnamese State, Party and Fatherland Front.

VA Deletes Information On Defoliant Pamphlet Cuts Specifics Of Agent Orange Theory

By MIKE FEINSILBER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration has scaled back the information it gives inquiring veterans about Agent Orange, dropping specific mention of the diseases for which contact with the defoliant is a suspected cause.

A new pamphlet names no diseases and says veterans' concerns spring from "a theory" that dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the herbicide, may have caused "delayed health effects."

The pamphlet replaces one which lays out the ailments that have been suspected as having been caused by dioxin — difficulties that range from headaches to cancer.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry Moen of the VA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, in response to questions.

Moen said no effort was made, in revising the pamphlet, to tone it down. He said no diseases are named because the new version is in larger type and there was less room for details.

But he said further information will be provided in forthcoming publications for veterans — a question and answer sheet and a pamphlet detailing research efforts.

In addition, the VA has issued a flier telling about medical treatment available to veterans who believe they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. They are distributed in VA regional offices and in response to inquiries.

The new pamphlet is printed with a blue cover. The old one was orange.

It took the form of a message from Max Cleland, a wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter administration. It carried Cleland's picture.

That publication noted that dioxin has caused cancer, miscarriages and birth defects in laboratory animals, and added:

"We do know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne. In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported."

It continued: "Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

That information is dropped from the new publication. In its place, under the heading, "Why People Are Concerned," it says:

"During 1978, a theory was publicized that the veterans exposed to Agent Orange when it was used in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971 might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure."

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD), which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process. The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

Moen said not many copies of the Cleland pamphlet were left, and those that remained were taken from the racks.

No one knows how many GIs were exposed to Agent Orange from 1962 to 1971, when 12 million gallons were sprayed to kill Viet Cong crops and strip away jungle cover concealing communist troops. An estimated 8 percent of the land area of South Vietnam was sprayed. The operation stopped when there were reports of high numbers of miscarriages among rural Vietnamese women.

An estimated 84,000 American Vietnam veterans have sought and taken a special medical exam at VA hospitals to see if they suffer from effects of exposure.

The VA's position is that no link has been established between Agent Orange and any disorder except chloracne, a severe skin rash, but research is needed to establish definitively whether a link exists. No claims for disability compensation based on exposure to Agent Orange have been honored.

A 1961 law requires the VA to provide medical care to any Vietnam-era veteran who "may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in a herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes." That program has just been established.

Two major research projects are under way. The Air Force is studying the condition of 1,300 "Operation Ranch Hand" veterans who were involved in spraying Agent Orange and presumably were heavily exposed. For 20 years or more, their health will be compared with the conditions of veterans who presumably were not exposed.

The VA is evaluating the proposed design of a study to compare the health of 6,000 servicemen who are considered to have been exposed with two control groups of 6,000 each of men who are presumed not to have been in contact with the defoliant. That study will cost millions of dollars and take years to perform.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta are comparing the number of birth defects in babies sired by Vietnam veterans with babies whose fathers were not in the war.

A class-action lawsuit on behalf of thousands of Vietnam veterans has been under way in U.S. District Court in Uniondale, N.Y., for three years.

DENVER POST

CITY AND STATE

DENVER, COLORADO

DATE OF PUBL.

MAY 30 1982

Veterans Ask For U.S. Study On Defoliant

From World-Herald Press Services

Hanoi, Vietnam — An American Vietnam War veterans' group Sunday proposed that American scientists come to Vietnam to investigate the effects of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by U.S. forces during the war.

But Vietnamese officials said they would have to discuss the detailed, seven-page proposal from the Vietnam Veterans of America before agreeing to the study. The Associated Press reported.

The Vietnamese claim Agent Orange may cause birth defects, liver cancer and other ailments.

The nine-member group, headed by Tom Bird, arrived Friday in Hanoi for a week's visit and were given what the Vietnamese called "initial information" on American war dead in five provinces of the country.

The group is expected to return this week with the remains of four servicemen listed as missing in action over North Vietnam for at least 15 years, news reports said Sunday.

U.S. records available in Bangkok showed all four of the dead servicemen were last reported flying over North Vietnam in aircraft presumably shot down by communist gunners between 1965 and 1967.

Vietnamese officials said the remains of four other Americans had been recovered but not identified, and would be repatriated at a later date, United Press International reported. An estimated 2,500 U.S. servicemen are listed as missing in Vietnam.

Most members of the group praised what they said was the sincerity of the Vietnamese officials they encountered and described the series of long, week-end meetings as "highly emotional," AP said.

The meeting on Agent Orange took place at the Vietnam-German Democratic Republic Friendship Hospital. Reporters and some of the group members were later taken to a ward for possible victims of dioxin, the toxin component of Agent Orange.

Dr. Ton Buc Lang, a key Vietnamese researcher, admitted there was still lack of scientific proof of the agent's harmful effects. But he said that research showed a very high incidence of birth defects in children of veterans who had fought in South Vietnam.

SOURCE

ARGUS-LEADER

CITY AND STATE

Sioux Falls, S.D.

DATE OF PUBL.

May 31, 1982

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, S.D. Monday, May 31, 1982

Vets urge Agent Orange study

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — An American Vietnam war veterans' group Sunday proposed that American scientists come to Vietnam to investigate the effects of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by U.S. forces during the war.

But Vietnamese officials said they would have to discuss the detailed, seven-page proposal from the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) before agreeing to the study. The Vietnamese claim Agent Orange may cause birth defects, liver cancer and other ailments.

The nine-member group, headed by VVA vice president Tom Bird, arrived in Hanoi Friday for a week's visit and were given what the Vietnamese called initial information on American war dead in five provinces of the country.

The names of four dead U.S. servicemen were provided and the Vietnamese said the remains of four others were recovered, but had not been identified. Officials said the remains would be repatriated at a later date.

Bird said Hanoi would allow U.S. servicemen's children — estimated at up to 50,000 — to leave Vietnam for the United States, but would need proof the fathers really wanted a reunion.

It was not immediately clear whether the plan intended for the youngsters to live in the United States, how the group proposed to trace them, or whether their mothers would be involved in a trip abroad.

The meeting on Agent Orange took place at the Vietnam-German Democratic Republic Friendship Hospital. Reporters and some of the

group members were later taken to a ward for possible victims of dioxin, the toxin component of Agent Orange which was sprayed on the countryside as a defoliant to deprive Communist forces of cover.

The patients included two blind daughters of a man who said he was a driver on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a supply route from North to South Vietnam, and who had been exposed to the agent.

The effects of Agent Orange are still the subject of medical research and controversy in the United States.

Vets seek U.S. study of Agent

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Bird said Hanoi would allow U.S. servicemen's children — who are estimated to number up to 50,000 — to leave Vietnam for the United States, but would need proof the fathers really wanted a reunion.

It was not immediately clear whether the plan intended for the youngsters to live in the United States, how the group proposed to trace them, or if their mothers would be involved in a trip abroad.

Most members of the group praised what they said was the sincerity of the Vietnamese officials they encountered and described the series of long weekend meetings on the issues of Americans missing in action, Amerasians and Agent Orange as "highly emotional."

"ANY TIME the U.S. and Vietnamese governments start working together, we'll be out of business, and happily so," said Greg Kane, director of operations of the VVA in New York. "We're just filling the gap."

"You people have touched my heart," said Lynda Van Devanter of Herndon, Va., who had served as a nurse in Vietnam during the war, which ended in 1975.

In a toast to Deputy Foreign Minister Ha Van Lau, New York City theatrical producer Joseph Papp said: "Some of us will be criticized when we return to the United States. Our extreme emotion might be misconstrued as being brainwashed, but we are not fools. We understand real feelings, the feelings of good will."

Papp, one of America's top stage pro-

Orange effects in Vietnam

ducers, was asked to come along on the trip to help initiate an American-Vietnamese cultural exchange.

He said Washington's "punitive policy" toward Vietnam — which includes a trade embargo and no diplomatic recognition — was not "reflected in the general American public."

Bird, an infantry sergeant in the Vietnam war, said his "dream" was to have the American public persuade Washington to adopt a policy that would finally bring peace between the one-time enemies.

"I PROMISE to let America know, to popularize your humanitarian efforts on behalf of the MIAs," Bird told Lau in an informal talk Saturday.

The meeting on Agent Orange took place at the Vietnam-German Democratic Republic Friendship Hospital. Re-

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SOURCE

COMMERCIAL NEWS

CITY AND STATE

Danville, Illinois

DATE OF PUBL.

May 31, 1982

The Commercial-News, Danville, Ill. Monday, May 31, 1982

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SOURCE

TRIBUNE

CITY AND STATE

OAKLAND, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 31, 1982

Viet vets urge new 'Orange' study

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officials they encountered and described the series of long, weekend meetings on the issues of Americans missing in action, Amerasians and Agent Orange as "highly emotional."

"Any time the U.S. and Vietnamese governments start working together, we'll be out of business, and happily so," said Greg Kane, director of operations of the VVA in New York. "We're just filling the gap."

"You people have touched my heart," said Lynda Van Devanter of Herndon, Va., a nurse in Vietnam during the war, which ended in 1975.

In a toast to Deputy Foreign Minister Ha Van Lau, New York City theatrical producer Joseph Papp said: "Some of us will be criticized when we return to the United States. Our extreme emotion might be misconstrued as being brainwashed, but we are not fools. We understand real feelings, the feelings of goodwill."

Papp, one of America's top stage producers, was asked to come along on the trip to help initiate an American-Vietnamese cultural exchange.

He said Washington's "punitive policy" toward Vietnam — which includes a trade embargo and no diplomatic recognition — was not "reflected in the general American public."

"I promise to let America know, to popularize your humanitarian efforts on behalf of the MIAs," Bird told Lau in an informal talk Saturday.

AGENT ORANGE

Vietnam veterans battling rashes, other maladies

By CAROLYN PESCE
Gannett News Service
Copyright 1982, Marietta Times

The rash on Carl Gillespie's face keeps coming back. The scars heal, but then his skin cracks open again, and it oozes. Pimples on a 36-year-old face.

The burning sensation in his lungs never goes away, neither do the terrible headaches and the stomach pains. And the depression.

And the memory.

For Carl Gillespie of New Matamoras, Ohio, it came in the Demilitarized Zone in Vietnam. His job that day was to dig bunkers into the side of a cliff, but first the vegetation had to be killed.

The spray planes came, and the wind shifted.

"The change of wind blew mist down on us," Gillespie recalls. "If you caught it in the sunlight, you could see a rainbow color."

It was no rainbow. It was Agent Orange.

Agent Orange — a combination of compounds known as 2,4,5-T, and 2,4-D, to be exact — was dumped on Vietnam in staggering amounts to help Americans fight a war on terrain they did not know. A virulent herbicide, it could wither a forest cover overnight.

Combining the two compounds produces dioxin, termed the deadliest compound made by man. Three ounces of dioxin introduced into New York's water supply could kill the city's population.

Some 350 pounds of dioxin probably fell on Vietnam, combined in the 10 million gallons of Agent Orange sprayed there between 1965 and 1970. It also wafted over many, if not all, of the 2.4 million American troops there. Says one veteran, "If you were in Vietnam, you were exposed, unless you were in Saigon sipping Perrier water."

Joe Lucas isn't sure where he got his worst dose of Agent Orange.

Lucas, like Gillespie, lives with scars and rashes and bad nerves and depression.

He also lives with his wife and their two daughters, Missy and Shelby. The children were born three years apart after he came back from Vietnam. Both were born albino. They are both legally blind, attend special classes, and say they wish they looked like other kids.

"I'm not ashamed of them," says Lucas, 35. "They're good kids. I'm not saying for sure they're like that because of Agent Orange, but I would sure like to know. I don't know what else it could be."

To Victor Yannacone, it boils down to one simple fact: "All of the men who went to Vietnam went there healthy and came back sick."

Yet he knows that resolving the Agent Orange issue is not that simple.

Working in a cluttered of-

fice in Patchogue, N.Y., he is the lead attorney in the largest class-action product liability case in history — a suit against the manufacturers of Agent Orange.

More than 30,000 veterans from all corners of the country have joined in some aspect of the suit, and Yannacone estimates another 50,000 could claim some disability from Agent Orange. Veterans from Australia, New Zealand and Canada are joining in, too.

Besides being the largest, it also is one of the most complex of lawsuits, juggling questions of legal liability and scientific evidence.

Are the Agent Orange manufacturers responsible for its ill effects, or is it the federal government — or no one?

And can it be said for sure that the ailments were caused by exposure to Agent Orange?

Roger Phillis thinks he is sure. Phillis works as a policeman in Marietta. It's the same job he wanted when he joined the Marines, but someone thought he was too small to be a military policeman, so he was made a machine gunner and sent to Vietnam.

On one mission, he says, he remembers walking through elephant grass so sharp it cut his skin. The grass was oily; it had just been sprayed. In a matter of days, he says, he was treated for a severe skin rash, but the Marines kept no records.

Now, on a hot and humid day in Marietta, Phillis feels like tearing his skin apart. And in the winter-time, his irritated skin turns purple and looks like scar tissue.

The words on the plaque outside the Veterans Administration building are Abraham Lincoln's: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

Inside that building and elsewhere in the VA, many

officials concede that the agency's attitude on Agent Orange has not always conformed to the spirit of Lincoln's words.

SOURCE WISCONSIN
STATE JOURNAL
CITY AND STATE
Madison, Wisconsin
DATE OF PUBL.
June 1, 1982

Page 18, Section 1

Wisconsin State Journal, Tuesday, June 1, 1982

Viet Agent Orange study asked

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — An American Vietnam War veterans' group proposed Sunday that American scientists come to Vietnam to investigate the effects of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by U.S. forces during the war.

But Vietnamese officials said they would have to discuss the seven-page proposal from the Vietnam Veterans of America before agreeing to the study. The Vietnamese claim Agent Orange may cause birth defects, liver cancer and other ailments.

The nine-member group arrived in Hanoi Friday for a week's visit and was given what the Vietnamese called "initial information" on American war dead in five provinces.

JUNE 1, 1982

Legislators Turn Down Agent Orange Suit Bill

BATON ROUGE (UPI)

Louisiana legislators refused Monday to make it easier for Vietnam veterans to file claims against chemical companies that manufactured the defoliant Agent Orange.

Members of the Civil Law and Procedure Committee voted 7-2 against a proposal that would have increased the time allowed for filing damages.

Under the proposal, veterans diagnosed in the future to have medical problems that could be traced to Agent Orange would have grounds to sue.

Present law begins the statute of limitations at the time when the chemical was identified as a health hazard. The proposal would have allowed each veteran time to file suit after being diagnosed in the future with a disease traceable to Agent Orange.

"It would open the door to many more cases," said Vic Marcello, a lawyer representing Agent Orange victims in Louisiana.

But lawmakers said the proposal was special interest legislation that would "open a can of worms."

"War is horrible, whatever the situation," said Rep. B.F. O'Neal, R-Shreveport, and a veteran.

"When a corporation is asked to produce chemicals in the national interest... and here we're subjecting the people who produced the supplies in time of war (to liability) there is no end to it."

Rep. Charles Jones, a Monroe lawyer, acknowledged the reservations expressed by others on the committee, but said facts other than legal procedure should be considered.

SOURCE MINNESOTA

LEGIONNAIRE

CITY AND STATE

St. Paul, Minn.

DATE OF PUBL.

June 1982

New VA Office To Deal With Agent Orange

In a continuing effort to help resolve remaining Agent Orange questions, the Veterans Administration has announced the formation of a new office to deal exclusively with Agent Orange matters.

Charles T. Hagel, VA deputy administrator who heads the Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee, said creation of the Agent Orange Research and Education Office (AOREO) should ensure clear policy guidance and solid management of the many Agent Orange-related activities in which the VA is involved.

"The Veterans Administration should lead the way in resolving the Agent Orange question through our medical and scientific research projects and I believe the formation of this new office is a step in the right direction," Hagel said.

"It is my intention that this new office become the single focal point for all VA Agent Orange matters and that it provide guidance and oversight for all of these activities."

The VA official pointed out that VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery will continue to play a lead role in the VA's Agent Orange program and will work closely with the new office. The office will be headed by Maurice LeVois, a Ph.D. candidate in health psychology and health systems research at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. He will report directly to Hagel.

Assisting in the Agent Orange efforts will be Dr. Theodore Woodward, one of the VA's "Distinguished Physicians."

Extra time for defoliant suits rejected

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Rep. Charles Jones, a Monroe lawyer, acknowledged the reservations expressed by others on the committee, but said facts other than legal procedure should be considered.

"Those persons that have not had any direct relationship to the situation probably can be more philosophical," Jones said.

"I had two brothers to serve in Vietnam and one brother to be killed."

Family battles Agent Orange

By BETSY KENEDY
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Five years after her daughter Kerry was born with multiple birth defects, Maureen Ryan was in a hospital waiting room when she noticed a two-paragraph story in a health magazine.

"Scientists Questioning Herbicide Use in Vietnam," said the headline.

"It did something to me," Mrs. Ryan, 34, recalls. "A light went on."

Thus began the Ryan family's crusade against Agent Orange, a defoliant the Army used when Michael Ryan was in Vietnam in 1967. It contains dioxin, a highly toxic contaminant.

Maureen Ryan began reading all she could about the chemical. One day, she stumbled across the word "teratrogen," and the horror of what she and her husband believe happened to their family became clear.

"I looked it up in the dictionary. It's a Greek word meaning monster-maker. I remember looking at Kerry and thinking 'monster makers ... the b—s,'" she says.

Until then, the Long Island couple had accepted the handicaps of Kerry, their only child, as an act of God. Fate.

"We weren't mad at all before Agent Orange," Ryan, 36, said. "When we found out ... it was like all the scabs of the wound had been ripped off."

They were angry that the government hadn't warned Ryan about the potential hazards of exposure; that they dared not risk having another child; that Ryan might face an increased risk of cancer.

And they were angered again when the Veteran's Administration refused to concede Agent Orange might be causing cancer and other illnesses in veterans and birth defects in their children.

The VA has declined to pay for related treatments. It was not until 1979 that Congress mandated a study of 18,000 veterans to learn the possible ill effects of Agent Orange.

The Ryans have told their story in "Kerry, Agent Orange and an American Family," by Chicago journalist-author Clifford Lindecker.

The heartache began Jan. 23, 1971, when Kerry was born with no rectum, an arm bent back against her side like a tiny chicken wing, a missing thumb and contracted fingers.

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But the Ryans welcomed their child. "She enriches our lives every day," Mrs. Ryan says.

In the first seven years of Kerry's life, during which she had at least seven major operations, they paid an estimated \$70,000 for treatment — in addition to insurance payments.

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Yearly medical expenses run about \$4,000 to \$5,000, including \$3,000 in disposable diapers not reimbursable by insurance.

Many times Kerry was near death.

At 18 months, just as she was beginning to walk, a blood clot that formed during surgery permanently damaged her brain — one of her healthy organs — making her temporarily blind.

While she regained sight, Kerry remains intellectually damaged. Her speech is impaired and she is confined to a wheelchair.

The hardest part, says Mrs. Ryan, is knowing "for the rest of her life she'll be in diapers and a wheelchair ... that never once will she go on a date, go to a prom, walk down the aisle on her father's arm."

Today, the energy once spent keeping Kerry alive is directed toward Agent Orange, the enemy since that day in 1976 in the waiting room of Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore.

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DAILY INDEPENDENT

Grand Island, Neb.

June 2, 1982

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"The clincher" came when she realized her husband's medical problems — headaches, weight loss, hearing loss, nervousness and an ugly rash called chloracne — matched those found in people exposed to the chemical.

Ryan's cousin, a career Army serviceman who had flown spray missions in Vietnam, confirmed Ryan had been in areas where the chemicals were sprayed.

"When we finally came to the irrefutable evidence that this is what happened, you felt like you'd been raped," says Mrs. Ryan.

That anger has not abated. It will not until they get answers and relief from the chemical companies they have sued and the government.

"Mike has been home from Vietnam for 16 years, Kerry is 11 years old. At what point do we get some explanations?" she asks.

The Ryans were among the first to join Agent Orange Victims International in 1978. They have held news conferences and testified in Congress.

In 1979, Ryan was a plaintiff in a class-action suit against Dow Chemical Co. and five other manufacturers of defoliants and herbicides sprayed in Vietnam. The case is pending.

Kerry, who knows about Agent Orange, still sees doctors twice a month, has expensive physical and rehabilitative therapy three times a week, needs orthopedic devices and faces further corrective surgery.

With profits from their book, the Ryans hope to build a home specially designed for Kerry.

Magazine Sparks Crusade Against Agent Orange

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Vets win Orange extension

By RON CLAIBORNE

Albany (News Bureau)—Gov. Carey yesterday signed into law a bill making it possible for more Vietnam veterans in the state to file damage suits for illnesses caused by the defoliant Agent Orange.

The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Connors (D-Albany), extends for more than two years the exposure period for which a soldier can sue.

The law also gives those persons

who have not sued for damages within two years of discovering their sickness until June 15, 1983, to do so.

Carey also signed into law a bill to extend property tax exemptions for building or rehabilitating one and two-family houses in New York City. The bill, sponsored by Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink (D-Brooklyn), makes the tax breaks available for work begun before July 1986 and completed before June 1988.

Carey is expected to veto within two weeks the death penalty bill approved by the Legislature late Tuesday, his sixth consecutive thumbs-down on a capital punishment measure. The latest vote in the Assembly, 81 to 61, was far short of the 100 votes necessary to override the governor's promised veto. The bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Vincent Graber (D-Erie), said yesterday he has not decided whether to even attempt an override.

SOURCE

THE HERALD DISPATCH

CITY AND STATE

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

DATE OF PUBL.

JUNE 3, 1982

Agent Orange effects studied

Associated Press

TOLEDO — A geneticist at the Medical College of Ohio said yesterday that Vietnam veterans and their families will be screened in the state's Agent Orange program at the school, one of only two in the country.

Dr. Thaddeus W. Kurczynski said the study hopes to examine about 400 Vietnam veterans and their families over a two-year period, financed by a \$500,000 appropriation from the Legislature. There are about 160,000 Vietnam veterans in Ohio.

A bill authorizing the study was recently signed into law by Gov. James A. Rhodes.

Kurczynski said data from military sources will be used to identify those veterans who had both acute and long-term exposure to the defoliant.

The compound includes the chemical diox-

in, a toxic byproduct of a chemical process used to create Agent Orange, Kurczynski said. In tests involving laboratory animals, he said, dioxin has been shown to be responsible for birth defects, chromosome damage and malignant changes in cells.

Plans for the study are being formulated by an advisory committee composed of doctors and representatives of veterans' groups, Kurczynski said.

The study will focus on the possible long-term genetic effects of the chemical, widely used during the war.

Kurczynski said four genetic centers at medical schools in Ohio will probably be used to conduct the research, including MCO, Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Wright State University in Dayton and Ohio State University in Columbus.

The committee will meet in Columbus next week with a medical researcher from Washington, who will pass on information about Agent Orange and its effects.

Several national studies of the chemical are being conducted, Kurczynski said, but the only other state conducting such a study is Texas.

"Of those veterans who are identified as having a long exposure to Agent Orange, we will conduct complete medical histories and examinations, and certain laboratory tests, including chromosome tests," Kurczynski said. "The families of these veterans, including spouses and children, may also be studied."

A key objective, Kurczynski said, is to inform veterans who may have had chromosome damage of the potential dangers they face in having children.

Veterans wait

Agent Orange study slowed

By John Hopkins

Don James, a Vietnam veteran who believes he's among thousands of Oklahoma men exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange while in combat, is disgruntled that the state Health Department hasn't made more progress in its study of the controversial herbicide.

But the state epidemiologist in charge of the Oklahoma study says progress is being made, although slowly, and the next step in the monumental task is creation of a commission to spearhead the project.

"This is something that's just going to take time," epidemiologist Mark Roberts said. "We're trying to cover all the bases because we definitely do not want to overlook one single aspect of this project."

In March, Oklahoma joined at least seven other states that have said they would provide aid to veterans who have suffered illness related to the chemical.

Oklahoma's bill requires the health department to collect data on the chemical and make that information available to the state's veterans. The data would also be used for further Agent Orange study.

At least five people will make up the Oklahoma committee on Agent Orange, officials said. Three will be Vietnam veterans and two will be medical experts. Roberts said they will provide input into the overall health department study.

After that, however, there's still a lot to do, officials said.

A referral program also will be established un-

See ORANGE — Page 2

Orange

Continued

der the health department administration to refer veterans to appropriate agencies for filing claims arising from exposure to Agent Orange.

The department also must initiate an education program for doctors on detecting, diagnosing and treating symptoms associated with exposure to the defoliant.

Agent Orange contains a highly toxic chemical known as dioxin and is a blend of two herbicides, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. About 10.7 million gallons of the chemical were sprayed in Vietnam jungles from 1965 to 1970 to make it harder for enemy troops to find cover.

Since then, thousands of veterans claim to have developed cancer, fathered children with birth defects or experienced other serious health problems.

The effects of the herbicide, and the exact number of men exposed to it, are still under study by various organizations.

"The reason we're anxious for this study to get going is because more and more people are becoming concerned because people appear to be experiencing the effects of Agent Orange," James said.

Many Vietnam vets and their wives are postponing families until studies determine any genetic effects the chemical may have, he said.

"It's been hell for our wives. They're the ones who're having to put up with our problems."

Added Roberts: "It's very important for people to realize that we're working on the study. We're trying to decide what the law requires and what the veterans want from this study. It's the only effective way of accomplishing results."

Information required to be collected includes medical records from the Veterans Administration Hospital and similar documents from private physicians who treated Vietnam veterans. Roberts could not estimate when the actual collection of information would begin.

WESTERN PRESS
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BERTHOUD, COLO.
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COLO
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JUN. 3 1962

Agent Orange research continues 61

In a continuing effort to help resolve remaining Agent Orange questions, the Veterans Administration has formed a new office to deal exclusively with Agent Orange matters.

The office will be headed by Maurice LeVois, a Ph.D. candidate in health psychology and health systems research at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. LeVois will report directly to Charles Hagel, VA deputy administrator, who heads the Agent Orange Policy Coordinating Committee.

Hagel said creation of the Agent Orange Research and Education Office should ensure clear policy guidance and solid management of the many

Agent Orange-related activities in which the VA is involved.

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"It is my intention that this new office become the single focal point for all VA Agent Orange matters and it provide guidance and oversight for all of these activities," Hagel continued.

He pointed out that VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery will continue to play a lead role in the VA's Agent Orange program and will work closely with the new office.

'Monster Maker'

Parents Blame Agent Orange

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Mother's Research

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No Warnings

They were angry that the government hadn't warned Ryan about the potential hazards of exposure; that they dared not risk having another child that Ryan might face an increased risk of cancer.

And they were angered again when the Veteran's Administration refused to concede Agent Orange might be causing cancer and other illnesses in veterans and birth defects in their children.

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Multiple Birth Defects

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Exorbitant Expenses

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No Dates, No Proms

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SOURCE

DAILY NEWS

CITY AND STATE

Springfield, MA

DATE OF PUBL.

June 5, 1982

Editorials

The editing of Agent Orange

CONSPICUOUS BY its absence in the revised Agent Orange pamphlet distributed by the Veterans Administration to Vietnam veterans is the mention of any diseases or health symptoms that reports have linked with human exposure to the defoliant.

The omission is indefensible, since veterans who ask the government about Agent Orange do so specifically out of concern for their health.

In the past, the booklet given to veterans who asked for information regarding Agent Orange exposure explained that while no facts had been established linking the defoliant to health damage, dioxin, a toxic Agent Orange ingredient, has been associated with a number of diseases and health disorders — which were dutifully listed.

The revised pamphlet no longer offers veterans any information beyond a cryptic statement telling them that worries about dioxin are based on "a theory" that it may have caused "delayed health effects." There is no further explanation or description of what the effects might be.

The pamphlet does not note, as the old publication did, that "humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne, which closely resembles the common form of acne." Nor does the new booklet acknowledge the reports of headaches, blood disorders, nausea, liver dysfunction and nerve damage among people exposed to dioxin — things that Vietnam veterans reasonably could be expected to want to know.

All of this takes an ironic twist: Precisely because of what the new booklet has omitted, additional interest is drawn to the Agent Orange issue.

This interest also is fueled by knowledge that the makers of the herbicide compounds 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T have described Agent Orange, in federal court documents, as highly toxic and dangerous, and disclaim any liability for injuries resulting from the military's use of the product.

Certainly the Agent Orange issue will not go away because of some editing on the government's part of a few unpleasant references. A great many individuals who served in Vietnam, where the substance was sprayed extensively by U.S. forces to defoliate forests, still are apprehensive about its possible long-term effects. They paid a personal price that should be more than sufficient to insure that their concerns will be respected by the United States government.

Perhaps, whoever has been trimming down that pamphlet should be trimmed down as well, in the matter of authority, to the equivalent of buck private in the bureaucracy.

Defoliant Linked to Cancer Rate

BALTIMORE, June 6 (AP) — A defoliant that the Army stopped using in the Vietnam War because of potential ecological damage is suspected of causing an increase in cancer deaths in western North Carolina. The Baltimore Sunday Sun has reported.

The Sun's article said scientists would study cancer records in two counties to see whether an increase in cancer might have been caused by the herbicide, Agent White. It is sold by the Dow Chemical Company under the name Tordon.

Agent White contains picloram, a chemical which has been used since 1965 in Cherokee County, N.C., by timber companies, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the United States Forest Service, the article said.

Until 1979, the death rate due to cancer in Cherokee County was well below the national average.

Cancer Deaths Rising

In 1979, 26 of 131 deaths in the county were attributed to the disease. But by 1979 the county had the state's fourth highest cancer mortality rate, with 45 of 574 deaths attributed to cancer, according to state figures. In 1980, 46 of 171 deaths were the result of cancer.

"There's no doubt in my mind that picloram is a carcinogen," said Dr. Melvin D. Reuber, the former director of the Experimental Pathology Laboratory of Frederick Cancer Research Center, Frederick, Md.

"If you look at the tissue slides from the rodents fed picloram, any patholo-

gist could see it causes malignant tumors," he went on.

More than 5 million gallons of Agent White were sprayed in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971. Use of the chemical was discontinued after Army scientists warned of great potential for long-term, permanent ecological damage. They said picloram was "a potentially harmful herbicide once it enters surface and ground-water systems."

A Target of Veterans' Concern

Veterans of the war in Vietnam who had been exposed to Agent Orange, Agent Blue and Agent White have asserted that the defoliants have caused cancer, genetic damage and other serious health problems.

But officials of Dow Chemical defended Tordon. "We feel it's safe," said Robert W. Charlton, a company spokesman.

"Picloram is completely safe for humans," said Wendell Mullison, a retired Dow scientist. "Table salt is three times more toxic."

North Carolina's Department of Human Resources has assembled a group of toxicologists and epidemiologists to study cancer deaths in Cherokee and Macon counties. Scientists will also take soil and water samples to see whether the chemical has seeped into well water. The Sun reported.

Agent White linked to cancer in N. Carolina

BALTIMORE (AP)—A defoliant the U.S. Army stopped using in Vietnam because of its potential for environmental damage is suspected of causing an increase in cancer deaths in western North Carolina, according to the Baltimore Sunday Sun.

The Sun reported that scientists will study cancer cases in two western North Carolina counties to determine if a recent increase in the disease was caused by Agent White, now sold by the Dow Chemical Co. under the trade name Tordon.

The herbicide, which contains the chemical picloram, has been widely used since 1965 in Cherokee County by timber companies, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Forest Service, the newspaper reported.

"There's no doubt in my mind that picloram is a carcinogen," said Dr. Melvin D. Reuber, former director of the Experimental Pathology Laboratory of the Frederick Cancer Research Center in Frederick, Md.

"If you look at the tissue slides from the rodents fed picloram, any pathologist could see it causes malignant tumors," Reuber told the newspaper.

MORE THAN 5 million gallons of Agent White were

sprayed in Vietnam from 1965 to 1971. The chemical's use was discontinued after Army scientists who studied several military herbicides determined it posed the "greatest potential . . . for causing long-term permanent ecological damage," the newspaper said.

The Army scientists' report said picloram was "a potentially harmful herbicide once it enters surface and ground-water systems," the Sun said.

Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, Agent Blue and Agent White have charged that the defoliants cause cancer, genetic damage and other ailments.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA Department of Human Resources has assembled a task force of toxicologists and epidemiologists to study cancer death rates in Cherokee and Macon Counties, located near the Tennessee border.

Scientists will take soil and water samples to determine if the chemical has seeped into well water, the newspaper reported.

Until 1979, Cherokee County's cancer death rate was well below the national average. In 1973, 26 of 181 deaths were attributed to the disease.

By 1979, the county had the state's fourth-highest cancer mortality rate, with 45 of 174 deaths blamed on the disease, according to state figures. In 1980, 45 of 171 deaths were the result of cancer.

Geneticist Ruth Shearer, former program director of a Issaquah, Wash., research center financed by the National Cancer Institute, has interviewed more than a dozen people suspected of being poisoned by the chemical in four states, the Sun said.

"What I'm seeing with picloram poisonings are patterns of chronic symptoms, particularly swollen joints," said Shearer, who interviewed suspected victims in West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama and Montana.

"But others include headaches, problems with vision, weakness and fatigue, skin ailments, enlarged liver, respiratory difficulties and kidney damage," she added.

AGENT WHITE

TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

Established 1910

Houston, TX
Post JUN 7 1962
(Cir. O. 325,085)
(Cir. Sat. 349,105)
(Cir. Sun. 386,640)

Herbicide suspected in deaths

BALTIMORE (AP) — A defoliant the U.S. Army stopped using in Vietnam because of its potential for ecological damage is suspected of causing an increase in cancer deaths in western North Carolina, according to the Baltimore Sunday Sun. The Sun reported scientists will study cancer cases in two western North Carolina counties to determine if a recent increase in the disease was caused by Agent White, now sold by Dow Chemical Co. under the trade name Tordon. More than 5 million gallons of Agent White were sprayed in Vietnam between 1965 and 1971.

SOURCE

CHRONICLE

CITY AND STATE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

June 7. 1982

Defoliant Suspected in Cancer Deaths

Baltimore

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Associated Press

ABOUT WHITE
TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

Established 1910

Houston, Texas
Chronicle
(Cir. 400,679)

JUN 7 1982

Dow defoliant rejected by U.S. Army suspected of increasing cancer deaths

BALTIMORE (AP) — A defoliant manufactured by Dow Chemical Co. which the U.S. Army stopped using in Vietnam because of its potential for ecological damage is suspected of causing an increase in cancer deaths in western North Carolina.

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Effects of Agent Orange on

Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — A group of American war veterans on a recent return visit to Vietnam were shown blind children, deformed infants and a basin full of grotesquely shaped human fetuses preserved in formaldehyde.

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Dr. Ton Duc Lang, a key researcher on Agent Orange, said the Vietnamese have established only a "hypothesis" relating exposure to dioxin — a toxic component of the defoliant — to what he said was a "very high" increase in birth defects in children of communist veterans of the war.

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U.S. veterans saw or talked to alleged victims in hospitals in Hanoi, Tay Ninh and in this city, once known as Saigon. They either had been exposed to the defoliant or were children of fathers or mothers who had been exposed.

The Vietnamese said their lack of qualified researchers and equipment, along with the problem of exploring something that occurred more than a decade ago, made the inquiry extremely difficult.

They did provide a few statistics. At Hanoi's Viet-Duc Hospital, doctors said a group of 554 veterans exposed to Agent Orange had been studied and 3.14 percent of their children suffered congenital deformities. In another group of 593 North Vietnamese who had never been to South Vietnam where the defoliant was used, only .21 percent of their children had such birth defects.

Increasing numbers of miscarriages and birth deformities were recorded at Ho Chi Minh City's Tu Du Hospital during and after the defoliant's use, but the statistics, according to the Vietnamese, are incomplete.

The delegation from the Vietnam Veterans of America, a private group, presented a proposal which would allow U.S. and other foreign scientists to do impartial research in Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials from a government agency investigating the consequences of chemical warfare in Vietnam said they would respond to the VVA proposal through Hanoi's delegation at the United Nations.

In the meantime, the Vietnamese said they welcomed tests in the United States on soil and blood samples taken in Vietnam.

The VVA and other veterans

groups in the United States have focused on Agent Orange since 1978, when the Veterans Administration began getting complaints — from Vietnam veterans of cancer, liver ailments, neurological disorders, loss of sexual potency, skin lesions and birth defects. Some veterans linked these problems to exposure to Agent Orange, and many lawsuits have been filed.

There has been no agreement within the American scientific community on the effects of the defoliant. Some studies are in the works, including one on the health of flight crews and support personnel in the U.S. Air Force's "Ranch Hand" operation, in which large areas of Vietnam were sprayed with the defoliant.

Vietnam recently stepped up its criticism of the United States for waging chemical warfare in Vietnam, attacks

apparently triggered by U.S. charges that Vietnamese troops now use toxic chemicals against guerrillas in Laos and Cambodia.

The VVA delegation said that in its talks with Vietnamese doctors and researchers, there was very little political rhetoric but rather an emphasis on Agent Orange as a serious medical and humanitarian problem that needs to be solved.

Whether Hanoi would use a joint U.S.-Vietnamese investigation for propaganda or how the United States government — which has no diplomatic ties with Vietnam — would react to this effort is unclear.

Communist Vietnam has no independent scientific community which could challenge its own government,

Vietnamese claim extensive damage from Agent Orange

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SOURCE

Evening Tribune

CITY AND STATE

San Diego, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

June 11, 1982

Vietnamese cite Agent Orange for deformed children

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6A World

Vietnamese studying Agent Orange

By DENIS D. GRAY

Associated Press

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Agent Orange left its 31 mark in Vietnam, too

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Another member of the group, Dr. James Dwyer, of New York State University at Stonybrook, traveled to the heavily defoliated province of Tay Ninh to help write a questionnaire which the Vietnamese said would be used to gather statistical data on the defoliant's effects.

Vets see Agent Orange effects on Vietnamese

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Couple crusade against careless use of chemicals

"Kerry: Agent Orange and an American Family," by Clifford Linedecker, with Michael and Maureen Ryan, St. Martin's Press, New York, 240 pages, hardcover, \$12.95.

By JOHN LOVEJOY
Ledger Staff Writer

Michael and Maureen Ryan of New York have an 11-year-old daughter they consider to be as much a victim of the Vietnam War as any soldier who fought there.

Their child, Kerry, was born in late January 1971 with 22 birth defects. The parents are convinced Kerry's congenital deformities and disabilities are due to Michael's exposure to Agent Orange while he was fighting in Vietnam.

Kerry has been at death's door many times during her short life.

She suffered brain damage during one of her innumerable operations. She went temporarily blinded by those brain injuries, which also has made it impossible for her to walk. For a while it was feared she would never talk again.

Her vision has now returned, though it is impaired. She has begun learning to read, and can now understand first-grade level books. She can talk, but has a speech impediment.

Other birth defects include a malformed left arm and hand. She does not have the ability to control her bladder and must wear diapers. She was born without a rectum, and had to be given a colostomy — an operation that provides an opening in the abdomen through which wastes can pass into a bag the patient wears — to live.

Kerry, who reached puberty at the age of 8, also has duplicate sex organs and faces future surgery to correct that defect.

Yet, when the Daily Ledger interviewed her parents last month in San Francisco, her mother referred to Kerry as "a triumph. She's got a very sarcastic sense of humor."

Michael Ryan said, "Every day when she wakes up, she is happy to be alive."

The Ryans and their daughter have gone through more pain and torture in the past 10 years than most families ever do. For years, they thought that Kerry's problems and the burdens they created for the rest of the family were simply a result of God's will.

But Maureen began to have other suspicions after reading about Agent Orange in newspapers and

magazines.

When she saw a Jimmy Breslin article in 1978 about the death of Paul Reutershan, a young veteran who blamed his terminal cancer on his exposure to Agent Orange, it convinced her that her husband's severe body acne and gradual hearing loss were caused by the U.S. government's use of chemicals in Vietnam, and his exposure to them.

And as she looked over at Kerry in her wheelchair, Maureen Ryan burst into tears as the horrifying possibility began to dawn on her that her daughter's birth defects also were chemically induced.

When she regained control of herself, she called Victor Yannacone, a Long Island attorney, who later called her husband.

Michael Ryan, who has been a policeman since 1969 and is not given to flights of fancy, was unconvinced that his

health problems and his daughter's birth defects had anything to do with chemicals or Vietnam.

But today he is sure that Kerry's injuries are the result of what he says amounts to "a felony assault."

He says his doubts about Agent Orange

vanished after meeting with Yannacone for six hours and reading a class-action suit the attorney was preparing to file on behalf of veterans exposed to the powerful herbicide, which contained dioxin, the most potent poison known to man. Three ounces in

New York City's water supply could kill the entire population of that city, according to one estimate.

Ryan came to the conclusion that he and his fellow-soldiers were poisoned in Vietnam by the U.S. government — and government officials had known the dangers but had not bothered to warn anyone, he claims.

"To this day I haven't heard from the government," he says. "I haven't filed to be tested for Agent Orange exposure because it's incumbent on the government to notify the 2.5 million U.S. veterans who were exposed. I probably wouldn't even know about it now if my wife hadn't told me about it."

For the past four years, the Ryans have been spending their vacation time and taking unpaid leaves of absence to travel all over the world, leaving their daughter in the care of relatives.

They feel it is their duty to spread the word about what they see not only as the poisoning of soldiers and civilians in Vietnam, but the wholesale poisoning of most of the world's population by careless chemical use. They have been on the "Phil Donahue Show," "Good Morning America," "ABC's 20/20" and other television and radio shows. They have been quoted in "Newsweek" and "Life" magazines.

The Ryans also have testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate and have filed a suit in U.S. District Court on behalf of their daughter.

The Ryans' heart-breaking story is told eloquently in the heavily documented book, "Kerry: Agent Orange and an American Family," by a Chicago author

and journalist, Clifford Linedecker. It also touches on the plights of other families and individuals whose lives have been ruined, allegedly by chemicals that were used in Vietnam, and, in one case, Korea.

The book alleges that those who obeyed their government's orders to fight an undeclared war in Southeast Asia also are victims of their government's disregard for them.

The Ryans have made it their avocation to talk about their experiences. But it obviously is not easy for them to do so, and as they speak, they frequently reach out to touch each other and clasp each others' hands as they recount their struggles, their daughter's suffering and the sorrow and pain they have seen among other veterans and their families.

They tell, for instance, about the night they met another Vietnam veteran and his wife, who also had a daughter with multiple birth defects. The Ryans say one of the little girl's hands looks almost exactly like their own daughter's malformed left hand.

The deformities of other Vietnam veterans' children are almost certainly due to their fathers having been sprayed by chemicals, the Ryans assert.

Maureen Ryan says of Kerry, "She'll never get married and never know what it's like to make love to a man."

Michael Ryan says, "She's 100 percent dependent on another person. She feeds herself, but you've got to be there when she's eating. She has no friends at home; they're all at her school. But we only have one car, and

all her friends are in wheelchairs, so we can't transport them.

"She just sits on the lawn during hot summer days, watching the world go by."

Maureen adds, however, "Kerry is only one child out of thousands. What started as a Vietnam veterans' issue is now a human issue."

She points to the documented cases of deformed children and incidences of cancer and other diseases suffered by returned Vietnam veterans — and by civilians who live or have lived near toxic dump sites, such as Love Canal in New York.

"If somebody doesn't do something," says Maureen Ryan, "it is the age of mutants."

Her husband adds, "The Vietnam veteran is telling you what the future of your children will be like."

Polished



—Photo by Jeff Blechman

Kerry Ryan and her mother, Maureen, share a happy moment. The 11-year-old girl was born with 22 birth defects that her parents believe were caused by her father's exposure to chemicals when he was a soldier in Vietnam.

SOURCE

The Columbia Record

CITY AND STATE

Columbia, S. C.

DATE OF PUBL.

June 16, 1982

Agent Orange

Vietnamese establish 'hypothesis' relating birth defects, component of defoliant

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — A group of American war veterans on a recent return visit to Vietnam were shown blind children, deformed infants and a basin full of grotesquely shaped human fetuses preserved in formaldehyde.

The Vietnamese said these horrors were products of Agent Orange, but admitted that they have been unable to establish scientifically a link to the defoliant used by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Ton Duc Lang, a key researcher on Agent Orange, said the Vietnamese have established only a "hypothesis" relating exposure to dioxin — a toxic component of the defoliant — to what he said was a "very high" increase in birth defects in children of communist veterans of the war.

The Vietnamese said the U.S. veterans saw or talked to alleged victims in hospitals in Hanoi, Tay Ninh and in this city, once known as Saigon. They either had been exposed to the defoliant or were children of fathers or mothers who had been exposed.

The Vietnamese said their lack of qualified researchers and equipment, along with the problem of exploring something that occurred more than a decade ago, made the inquiry extremely difficult.

They did provide a few statistics. At Hanoi's Viet-Duc Hospital, doctors said a group of 956 veterans exposed to Agent Orange had been studied, and 3.14 percent of their children suffered congenital deformities. In another group of 393 North Vietnamese who had never been to South Vietnam where the defoliant was used, only .21 percent of their children had such birth defects.

Increasing numbers of miscarriages and birth deformities were recorded at Ho Chi Minh City's Tu Du Hospital during and after the defoliant's use, but the statistics, according to the Vietnamese, are incomplete.

The delegation from the Vietnam Veterans of America, a private group, presented a proposal which would allow U.S. and other foreign scientists to do impartial research in Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials from a government agency investigating the consequences of chemical warfare in Vietnam said they would respond to the VVA proposal through Hanoi's delegation at the United Nations.

In the meantime, the Vietnamese said they welcomed tests in the United States on soil and blood samples taken in Vietnam.

The VVA and other veterans groups in the United States have focused on Agent Orange since 1978, when the Veterans Administration began getting complaints from Vietnam veterans of cancer, liver ailments, neurological disorders, loss of sexual potency, skin lesions and birth defects. Some veterans linked these problems to exposure to Agent Orange, and many lawsuits have been filed.

There has been no agreement within the American scientific community on the effects of the defoliant. Some studies are in the works, including one on the health of flight crews and support personnel in the U.S. Air Force's "Ranch Hand" operation, in which large areas of Vietnam were sprayed with the defoliant.

Vietnam recently stepped up its criticism of the United States for waging chemical warfare in Vietnam, attacks apparently triggered by U.S. charges that Vietnamese troops now use toxic chemicals against guerrillas in Laos and Cambodia.

The VVA delegation said that in its talks with Vietnamese doctors and researchers, there was very little political rhetoric but rather an emphasis on Agent Orange as a serious medical and humanitarian problem that needs to be solved.

Whether Hanoi would use a joint U.S.-Vietnamese investigation for propaganda purposes or how the United States government — which has no diplomatic ties with Vietnam — would react to such an effort is unclear.

Communist Vietnam has no independent scientific community which could challenge its own government, and even hospitals have political commissars to keep the staff on the right ideological track.

*VVA
Moore
A-1 file*

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Handwritten notes in top right corner: "VVA", "Hanoi", "6/29/82", "061".

Handwritten notes in bottom right corner: "Copy to 6/29/82", "(001E)", "(102)", "per M. Muen".

Thursday, June 17, 1982 2 The Times-Picayune/The States-Item

Agent Orange claims unproven, VA doctor says

By JAMES HODGE

Despite the claims of Vietnam veterans, there is no scientific proof linking Agent Orange to serious diseases, and residents of Jefferson Parish have as much of it — or similiar chemicals — in their tissue as the veterans, according to a Veterans Administration doctor.

The only disease that dioxin — the deadly component contained in Agent Orange — has been proven to cause is a skin rash called chloracne, said Dr. Gary Carroll, chief of the outpatient department at the VA hospital here. He spoke to a vocal group of New Orleans veterans Tuesday night at a forum, sponsored by American Legion Crescent City Post 125.

The veterans, angry about what they said is poor treatment by the VA, directed a barrage of questions and remarks at Carroll and two other VA officials, George Gray, chief of the medical administrative services, and John Clark, the VA's regional officer.

Their principal complaint was that the VA won't recognize Agent Orange as the cause of a variety of disorders from skin rashes to cancer and birth defects which some researchers suspect can result from exposure to the chemical.

"The difficulty lies in the fact that many things cause the same symptoms," Carroll said. "And most of the complaints by veterans can be attributed to other, known diseases. There are about 200 causes of liver failure."

Diabetes, he said, can cause many

of the symptoms which Agent Orange has been said to cause. "We don't want to treat you for exposure to (dioxin) if you have diabetes."

He said studies show a low correlation between the amount of dioxin with severity of symptoms.

He said that residents of a parish like Jefferson, where herbicides are sprayed, have as much of the chemical — or similiar compounds — in their fat tissues as Vietnam veterans.

Carroll said most studies exploring the connection between Agent Orange and specific symptoms are under way but at least two years from completion.

Some veterans, however, expressed doubt that the government really wants to see any link proved.

They mentioned statements made by Robert Nimmo, head of the Veterans Administration, who has said that if the government decides to compensate Vietnam veterans for any harm caused by the chemical, the cost would run into the billions of dollars.

About 12 million gallons of the defoliant were sprayed in Vietnam from 1960 to 1971, a period when 2.4 million Americans served in Vietnam.

Nimmo said the VA won't honor Agent Orange claims until the link to disease is proven.

A group of veterans recently returned to Vietnam and were shown blind children, deformed infants and a basin full of grotesquely shaped human fetuses preserved in formaldehyde.

The Vietnamese said they believe those horrors were byproducts of Agent Orange, although they, too, lack scientific proof.

Last month in Louisiana, the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure refused last month to make it easier for Vietnam veterans to file claims against chemical companies that manufactured Agent Orange. It voted 7-2 against a proposal that would have increased the time allowed for filing damages.

Under the proposal, veterans diagnosed in the future as having medical problems that could be traced to Agent Orange would have grounds to sue.

Existing law begins the statute of limitations at the time when the chemical was identified as a health hazard.

Lawmakers said the proposal was special interest legislation that "would open a can of worms."

Veterans, however, may take a free physical examination and sign the Agent Orange Registry which may serve as a basis for claims for benefits if a link is made.

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Agent Orange bias alleged

TO THE EDITOR:

A story by John Hopkins, June 1, in the Times points up anew the insidious problem of cultural biases by some of your pop-culture reporters. I have yet to see a story in your paper or any other which is even remotely balanced when it comes to handling the subject of "Agent Orange."

Nowhere is there any rebuttal offered on the clichéd contentions of those who believe Agent Orange causes birth defects and a multitude of other problems, although they are abundant.

You, and your editors and writers, would do well to heed the advice given at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors by Michael O'Neill, editor of the New York Daily News. One of the things editors need to do, O'Neill noted, is to "be ruthless in ferreting out the subtle biases — cultural, visceral and ideological — that still slip into copy."

Pesticides, environmental issues and "Agent Orange" all have been victims of distorted reporting through misinformation, disinformation, myth or simple mistakes.

So, for the record:

— Agent Orange used in Vietnam was a 50-50 mix of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D. It did have a high concentration of the toxic dioxin (TCDD), an impurity formed during manufacture.

But, domestic 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D contain only minute amounts of this toxin, or roughly 1/3000th of the concentration of TCDD as Agent Orange.

— The National Academy of Sciences investigated charges in Vietnam in 1974 that Agent Orange had killed people and livestock and had caused birth defects. They failed to find any conclusive link.

— Research done through the Na-

tional Toxicology Program showed mice given a high dose of dioxin of the sort found in Agent Orange showed no significant changes in fertility, survival rate of offspring or percent of birth defects.

— On a related matter, it should be noted the Environmental Protection Agency's 1979 restrictions on 2,4,5-T in forested areas of Oregon were attacked on a wide front as statistically unsound and were

properly discounted by responsible scientists as a put-up job by environmental extremists in the EPA trying to make facts fit their conclusions.

Regrettably, little of the rebuttal information has surfaced in the popular press — certainly nothing of the magnitude of the Agent Orange allegations repeated ad infinitum and ad nauseum.

Jeff Holladay, City

Suspected Disease Links Not Listed**New Agent Orange Leaflet Less Specific**

By MIKE FEINSLBERG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Veterans asking the government about Agent Orange used to get a pamphlet listing the diseases that have been associated with exposure to dioxin, a toxic contaminant in the Vietnam defoliant.

The publication discussed reports linking dioxin with a variety of health disorders—headaches, liver and blood disorders, nerve damage, cancer.

Now veterans asking about Agent Orange get a pamphlet that says worries about dioxin are only based on "a theory" that it may have caused "delayed health effects." The publication does not name any of them.

No Effort to Tone Down

The Veterans Administration said in revising the pamphlet that no effort was made to tone down what veterans are told about the possible health effects of Agent Orange.

During the war, 8% of the land area of Vietnam was sprayed with the herbicide to destroy Viet Cong crops and uncover the jungle hiding places of communist troops. The spraying was halted after health questions were raised.

"It's a different pamphlet done by different people and a different administration," said Larry R. Moen, who runs the VA's public information and education program on Agent Orange.

He termed the old pamphlet "somewhat outdated." It bore a photograph of Max Cleland, the wounded Vietnam veteran who headed the VA in the Carter Administration.

Old Pamphlet Was Detailed

Both the old and the new publications assert that facts about possible health damage have not been established.

But the old one was more detailed about what is suspected.

Said the old, orange-colored, pamphlet: "We do not know that humans who have been exposed to dioxin during industrial accidents have developed a specific skin condition known as chloracne which closely resembles the common forms of acne.

"In addition, headaches, blood disorders, nausea, alterations in liver function and nerve damage have been reported. . . . Some reports have suggested that people exposed to dioxin have a higher incidence of some forms

of cancer. There are also reports that dioxin can cause enlargement of the liver and a decrease in the speed of transmission of nerve impulses."

The new, blue-covered, publication says: "During 1978, a theory was publicized" that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange "might be subject to delayed health effects from the exposure."

"The theory was based on the fact that one of the chemicals, 2,4,5-T, contained minute traces of a toxic chemical, dioxin (TCDD) which contaminated the herbicide during the manufacturing process.

"The contaminant dioxin is of concern because animal studies have shown it to be toxic to certain species. Like other toxic substances, dioxin has produced a number of serious conditions among laboratory animals."

More Pamphlets Coming

Moen, in an interview, said that not many copies of the orange pamphlet were left and that those that remained have been taken off the shelves. But, he said, the blue pamphlet was not intended to replace the orange one. He said the type is larger in the blue pamphlet so there was not as much room for the detail that the orange pamphlet had.

Moen noted, too, that a second new pamphlet, with a brown cover, has been issued to tell about medical treatment offered veterans who believe that they may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

WESTERN PRESS
CLIPPING BUREAU
BERTHOUD, COLO.

FT. COLLINS, COLO.
COLORADOAN
JUN. 19 1983

C8, Features

Veteran of Agent Orange

CAROLYN PESCE

Gannett News Service

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For The Coloradoan

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The man whose Army unit tested Agent Orange at Eglin Air Force Base 30 years ago says he suffers from some of the same symptoms cited by veterans who were exposed to the powerful plant-killer during the Vietnam War.

He could be one of the the first servicemen affected.

William Hale, 44, says he and six men under him were exposed to the herbicide for 50 straight days in 1962 during a test of how weather conditions would affect aerial spraying.

No precautions were taken for the safety of the men, he said, until the owner of a nearby restaurant where they ate started complaining that her plants were dying. After that, the men took showers after their daily testing.

Hale says he has recently had three malignant skin cancers removed from his face, chest and neck. The migraines headaches he's been getting since the 1960s are getting worse, he says, and he continually has blisters on his lips.

Hale left the service in 1966 — without ever serving in Vietnam — and is now vice president of the Carroll Oil Co. here.

Hale began suspecting a connection between his ailments and Agent Orange after reading a recent series in the Marietta (Ohio) Times on the subject, a series that was circulated to newspapers around the country through Gannett News Service.

He now would like to find the other men in his unit, and wants to join the massive class-action lawsuit now pending against the chemical companies that produced the herbicide, which was used to clear jungle foliage for American troops.

Veterans have blamed the herbicide for a range of ailments from skin rashes to birth defects in their children. The federal government says a clear connection has not been proven, and has refused to pay compensation claims.

Victor Yannacone, lead attorney in the veterans' suit, said Hale could be an important part of the legal action. Finding an isolated group exposed to Agent Orange that long ago, Yannacone said, could help prove a connection.

Hale, a Tennessee native, was drafted into the Army's 69th Chemical Company from his job at the Hilton Chemical Co. in Cincinnati when the Vietnam War started. He was stationed at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Ala., in June 1962 when he was told he would be in charge of a unit that would test the effects of weather conditions on the spraying of Agent Orange.

From 2 a.m. to around 11 a.m., seven days a week, Hale and his men stood in the deserted bombing range at Eglin as a C-124 aircraft sprayed over the field spraying Agent Orange.

"They told us they needed the Agent Orange in Vietnam real bad and that they had to finish testing it before it could go over," Hale said. "The convoys supplying the Vietnam troops were getting ambushed along the supply routes and they wanted the Agent Orange so they could strip both sides of the road along the routes."

Hale's seven-man detail was supplemented by an Air Force weatherman and several civilian scientists. The range, about 12 miles from the main part of the base, was divided into grids by stakes set 15 to 30 feet apart. On each stake a clipboard held a card, which collected droplets from the sprayings.

Hale and his men were responsible for going in after the field was sprayed, collecting the cards and putting new cards on the stakes for the next test. The droplets on the cards later were plotted on a chart to determine the spraying pattern. The pilot usually had time to make about three runs a day before the wind started to pick up around 11 a.m., Hale said.

"The pilot would come in and make the first spray and just as quick as he cleared the field we went out while the area still had mist and took the cards off and put a new batch on," Hale said. "The

testing fears for others

spray would come over right where we were standing when the aircraft went over.
"To begin with, we didn't worry about it, because they said it was harmless."
"The manufacturers provided no warnings of danger," Hale said, now did the scientists with the mission.
"Some of us were worried because we had no protective masks," he said. "But the chemists said masks weren't necessary. It wouldn't hurt us, they said."
"It never bothered me. The scientists were there

and they didn't have any protective clothing on. I figured they knew what they were doing."
At Eglin, public affairs officer Lt. Laura Pugh confirmed that Agent Orange testing began there in 1962, "continued to an isolated area" of the base. She said the aerial testing there probably was the first in the country.
Asked about safety precautions, she said it was not until the 1970s that it was first known that the manufacture of Agent Orange produced deadly dioxin. Until then, she said, "Agent Orange was treated as a low toxicity product."

The Coloradoan, Saturday, June 19, 1983

Ex-defoliant tester may be missing link in vets' lawsuit

By CAROLYN PESCE

Gannett News Service

©1982 The Herald-Dispatch

"It never bothered me. The scientists were there and they didn't have any protective clothing on. I figured they knew what they were doing."

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In his search for other men in his unit, the only name Hale recalls is that of one of the corporals, Howard Hemmingway, who Hale says lives somewhere in Mississippi.

About two years ago, Hale heard that the Veterans Administration was offering health screening for veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange. Hale went to a VA outreach center in Fort Myers and told doctors about his headaches and his exposure, but they were "very evasive and had very little to say," he said.

VA personnel told him he would be contacted at a later date about the results of his test and to schedule another exam, said Hale, but to date he hasn't heard from anyone.



Gannett News Service

William Hale supervised enlisted men who tested Agent Orange before it was used in Vietnam.

SOURCE

POST-DISPATCH

CITY AND STATE

PITTSBURG, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

June 20, 1982

Is this 11-year

By JOHN LOVEJOY

Michael and Maureen Ryan of New York have an 11-year-old daughter they consider to be a victim of the Vietnam War as much as any soldier who fought there.

Their child, Kerry, was born in late January 1971 with 22 birth defects. The parents are convinced Kerry's congenital deformities and disabilities are due to Michael's exposure to Agent Orange while he was fighting in Vietnam.

Kerry has been at death's door many times during her short life.

She suffered brain damage during one of her many operations. She went temporarily blind from those brain injuries, which also has made it impossible for her to walk. For awhile it was feared she would never talk again.

Her vision has now returned, though it is impaired. She has begun learning to read, and can now understand first-grade level books. She can talk, but has a speech impediment.

Other birth defects include a malformed right arm and hand. She does not have the ability to control her bladder and must wear diapers. She was born without a rectum, and had to be given a colostomy — an operation that provides an opening in the abdomen through which wastes can pass into a bag the patient wears.

Kerry, who reached puberty at the age of 8, also has duplicate sex organs and must have surgery to correct that defect.

Vietnam war victim?

Yet, when the Post Dispatch interviewed her parents May 18 in San Francisco, her mother, Maureen Ryan, referred to Kerry as "a triumph. She's got a very sarcastic sense of humor."

Michael Ryan said, "Every day when she wakes up, she is happy to be alive."

The Ryans and their daughter have gone through more pain and torture in the last 10 years than most families ever do. For years, they thought Kerry's problems and the burdens they created for the rest of the family were a result of God's will.

But Maureen began to have other suspicions after reading about Agent Orange in newspapers and magazines.

When she saw a Jimmy Breslin article in 1978 about the death of Paul Reutershan, a young veteran who blamed his terminal cancer on his exposure to Agent Orange, it convinced her that her husband's severe body acne and gradual hearing loss were caused by the U.S. government's use of chemicals in Vietnam and his exposure to them.

And as she looked over at Kerry in her wheelchair that day in 1978, Maureen Ryan burst into tears as the horrifying possibility began to dawn on her that her daughter's birth defects also were chemically induced.

When she regained control of herself, she called Victor Yannacone, a Long Island attorney, who later called her husband.

Michael Ryan, who has been a policeman since 1969 and is not given to flights of fancy, was un-

convinced that his health problems and his daughter's birth defects had anything to do with chemicals or Vietnam.

But today he is sure that Kerry's injuries are the result of what he says amounts to "a felony assault."

He says his doubts about Agent Orange vanished after meeting with Yannacone for six hours and reading a class-action suit the attorney was preparing to file on behalf of veterans exposed to the powerful herbicide, which contained dioxin, the most potent poison known to man. Three ounces in New York City's water supply could kill the entire population of that city, according to one estimate.

Ryan has since come to the conclusion that he and his fellow soldiers were poisoned in Vietnam by the U.S. government — and government officials had known the dangers but had not bothered to warn anyone, he claims.

"To this day I haven't heard from the government," he says. "I haven't filed to be tested for Agent Orange exposure because it's incumbent on the government to notify the 2.5 million U.S. veterans who were exposed. I probably wouldn't even know about now if my wife hadn't told me about it."

For the past four years, the Ryans have been spending their vacation time and taking unpaid leaves of absence to travel all over the world, leaving their daughter in the care of relatives.

They feel it is their duty to spread the word about what they see not only as the poisoning of soldiers and civilians in Vietnam, but the wholesale poisoning of most of the world's population by careless chemical use. They have been on the "Phil Donahue Show," "Good Morning America," "ABC's 20/20" and other shows. They have been quoted in "Newsweek" and "Life" magazines.

The Ryans also have testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate and have filed a suit in U.S. District Court on behalf of their daughter.

The Ryans' heartbreaking story is told eloquently in the book, "Kerry: Agent Orange and an American Family," (by Clifford Linedecker, with Michael and Maureen Ryan, St. Martin's Press, New York, 240 pages, hardcover, \$12.95.) It also touches on the plights of other families and in-

dividuals whose lives have been ruined, allegedly by chemicals that were used in Vietnam, and, in one case, Korea.

The book alleges that those who obeyed their government's orders to fight an undeclared war in Southeast Asia also are victims of their government's disregard for them.

The Ryans have made it their avocation to talk about their experiences. But it is obviously not easy for them to do so, and as they speak, they frequently reach out to touch other and clasp each others' hands as they recount their struggles, their daughter's suffering, and the sorrow and pain they have seen among other veterans and their families.

They tell, for instance, about the night they met another Vietnam veteran and his wife, who also had a daughter with multiple birth defects. The Ryans say one of the little girl's hands looks almost exactly like their own daughter's malformed right hand.

The deformities of other Vietnam veterans' children are almost certainly due to their fathers having been sprayed by chemicals, the Ryans assert.

Maureen Ryan says of Kerry, "She'll never get married and never know what it's like to make love to a man."

Michael Ryan says, "She's 100 percent dependent on another person. She feeds herself, but you've got to be there when she's eating. She has no friends at home; they're all at her school. But we only have one car, and all her friends are in wheelchairs, so we can't transport them."

"She just sits on the lawn during hot summer days, watching the world go by."

Maureen adds, however, "Kerry is only one child out of thousands. What started as a Vietnam veterans's issue is now a human issue."

She points to the documented cases of deformed children and incidences of cancer and other diseases suffered not only by returned Vietnam veterans, but by civilians who live or have lived near toxic dump sites, such as Love Canal in New York.

"If somebody doesn't do something," says Maureen Ryan, "it is the age of mutants."

Her husband adds, "The vietnam veteran is telling you what the future of your children will be like."

SOURCE

Marietta (GA) Daily Journal

CITY AND STATE

DATE OF PUBL.

6-22-82

Herbicide Said Claimed Marine's Life

ATLANTA (UPI) — The treasurer of Agent Orange Victims, who died of the cancer he believed was caused by his exposure to the herbicide while he was a Marine serving in Vietnam, was buried Monday.

Orville Blackmon, 34, who died Friday, was the second activist in the group to die of cancer in recent months.

The head of the Atlanta group, the Rev. Tom Champion, 39, also a Vietnam veteran who believed his cancer was related to Agent Orange, died April 11.

Both men were plaintiffs in a federal class action suit filed in January against the Veterans Administration.

They said the administration refused to provide adequate medical care to veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Both men suffered soft-tissue cancers — a malady that usually only afflicts people twice their age.

The lawsuit demands that the VA notify veterans about potential health hazards connected with exposure to Agent Orange and offer medical care for those who now show signs of having been exposed to the defoliant.

Blackmon had said he thought he was sprayed with the herbicide in 1967.

He patrolled in the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam.

SOURCE

The Columbia Record

CITY AND STATE

Columbia, South Carolina

DATE OF PUBL.

June 23, 1982

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A-0 file

Veteran, active in dispute over Agent Orange, dies

ATLANTA (AP) — An East Point man active in an organization that seeks to help Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange has died of the cancer he believed resulted from his contact with the herbicide while serving with the Marines in Vietnam.

Orville Blackmon, 35, treasurer of Agent Orange Victims of Atlanta, died Friday after suffering through a long, ravaging fight against the cancer. He was buried Monday. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and four children.

Blackmon was the second activist in the 75-member Agent Orange Victims of Atlanta to die of cancer in recent months. The head of the organization, the Rev. Tom Champion, 39, died April 11.

Champion, a Vietnam veteran, believed his cancer also was related to Agent Orange exposure.

The two men had joined in a federal class-action lawsuit in January against the Veterans Administration, charging that the agency refused adequate medical care to

veterans exposed to Agent Orange, used as a defoliant in Vietnam.

The suit demands that the VA notify veterans about potential health hazards connected with exposure to Agent Orange and offer medical care to those who show signs of having been poisoned by it.

Blackmon had said he believed he was sprayed with the herbicide in 1969 while on patrol in the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam.

Anne Meroney, the attorney who filed the suit against the VA, said two Emory Hospital physicians who treated Blackmon recently wrote a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine urging that research be done on possible links between Agent Orange exposure and soft-tissue cancer.

Both Blackmon and Champion had soft-tissue cancer.

At the time of Champion's death, a spokesman for the VA said the agency had commissioned a nationwide study to assess the health disorders suffered by veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Agent Orange: Vietnam veterans' thanks?

By CAROLYN PESCE

Gannett News Service
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There were no sounds of drums rolling or people cheering, and there weren't any banners decorating the streets when Joe Lucas of Marietta stepped off a plane in California after serving a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Instead, people threw eggs and called him a baby-killer, and two military policemen had to keep an angry crowd from attacking three Green Berets who got off the plane with him.

The boos and threats that Carl Gillespie of New Matamoras



Agent Orange: A Vietnam Legacy

remembers as he got off the plane still work in his mind.

Keith Kapple of Little Hocking remembers the teasing and the protest groups when he returned. The first thing he did was get fitted for civilian clothes because "it really wasn't safe to be in uniform

in San Francisco."

"The magnitude of so many veterans returning daily made it hard to strike up the band, but when I finally realized I was going to make it I had visualized I was a hero, not personally, but because I'd done something for my country," he says. "The exact opposite was true."

"My gut feeling when I got back was apathy," Micky McKittrick of Marietta says. "I don't feel most Americans cared."

When Wayne West of rural Woodfield got off the plane, he was marched with other soldiers to a bus waiting for them at the empty

airport. Without any debriefing sessions, it was hard for many soldiers to adjust to their return.

"We'd been gone a whole year," says West. "Things had changed, times had changed. I can't explain the feeling of walking back into it. When we returned, we weren't recognized. People could care less."

"You're in Vietnam one day and less than 48 hours later, you're a civilian," McKittrick says.

Many Vietnam veterans still are bitter because of the negative way they feel they were treated by Americans when they returned from the war. Those feelings, combined

(See VETS on Page Three)

Defoliant tests dealing with unknown

By JESSIE MANGALIMAN

Phoenix Staff Writer

It took John Vandiver almost to his dying moment to reconcile in his heart that the cancer in his stomach and liver could have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Even his wife sensed his gnawing sense of fear of finding out the truth about his illness, that's why she said he never sought specific testing for possible exposure to the herbicide.

Vandiver died in January of stomach cancer, and his deathbed instruction to his wife Louise and daughter Lisa was to convince the federal government that there is a correlation between Vietnam veterans who have died of cancer and their exposure to Agent Orange.

The Vandivers, and many others like them, have had little or no luck so far.

There is one consolation. The

federal government, the Oklahoma State Health Department, the University of California in Los Angeles, and the Disease Control Center in Georgia are conducting separate studies of Agent Orange.

The U.S. Air Force is studying separately a group of 1,200 servicemen called the Ranchhands who handled the spraying of the defoliant.

Veterans hospitals all over the

country, including Muskogee's and a satellite clinic in Tulsa, now administer standardized tests for war veterans who suspect they may have been exposed.

These thorough medical and physical examinations are changing feelings of Vietnam war veterans like those experienced by Vandiver.

At Veterans Administration Medical Center in Muskogee, Dr. (See DOCTORS on Page Three)

Muskogee Phoenix

Vets still sifting through war

► Continued from Page One
with poor treatment vets feel they have received from the Veterans Administration regarding Agent Orange and other issues, have made it harder for many vets to adjust to life back in the States.

As a Marine, Charles Price of Balpore fought in both Vietnam and Korea.

"We were there because we felt that's where we belonged. As far as I'm concerned, the American people sold us out while we were over there. We had orders to go over there, and while we were gone the American people permitted flags to be burned. It's hard to keep up morale when you see that happening."

"I often wondered why we were there," Gillespie says. "Before I left, I thought Communism was taking over the world and we had to stop it. When I got there, it was a different story."

"I never did figure what the war was all about. It shouldn't have been fought, but once we were there, we should have done something about it. Nothing was accomplished by going over there. We didn't win the war."

Most Americans would like to forget the war, Price says. He still is resentful because the U.S. pulled its troops out of Vietnam.

"It was such a tremendous waste. By nature, I'm a gentle person. Now I'm walking around like a cocked gun, just waiting for someone to call me a baby-killer. I've been spat at and asked how many kids I've killed in Vietnam."

"I feel deep down inside most Americans have resentment against us," Lucas says of Vietnam vets. "They may not show it, but I think they do. I always thought, 'Boy, I wish I could be that happy-go-lucky guy I was before I went over there.'"

"I don't think the public knows how it perceives the Vietnam veteran," Price says. "It's something they want to forget. I get the opinion, what the hell. The American people don't owe me anything and I don't owe them anything. I paid my debt to society."



Agent Orange: A Vietnam Legacy

Finding a job wasn't a problem for Lucas like it was for other vets who came home and couldn't find work. But Lucas says he did have problems adjusting because he was "a different person" when he came back.

"You feel sorry for yourself, but you don't want pity. You just want to get away. I haven't adjusted. You go through your ups and downs. Some days you're all right, other days you go through depression."

A combat Marine who served one tour of duty in Vietnam, Roger Phillips says he didn't have a hard time finding work, but did find it difficult adjusting to simple everyday tasks like driving a car.

"I enlisted in the Marine Corps, I asked to go to Vietnam. I was 18 and didn't know a lot. I got what I asked for, and then some. I was very lucky; I walked home. I had both legs, both arms, and I haven't been in a mental ward."

Most people stereotype the Vietnam veterans as being mentally unstable, Phillips says. "A bunch of beggars trying to get pensions."

"I'm one of the lucky ones," says West. When he returned, he got the same job he had before the war, working with Big Bear Grocery Stores.

"There was a time I didn't talk about the war," he says. "I had mixed emotions when I came home. I don't regret going over, but I feel we didn't accomplish that much over there, for all we lost. I try to put the war out of my mind."

"I've had a hard time finding work," says Price, who still is out of work. "When you combine age, retirement, and the fact that you're a two-time war veteran, it makes it hard to get a job."

Not being able to find work made Gillespie's adjustment even tougher.

"No one wanted to hire me," he

says. "I started drinking heavy and stayed drunk. I'd get up and drink and go to bed drinking."

The first two or three weeks Kapple was home, he says, he couldn't believe he was sleeping in a real bed. "You dream every day if you'll regain a normal life, wonder if you'll wake up and be in the jungle, hear the fire and smell the stench. I was always waiting for someone to wake me up. It was a matter of months until I realized I actually did survive the war."

"People view Vietnam as a waste of money, time, and lives — a political scheme, an absolute farce. People generally feel, and I share the same viewpoint, that we simply staged it to help the economy. When there's war, there's prosperity for some. Like all wars, they're started for the wealthy."

"When you were there, you couldn't wait to get out," McKittrick says. "When you got here, you couldn't wait to get back. There was a feeling of power there and it was unexciting and boring back here."

When he got out of the Army, McKittrick says he started drinking, had a fierce temper, and used to break furniture.

"In my heart I was still a GI learning to cope with civilian life," he says. "Not being in Vietnam has changed me more — I'm more stable and don't have the temper I used to have. Knowing what I know now, we never should have been there. But once you're there, right or wrong, you better win it. Sometimes I'm bitter."

"I'm bitter against my own people," says Gillespie, a Marine construction engineer during the war. "When I came home no one associated with me. I got off the plane and there were people all around and they booed us. I'd been in the jungle for 13 months and couldn't believe it. That was a devastating effect on my mind. In a matter of hours, that was worse than the war."

Kapple and Price both say they have had drinking problems. Price says alcohol still is a continuous battle for him. Kapple says he had a drinking problem long after the service.

Doctors, scientists looking for link

► Continued from Page One
Sidney Kanowitz has done about 1,300 Agent Orange examinations in five years. In the Tulsa clinic, Dr. Leigh Killel has made about 600 examinations.

Agent Orange examinations usually involve a complete physical, X-rays, profiles of liver and kidney functions, a blood count, a neurological exam, and numerous other tests. Those examined are required to fill out a questionnaire which details medical and military service histories.

Originally, only veterans who served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1970 were eligible for Agent Orange examination. But that time limit has been expanded to include all

Vietnam veterans, Killel said. Data collected from the examinations are sent to the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C., and the University of California.

Washington's registry has about 30,000 examinations from the country to date, Kanowitz said.

Many of those who request the examinations have come on the encouragement of their wives, children and relatives, Killel and Kanowitz said.

"Vets in this part of the county have been reasonable and very cooperative as far as the study is concerned. We tell them we're dealing with something we don't know about and they try to understand that," Killel said.

The studies so far have revealed little, the doctors said.

"We're seeing quite a few skin conditions but these conditions could have been caused by other things. We look for things like liver and lung problems. We're not seeing anything unusual or a lot of any one thing. It's from dandruff to liver ailments," Killel said.

"There's no patterns in all these thousands of cases. There's been no pattern," Kanowitz said.

On the one hand, that lack of a pattern in the thousands of Agent Orange cases could be construed as hopeful, the doctors said. On the other, as in the case of the Vandiver family, it could mean a long unencouraging wait.

Horrors reportedly caused by defoliant shown to veterans

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP)

A group of American war veterans on a recent return visit to Vietnam were shown blind children, deformed infants and a basin full of grotesquely shaped human fetuses preserved in formaldehyde.

The Vietnamese said these horrors were products of Agent Orange, but admitted that they have been unable to establish scientifically a link to the defoliant used by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Ton Duc Lang, a key researcher on Agent Orange, said the Vietnamese have established only a "hypothesis" relating exposure to dioxin — a toxic component of the defoliant — to what he said was a "very high" increase in birth defects in children of communist veterans of the war.

The Vietnamese said the U.S. veterans saw or talked to alleged victims in hospitals in Hanoi, Tay Ninh and in this city, once known as Saigon. They either had been exposed to the defoliant or were children of fathers or mothers who had been exposed.

The Vietnamese said their lack of qualified researchers and equipment, along with the problem of exploring something that occurred more than a decade ago, made the inquiry extremely difficult.

They did provide a few statistics. At Hanoi's Viet-Duc Hospital, doctors said a group of 956 veterans exposed to Agent Orange had been studied and 3.14 percent of their children suffered congenital deformities. In another group of 593 North Vietnamese who had never been to South Vietnam where the defoliant was used, only .21 percent of their children had such birth defects.

Increasing numbers of miscarriages and birth deformities were recorded at Ho Chi Minh City's Tu Du Hospital during and after the defoliant's use, but the statistics, according to the Vietnamese, are incomplete.

The delegation from the Vietnam Veterans of America, a private group, presented a proposal which would allow U.S. and other foreign scientists to do impartial research in Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials from a government agency investigating the consequences of chemical warfare in Vietnam said they would respond to the

VVA proposal through Hanoi's delegation at the United Nations.

In the meantime, the Vietnamese said they welcomed tests in the United States on soil and blood samples taken in Vietnam.

The VVA and other veterans groups in the United States have focused on Agent Orange since 1978, when the Veterans Administration began getting complaints from Vietnam veterans of cancer, liver ailments, neurological disorders, loss of sexual potency, skin lesions and birth defects. Some veterans linked these problems to exposure to Agent Orange, and many lawsuits have been filed.

There has been no agreement within the American scientific community on the effects of the defoliant. Some studies are in the works, including one on the health of flight crews and support personnel in the U.S. Air Force's "Ranch Hand" operation, in which large areas of Vietnam were sprayed with the defoliant.

Vietnam recently stepped up its criticism of the United States for waging chemical warfare in Vietnam, attacks apparently triggered by U.S. charges that Vietnamese troops now use toxic chemicals against guerrillas in Laos and Cambodia.

The VVA delegation said that in its talks with Vietnamese doctors and researchers, there was very little political rhetoric but rather an emphasis on Agent Orange as a serious medical and humanitarian problem that needs to be solved.

Whether Hanoi would use a joint U.S.-Vietnamese investigation for propaganda purposes or how the United States government — which has no diplomatic ties with Vietnam — would react to such an effort is unclear.

Communist Vietnam has no independent scientific community which could challenge its own government, and even hospitals have political commissars to keep the staff on the right ideological track.

A few American scientists have come to Vietnam in recent years for Agent Orange research. Dr. Edward L. Cooperman, a physicist from California State University at Fullerton, heads a group called the U.S. Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam.

SOURCE

Jackson Daily News
CITY AND STATE

Jackson, Mississippi
DATE OF PUBL.

June 24, 1982

Des Moines TRIBUNE

Des Moines, Iowa

June 25, 1982

Toxin's impact on vets noted

By Derrick Baker

For many of the Americans who served in Vietnam and were exposed to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange, the war rages on.

That was the thought offered Wednesday night at the Vet Center, 3619 Sixth Ave., to a group of about 25 women whose husbands or loved ones were exposed to the chemical.

Dr. Mark Thoman, a Des Moines toxicologist, and John Kieler, a part-time environmental biology instructor at Drake, said veterans and their families still combat the effects caused by exposure to the chemical. Both agreed the side effects place a great amount of stress on a veteran's family, too.

Agent Orange is a reddish-brown chemical that was used in Vietnam to kill vegetation to destroy hiding places for the Viet Cong.

Kieler said the chemical was sprayed over an area "roughly the

size of the state of Massachusetts," and many Americans were exposed.

Kieler said the chemical "can act like a time bomb in the human body," thereby explaining the delayed effects many veterans suffer.

Among them are vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and abdominal pain.

He said dioxin, a byproduct of one of Agent Orange's two basic ingredients, often is classified as the "most deadly poison ever created by man." He said dioxin never is manufactured intentionally, and a safe dosage does not exist.

Thoman told the women's support group that a 10-month study of 78 veterans who claimed exposure showed that 85 percent of them broke out with a rash that resisted treatment, 55 percent experienced tingling in their bodies, 35 percent had headaches and 73 percent suffered depression.

Despite the figures, Thoman said

the government "would rather just forget it," although "it's going to be with us for the next 80 years."

The study also showed that some veterans experience pain in their joints, extreme fatigue and stiffness.

Thoman said a veteran exposed to the chemical "can never be sure if he's going to produce healthy offspring," although sperm count tests can aid in making a diagnosis.

Both men urged the women to put pressure on the Environmental Protection Agency, their congressmen and the U.S. Agriculture Department to continue research in the area.

The discussion was the third in a four-part series that deals with the delayed effects on veterans. The group will meet again Wednesday for a discussion on nutrition and stress.

The support group offers aid to women in dealing with their husbands' post-traumatic stress and their own health care.

6/24/82

VFW Lobby Urged on Defoliant

WORCESTER (UPI)

— Paul A. Spera, the first Vietnam War veteran elected commander of the Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars, says the VFW should use its lobbying leverage to investigate effects of Agent Orange.

"I think this should tell Vietnam veterans that there's a place for them in the VFW and that they will have their views heard," Spera said of his election Sunday at the group's 62nd annual convention.

"Vietnam veterans, as a group, face many problems, many of which can be improved by the vigorous lobbying effort we can mount. I feel very strongly that it's in their best interest (to join)," he told the 3,800 veterans.

Spera, 38 of Attleboro, said veterans must prod the government into conducting more research into effects of the defoliant Agent Orange, used extensively in Vietnam.

"Agent Orange is something that's going to take a massive lobbying effort, which is the kind of thing our organization is at its best doing. We've got to get the government and the chemical companies to undertake a comprehensive and impartial study, and then have the VA apply the same rules to Agent Orange as it does to other compensable disabilities," he said.

SUNDAY REGISTER

CITY AND STATE

Des Moines, Iowa

DATE OF PUBL.

June 27, 1982

DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER ■ JUNE 27, 1982 / 3B

Viet veterans air gripes on Agent Orange

By WILLIAM RYBERG

of The Register's Davenport Bureau

DAVENPORT, IA. — Two top officials of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Iowa City met Saturday with several Vietnam veterans who are convinced that their exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange has resulted in birth defects and health problems for their children.

A major point made by some of the veterans was that they believe the government should provide medical treatment for their children.

But the two hospital officials — John F. Hickman, director, and Dr. John Kasick, chief of staff — said that a decision about that was not theirs to make. It would have to be made at the national level.

Specific problems cited by the veterans included heart trouble, allergies, difficulty in eating, and bleeding sores.

Third Breast

Veteran Charles Schantag, 34, of Davenport said after the meeting that his daughter was born with a third breast that had to be removed surgically. The child, Mandy, now 3, "can't walk because her joints swell up so badly," Schantag said.

Those who attended the two-hour meeting included about eight Vietnam veterans and the wife of one veteran. The session was arranged by U.S. Representative James Leach (Rep., Ia.).

The meeting ended shortly after one veteran, Victor Saldivar of Davenport, told Kasick that veterans had been talking about Agent Orange health problems "until we're blue in the face for years and years."

"We're through talking with second-stringers," said Saldivar, southeast Iowa director for a group called Vietnam Veterans of Iowa. "The talk is over and the action will begin."

However, during the meeting and in an interview later, Saldivar did not say whether any specific action was planned for the near future, or what it might be.

Earlier in the meeting Kasick told the veterans he was convinced that Agent Orange caused some genetic damage to the unborn babies of some Vietnamese women who were pregnant when they were exposed to the herbicide.

"Open Mind"

He said he had an "open mind" about whether exposure could cause genetic disorders that could be passed along by fathers.

Kasick said after the meeting that he did not know of any ailment that could be linked conclusively to Agent Orange, except a skin condition called chloracne.

That also has been the official position of the Veterans Administration.

Agent Orange contains dioxin, one of the most toxic substances in existence, and some veterans nationwide blame it for causing cancer, liver and nerve disorders, and emotional changes, as well as birth defects in their children.

SOURCE

Herald Examiner

CITY AND STATE

Los Angeles, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

June 29, 1982

Vietnam veteran is finally laid to rest

James Hopkins' death sparked national protest over Agent Orange

Associated Press

A Vietnam veteran whose death a year ago triggered national protests about Agent Orange was finally buried yesterday at the National Cemetery in Riverside in a quiet ceremony attended by his son, his ex-wife and a few friends.

James Roger Hopkins, 33, first drew national attention in March 1981 when he drove his jeep through the glass doors of Wadsworth Veterans' Administration Hospital in Los Angeles as a protest over what he contended was inadequate VA care for the effects of the defoliant Agent Orange, widely used in Vietnam. Inside the lobby, he jumped out of the vehicle and fired nine shots from several weapons into the walls and ceiling, and was promptly arrested. Nobody was injured.

He died two months later, on May 17, 1981, and his death was ruled a suicide. But his body had remained in the Los Angeles County coroner's

morgue for more than a year pending a second autopsy paid for by his second wife Suzanne Hopkins, who contended Hopkins had been murdered. However, last month's autopsy found nothing new to change the suicide verdict reached at an inquest in November 1981.

The inquest found that death had been caused by a lethal combination of alcohol and a drug. After Hopkins died, California veterans set up a tent city in June 1981 on the Wadsworth VA hospital lawn to protest the treatment Hopkins had received. They were evicted, but eventually their protest grew into a hunger strike and a march to Washington that sparked a wider VA probe of the effects of Agent Orange.

Veterans complained that the chemical defoliant caused nervous disorders and skin problems. Hopkins had suffered nervous disorders, his second wife said. She dropped out of public sight after the autopsy.



James R. Hopkins
Wife claimed he was murdered

WESTERN PRESS 40
CLIPPING BUREAU
BERTHOUD, COLO.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
GAZETTE TELEGRAPH
JUN. 29 1982

Agent Orange veteran buried

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A Vietnam veteran whose death a year ago triggered national protests about Agent Orange was finally buried Monday at the National Cemetery here in a quiet ceremony attended by his son, ex-wife and a few friends.

James Roger Hopkins, 33, first drew national attention in March 1981 when he drove his jeep through the glass doors of Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in Los Angeles as a protest over what he contended was inadequate VA care for the effects of the defoliant Agent Orange, widely used in Vietnam.

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