

March 13, 1991

Tom,

I talked to Seawolf Ron Webster, of Cleveland Texas, on the phone the other night. I believe he has had some P.T.S.D. problems over the years. The V.A. now tells him he has Lymphoma. I believe that that is cancer of the lymph nodes but I was afraid to ask him. The V.A. is now sending him to the M.D. Anderson Tumor Clinic in Houston, which is about 60 miles from his home. It is probably the best cancer hospital in the world, or, at least, one of the best. I wonder how many other Wolves have had problems with things like cancer and birth defects in their children. We all know about Hank Schibess daughter but I wonder how many others Wolves have similar situations.

The Feb., 1991 Agent Orange Review, published by the VA states, on page 3, "An analysis of military histories suggested that the relative risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (1) increased with the length of service in Vietnam, and (2) was higher among men in the sea-based Navy than among other veterans." I wonder if sea -based included our dets on LST's?

What would you think about including a tear-off portion of a page of one of our Wolfgrams that the guys could fill out and mail in to us if they have had any health problems in their families that might possibly be related to their Vietnam service. There probably aren't many but I just kind of wonder. I remember your telling me about the Seawolf who had contacted Melodosis (Sp?) and wonder how he is getting along. Perhaps we should mention these guys in an article in the Wolfgram that has the tear-out info. card on health problems. It might generate some support from the rest of the Wolves for these guys having hard times physically. It's all just a thought to do with taking care of our own.

I want to apologize for waking you up the other night but it seems that nights are about the only time I seem to be able to work on Seawolf projects. Weekends are usually pretty wrapped up with taking my son to his various athletic and other events.

Thanks, as always, Tom, for all your efforts on behalf of our organization and all it's members. Guys like you can't be bought as it's really a project of the heart.

Best Regards,

Don Thomson