

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: MAY 25 1979

TO: Deputy ACMD for Professional Services (11F)

FROM: Program Manager, HCIS (10A3)

SUBJ: ADP Support for Project on Agent Orange

In response to your recent inquiry, we have provided technical support from this staff in assessing the ADP support that may be needed for a Registry of Viet Nam veterans exposed to herbicidal spray such as Agent Orange.

As we understand the problem the following products would be provided in the support of this program:

- o An SS-number keyed registry of veterans who allege herbicidal spray contact during their tour in Viet Nam. This registry would be kept on magnetic tape (or disk) at one of the VA Data Processing Centers and inquiries for information would be retrieved on a batch-basis with normal turnaround of 3 to 5 days after receipt of inquiry. For emergency needs, a 24-hour response or better could be provided on an individual case basis. This registry would be developed from and updated from the forms VA10-20681 (NR) as contained in DM&S Circular Letter 10-79-83 of April 16, 1979.
- o A unit-designation based registry of military components stationed in Viet Nam together with dates and periods of duty, sites, specific geographic coordinate location, next major command unit, and an indicator as to whether the unit was or was not in proximity to areas that underwent herbicidal spraying.
- o Possible graphic illustrations of spray areas and patterns to illustrate features of the possible or probable impact on personnel in the areas of incidence. Other illustrative materials may suggest themselves as work goes forward on this project.

It is understood that additional data materials are to be supplied by the Air Force to document where Air Force units were stationed and the units that were specifically involved in herbicidal spraying missions thereby creating a significant involvement and exposure with herbicidal agents. Also, maps apparently were used by Mr. Tom Dashiell in the meeting of April 3. It would be helpful if these could be made available for further review.

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It is further understood that the Navy Department has elected to provide information on individual veterans on a case-by-case basis, on the grounds that there was negligible involvement and exposure by either Marine or Navy personnel to herbicidal spray programs.

It is noted that only 29 of the 41 Station Location Reports for the US Army Viet Nam have been included in the information provided to us. It would be helpful to know if the remaining Reports will have an impact on this project.

The Health Care Delivery Systems Support Service of ODM&T has tentatively indicated that the needed ADP resources can and will be supplied for this project with the exception that illustrative and map layouts may need to be acquired from contractor resources. If such resources are required ODM&T would acquire them, if they elect to accept this project.

Based on the available information it is estimated that 60 man-months of ODM&T analyst/programmer/data entry time would be required to do the necessary work for the products outlined above. In addition, it is requested that funds of \$50,000 be provided for possible contractor/consultant assistance particularly for illustrative materials that may be found necessary. It is further estimated that the work could be completed in 12 months after receipt of authorizations to proceed.

It has been suggested that an Administrator's Protocol could be the vehicle for authorizing this project and the required resources therefor.

If this project is authorized within your priorities, this office will designate a Project Officer to monitor the work on your behalf and to provide a technical interface with ODM&T.

Please advise me of any further questions that you may have and of any assistance that you may need.

Edmund Beller
for LAWRENCE M. KLAINER, M.D.