

42 WEST THIRTEENTH STREET
SUITE 1C
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

Agent Orange Victims International

FRANK McCARTHY
President



Dear Viet-Nam Veteran:

AOVI was founded by Paul Reutershan, a Viet-Nam Veteran who linked his cancer to Agent Orange. Paul gave his last months of life to helping the thousands of Vets and their families that came to him for help. Paul died Dec. 14, 1978. Since then AOVII has taken the issue to the Congress, the Senate, the President and to practically every source of power in America in search of help for those suffering, dying and the children born horribly deformed. For over two years AOVII has, literally, saved lives and has given faith and hope to those suffering without any financial assistance to speak of. Now, we can no longer continue without money to send out information and keep the telephones open and the only people left to turn to is you, our fellow Viet-Nam Veterans and families.

We are asking you to join AOVII. The dues are \$7 per year and that covers your entire family. If you are a victim of Agent Orange and do not have the \$7 your membership is free. Your \$7 will be spent to open a home office where a toll free telephone number will be set up, so that when a victim calls they will reach a real person (not a recording) who will send them to doctors, dermatologists, hospitals, toxicologists, lawyers, councilors, scientists, etc., who are professionals in the area of Agent Orange & Dioxin poisoning. Real help for those effected. Our home office will, also, provide information from the most comprehensive library on Agent Orange existing and not for a fee.

In closing, I wish you to know that the Veterans Administration has stated to Congress that 2.4 million Vets were exposed to Agent Orange. They also state that until the scientific studies are completed, or legislation is passed, they can not take responsibility for the cancers, birth defects, etc. Consequently, like the Viet-Nam war itself, it is up to us, the Viet-Nam Vets, to help each other survive. Please, fill out the enclosed application and make your check payable to A.O.V.I..

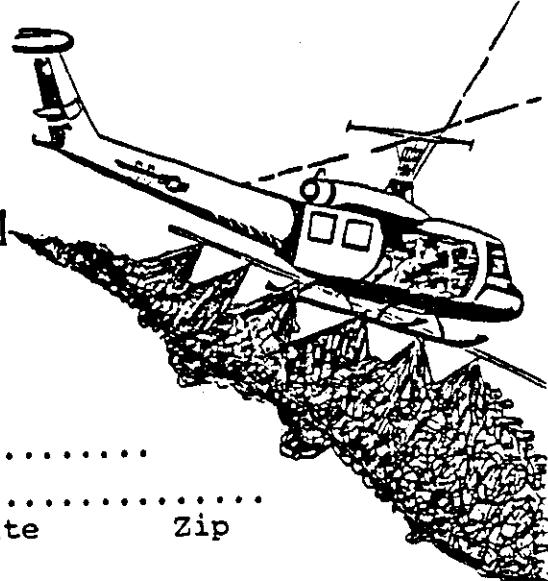
Frank McCarthy, President

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

Agent Orange Victims International

FRANK McCARTHY
President

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



NAME.....

ADDRESS Street City State Zip

TELEPHONE.....

DATE OF BIRTH.....

BRANCH OF SERVICE..... UNIT.....

DATES OF SERVICE VIET-NAM DATES

SERVICE NUMBER..... DATE OF DISCHARGE.....

SAFETY NOTES

1. COMMON HERBICIDES

I certify that I am a Viet-Nam Veteran or a family member of a Viet-Nam Veteran, or, a Viet-Nam-era-Veteran or family member and that I am in support of AOVII and all those suffering, dying and whose children are born with birth defects due to Agent Orange (Dioxin) poisoning. Further, I am not a member of the communist party or any other entity that perpetuates the destruction of the United States of America.

..... Signature Date

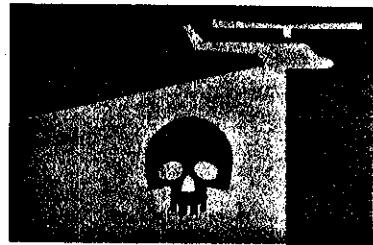
If you can not afford the \$7 membership fee please sign for a free one
I wish to become a member of Aovi, I do not have the \$7 fee and
wish a free membership due to the fact that I am a Victim of
Agent Orange (Dioxin) poisoning or a family member of a Victim.

..... **Signature** **Date**

AOVI: "To Alleviate The Suffering, Death and Birth Defects
Through Dignity, Self-Respect and Solidarity".



Agent Orange Victims International



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Paul Reutershan

President
Frank McCarthy

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Edmund P. Juteau

Senior Vice-President
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Michael Ryan

Vice-President
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We wish to give special thanks to David B. Spanier and the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation, whose contribution made this newsletter possible.

AOVI is a non-profit, tax exempt humanitarian organization, dedicated to seeking out and helping Viet-Nam Veterans and their families who have or are affected by Agent Orange, Dioxin, poisoning. Accordingly, AVOI is attempting to inform the Veterans of the long term ill health effects, assist them in attaining proper medical, legal and referral assistance when necessary and motivate them to pressure our nation's policy makers so that the tragedy of Agent Orange can be resolved.

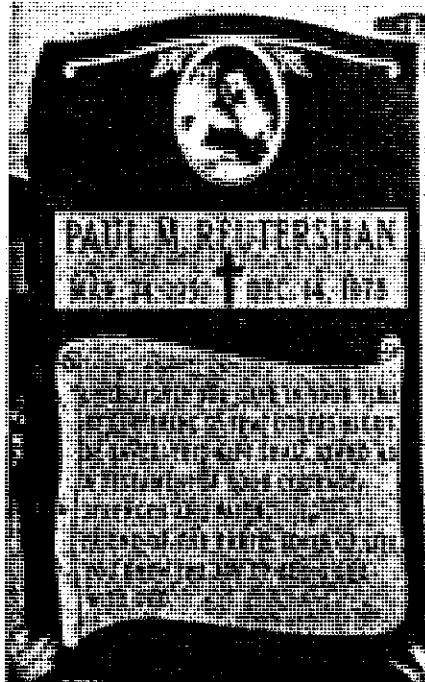
AOVI was founded by **Paul Reutershan**, a combat Viet-Nam Veteran who realized the need to provide the special services necessary to help those effected. Paul, through his extensive media coverage, shocked the nation with his words "**I died in Viet-Nam and didn't know it**". Paul died on December 14, 1978 of cancer at age 28. Since Paul's death, courageous Viet-Nam Veterans and their families have come together under the banner of AVOI to carry on Paul's vital work.

It must be noted that the officials and volunteers of AVOI receive no salaries and AVOI receives no funding from governmental agencies. They have and are operating their units **out of the pocket**, yet, they continue because they realize that their work, collectively, has brought the AO issue to the public, saved lives, alleviated suffering and will, in the future, resolve the issue.

Their courage and endurance are best exemplified by the fact that although most are victims themselves, all have opened their lives to public scrutiny in the service of Agent Orange Victims International. The emotional pressures faced in the ever-present emergency

phone call for help and its follow-up would alone cause lesser people to resign. Still the dedicated people of AVOI continue the struggle.

It must also be noted that AVOI has been instrumental in exposing the illegal chemical dumping of toxic chemicals in America. Our nation can pay no higher tribute to such great Americans!



Gravestone of Paul Reutershan marks a great Humanitarian and the birth of AVOI.

Agent Orange fact sheet An historical perspective

Herbicides were developed during the second World War, initial work being done at the University of Connecticut and later Fort Detrick, Maryland. Although they were first considered for military use at the end of the War in the Pacific, the first application (of 2-4-D) was domestic weed control in the U.S. The first recorded military use took place in Malaysia in the 1950's where the British used 2-4-5-T to clear communication routes (Grumner -1969). The first U.S. field tests were conducted in Puerto Rico, Texas, and Fort Drum in New York (1959). In 1960 the South Vietnamese government requested that the U.S. government conduct trials of these herbicides for use against guerrilla forces. Further tests were conducted in Thailand by Fort Detrick personnel before the chemicals were given to the RVN.

The herbicides involved were known by their code names, Orange, White and Blue. There were several others, such as Purple. Agent Orange is a 1-124-1 mixture by weight of the n-butyl esters of 2-4-5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2-4-5-T) and 2-4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2-4-D). Agent White is a 3-882-1 mixture by weight of tri-iso-propanolamine salts of 2-4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2-4-D) and 4-amino 3,5,6-trichloropicolinic acid (picolorum). Agent Blue is a 2-663-1 mixture by weight of sodium dimethyl arsenate (na cacodylate) and dimethyl arsenic (cacodylic acid). Agent Orange and White are used as defoliants and Agent Blue as a desiccant. Agent Blue was produced by An-sul Chemical Company which has

divested itself of this line prior to selling the company (Worth - 1978). Agents Orange and White are still being produced. The most widely produced and dispensed of the herbicides in both Viet-Nam and the U.S. is Agent Orange (2-4-5-T and 2-4-D).

Adverse effects of the chemical 2-4-5-T and its chemical precursors on the workers engaged in their production had been observed as early as 1949. At that time a Monsanto-owned plant manufacturing 2-4-5-T in Nitro, West Virginia, had an explosion and 228 workers developed Chloracne. Chloracne symptoms include skin eruptions on the face, neck, and back, shortness of breath, intolerance to cold, palpable and tender liver, a loss of sensation in the extremities, damage to peripheral nerves, fatigue, nervousness, irritability, insomnia, loss of libido and vertigo.



Youngster who was exposed to Dioxin when there was an explosion at a chemical plant in Seveso, Italy, four years ago, shows the skin lesions typical of chloracne.

Chloracne was also found in 1953 among the male workers and many of their wives, children and pets at a B.A.S.F. (Badische Anilin & Soda Fabrik)-owned 2-4-5-T plant at Ludwigshafen am Rhein in Germany. The factory experienced an explosion months after the appearance of Chloracne among the workers. In medical examinations following the explosions, some workers were found to have severely damaged internal organs including the liver. Heightened blood pressure, myocardial degeneration, severe depression, memory and concentration disturbances were also observed. Fifteen years later some of these workers were still suffering from Chloracne and its symptoms despite treatment and no subsequent exposure. One death from intestinal sarcoma was attributed to the explosion.

In 1963 another explosion occurred in a 2-4-5-T factory owned by Philips Duphar in Amsterdam, Holland. Fifty workers developed Chloracne and suffered internal damage and serious psychological disturbances as a result, and the factory was closed. In 1973 the plant was still so contaminated with Dioxin that it had to be dismantled, embedded in concrete, and buried at sea.

Dow Chemical, the largest producer of Agent Orange in the U.S. experienced an outbreak of Chloracne among its workers in 1964 in one of their 2-4-5-T manufacturing plants. Over seventy workers were affected, 12 of them severely. Dow's director of its Midland Division, Dr. Benjamin Holder, described the symptoms as fatigue, lassitude, depression, blackheads (prevalent on the face, neck, and back), and weight loss. Heavy exposure, Dr. Holder said, could lead to internal organ damage and nervous system disorders (Whiteside - 1977). In 1970 Julius F. Johnson, Director of Research and Development, appearing before the Hart Subcommittee of the U.S. Congress, described Chloracne as "a skin disorder mostly prevalent on the face, neck, and back. It is similar in experience to severe acne of the kind suffered by teenagers".

Dow ran its own study of the effects of Agent Orange using 220 workers and 4,600 controls. The range of exposure to 2-4-D was 30-40/mg/do. Ten of the men were karyotyped, and no rearrangement of genetic material was reported. The 220 men were exposed to 2-8/mg/do of 2-4-5-T. Fifty-two men were karyotyped negatively.

Number of Days Exposed	Number of Men Examined
1-59	24
60-119	156
120-239	10
480-959	6
960+	3

No difference between the study group and the control group was reported. Dow's testing indicated that a contaminant of 2-4-5-T (Dioxin) was responsible for the Chloracne and illness experienced by its workers. They conducted tests utilizing animals on 2-4-5-T with varying amounts of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. At levels of 27 ± 8 the chemical was shown to be toxic and fatal to the animals. Cleft palates were observed in further tests. The results were not repeated with 2-4-5-T without the contaminant. Dioxin was found to be one of the most toxic substances known, a fatal dose being 0.022-0.045^a in rats and 0.0006 in guinea pigs, LD-50 as milligrams per body weight.

Between 1965 and 1969 a 2-4-5-T production plant near Prague, Czechoslovakia, developed leaks in its processing area. Workers developed Chloracne and exhibited weight loss, libido diminution and insomnia. Maximum symptoms were observed about one to two years after the initial exposure but lasted over eight years in some of the exposed workers. Several workers died of severe liver damage, and workers' families also became sick. Contaminated equipment was buried in a mine shaft.

Other studies of workers exposed to 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T were conducted by Festisov (1966), Long (1969), Poland (1971), Sundell (1972) and Piper (1973). These studies showed exposed workers exhibiting symptoms including fatigue, headaches, loss of appetite, stomach and kidney pain, upper respiratory distress, decreased hearing, smell and neurological responses, high serum albumin values, skin and eye irritations and concentrated TCDD (Dioxin) levels in body fat and liver tissue. The studies inconclusive epidemiological results must be re-examined in light of their design deficiencies, such as lack of control groups (Festisov, Poland) insufficient follow-up period in a retrospective study (Sundell) and lack of longitudinal studies which would provide adequate evidence of temporary and long-range effects (NASA). Further tests showed TCDD, the contaminant in 2-4-5-T, to be an extreme toxic agent with a slow effect rate and diverse symptomatology including edema, necrotic changes of the liver, gastric hyperplasia and ulceration, hemmoroglus of gastrointestinal tract and other organs, atrophy of the kidneys, thymus and other lymphoid organs and tissues. Later, symptoms appear to lead to decreased immunoresources (NAS - 1974, Whiteside - 1978). Agent Orange (contaminated with Dioxin) and Agent White were authorized for use in Viet-Nam in November, 1961, to improve road and waterway visibility and clear camp perimeters. Later, Agent Blue was authorized to destroy crops and clear areas suspected of harboring enemy base camps or supply routes. The U.S. Air Force created the 309th Air Commando Squadron to conduct the spraying. The operation, originally known as "Hades", became known as "Operation Ranch Hand".

In the spring of 1962 the South Vietnamese military conducted large-scale tests of herbicides along 70 miles of Highway 15. In the summer, further tests were conducted using 2-4-D at 1.1 gallons/acre and 2-4-5-T at 3.3 gallons/acre (Nielands - 1972). The herbicides used in Viet-Nam were applied mostly by twin engine C-123 "Provid Transports" (Fairchild Hiller) equipped

with 3785.1 tanks and an internal defoliant dispenser (Hayes International) with 36 high pressure nozzles distributed on three booms. Normal spray time was two minutes, but a full load could be dumped in 30 seconds. Missions usually consisted of three to five aircraft flying in a staggered lateral formation. Single plane runs were known as "sorties". Helicopters, UH-1 "Huey" (Bell Aerospace), trucks, boats and hand spraying equipment were also used to dispense the herbicides in Viet-Nam. Targets were selected by U.S. or Vietnamese officers, approved by provincial chiefs, the Vietnamese Army general staff, the U.S. Military Assistant Command and the American Ambassador.

During this time, Air America also sprayed defoliants for the CIA in combat operations against Thai insurgents on the Isthmus of Kra. The drift of herbicides involved in these operations was estimated at an average of 20%.

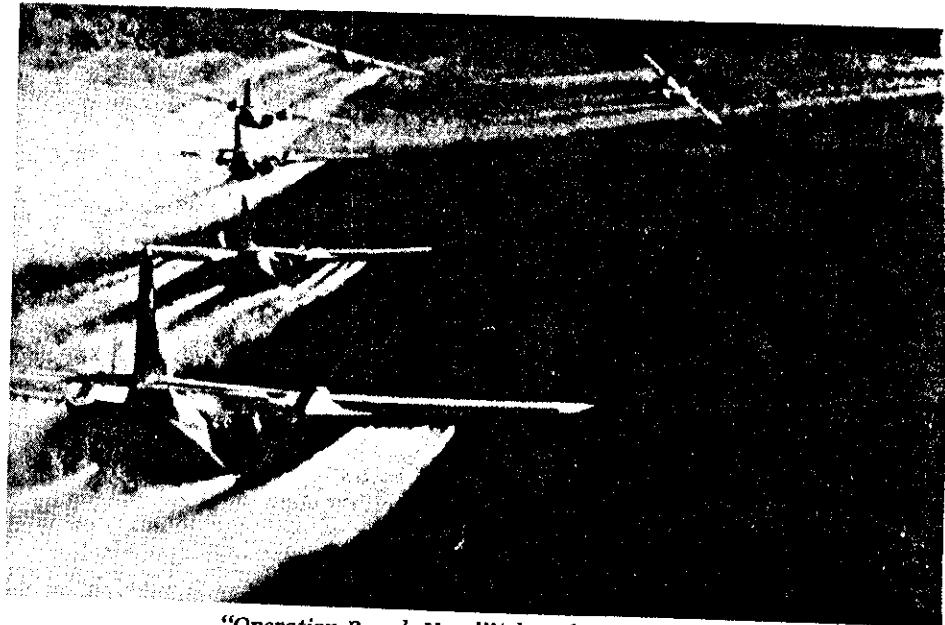
Agent Orange, the main herbicide dispensed in this period, was applied at up to 25 times the rate of use in the U.S. Entire tankloads were also jettisoned over one area (Meselson - 1970). Schedules of the herbicide spraying missions were recorded on HERBS tapes, a computerized record of time, place, geographic location of beginning, end and flight, lie of the mission, amount and type of herbicide and the military purpose of the operation. The tapes cover the period from August, 1965, to February 1971.

Herbicides expanded by year in Viet-Nam by type m³-10³ Litres.

Year	Orange	White	Blue
1961	-	-	-
1962	56	-	8
1963	281	-	3
1964	948	-	118
1965	1767	-	749
1966	6363	2056	1181
1967	11891	4989	2513
1968	8850	8483	1931
1969	12376	3572	1309
1970	1806	697	370
1971	-	38	-

The HERBS tapes were studies for accuracy by the NASA Committee, which traveled to Viet-Nam, and were found to contain inaccuracies. Even so, they may offer one source to check individual dose exposure in the period covered when 85% of the missions were flown.

As early as 1964, while the spraying was increasing in Viet-Nam, reports were circulated of increased miscarriages, stillbirths and birth defects among exposed Vietnamese women and animals. Because of the war conditions, collecting data to corroborate this was difficult. Records from 1970 for Saigon's leading maternity hospital



"Operation Ranch Hand"/Photo by Bob Rand

showed a monthly average of 140 miscarriages and 150 premature births in 2,800 pregnancies, but the hospital would not disclose whether or not this was an increase.

In 1966 the U.S. government started studies on the teratogenic effect of 2-4-5-T. These studies were conducted by Bionetics Research Laboratories of Bethesda, Maryland, for the National Cancer Institute. These findings were released in 1969. Rats and mice used in the study were given 21.5 mg/kg doses of 2-4-5-T during early gestation. Almost all the offspring were born dead or with cleft palates, no eyes, cystic kidneys and enlarged livers. At 4.6 mg/kg, 39% of the offspring were born deformed. Based on these findings Dr. Lee Du Bridge, Presidential Advisor, said the use of the chemical in populated areas and on food crops should be restricted.

Dow objected to the findings saying the sample of the 2-4-5-T was used unrepresentatively because of an abnormally high amount of TCDD (Dioxin). As a result, new tests were ordered by Dr. Burger, Dr. Du Bridge's technical assistant, and 2-4-5-T was left in use (World Medical News - 1970). Other tests were run by Dr. Jackie Verett of the FDA Toxicology Lab in Washington, D.C., Dr. Matthew Meselson of Harvard, the National Institute. Dr. Verett used a .50 parts per million Dioxin solution obtained from chemicals used in Viet-Nam in chicks and found resultant cysts, necrotic livers, slipped tendons, cleft palates and beak deformities. She then used a .25 parts per trillion solution and observed the same effects. Further tests of 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T without Dioxin still produced dead and deformed offspring — English tests had demonstrated Agent Orange to contain as many as 17 or more contaminants.

Dr. Meselson was the head of an American Association for Advance Science project. His concern was Dioxin activity and the unknown results of its behavior.

"The tetrachloro-dioxin represents just one of the 12 or 13 ways the chlorine atoms arrange themselves on a benzene ring to form Dioxin molecules. How do we know about hexa, hepta and octachlor or about how persistent the tetrachlor itself is? Moreover, I am very concerned about the Dioxin that might be formed by unreacted trichlorophenol (2-4-5-T's precursor) when the product is exposed to heat. If it were taken up by plants or wood and these were burned, you'd get more Dioxin. Finally, I'm bothered by the bizarre mental effects suffered by German workers making 2-4-5-T. I say when in doubt, stop it." (World Medical News - 1970)

The National Institute of Environmental Health Services Study used samples of 2-4-5-T which were far less contaminated with Dioxin than the 2-4-5-T used in the Bionetics Study. The results showed 2-4-5-T to have a significant teratogenic effect on the study of animals.

Based on this study, on April 15, 1970, Dr. Jesse L. Steinfield, Surgeon General, and David Packard, Secretary of Defense, announced government action limiting the use of 2-4-5-T in the U.S. and suspending its use in Viet-Nam (Whiteside - 1977).

In 1975 the CDC in Atlanta studied Agent Orange and issued a report showing that exposed animals suffered appetite loss, vascular lesions, Chloracne and gastric ulcers (Severo - 1978). More recent tests indicate Dioxin may be concentrated in fatty tissue and released into the blood stream after the initial exposure (Medoff -

1978). Vietnamese epidemiologists have indicated a four-fold increase in liver cancer in Viet-Nam in the last ten years.

Despite these tests and world-wide evidence of the effects of Agent Orange, it has remained in use in the U.S. on rice crops in Arkansas, range land in the West and Southwest, national forests and along railroad and power lines.

In 1973 Matthew Meselson and Dr. Robert Boughman refined an analytical system for detecting the presence of Dioxin in parts per trillion instead of billion. Using their system, they found Dioxin residues in Vietnamese crustaceans, indicating that Dioxin had entered the food chain as a result of earlier 2-4-5-T use. Dow's scientists continued to maintain that 2-4-5-T, when used as directed, presents inconsequential hazards to the environment, animals and man (Whiteside - 1977). The evidence shows the Agent Orange was dispensed in Viet-Nam in amounts far in excess of previous use; thus, the exposure of U.S. soldiers and the Vietnamese was not "as directed". Soldiers in Viet-Nam sprayed one another with Agent Orange in spray fights as they were told the chemical was harmless.

While U.S. government departments were and were not dealing with 2-4-5-T, on July 10, 1976, another factory had an explosion. The factory, located in Seveso, Lombardy, Italy, was owned by ICMESA with a Swiss parent company. The explosion produced a cloud of Dioxin which settled over several adjacent communities. The people exposed became nauseated, experienced eye and throat irritations, developed burnlike sores on exposed skin, headaches, dizziness and diarrhea — the same symptoms recorded by exposed Vietnamese and Cambodian populations. In the next two days, small animals in the area began to die. Most of the small animals in Zone A of the exposed area died or had to be destroyed. Post mortems showed that they died of Dioxin poisoning and had extensive liver damage. Because of the publicity on the teratogenicity of Dioxin, abortions were made available to the exposed women.

Studies of the situation at the ICMESA plant revealed that Dioxin was probably escaping periodically from the plant over a two-year period prior to the explosion. Two and a half months after the explosion, children and young people began to develop Chloracne. A year later 130 people had confirmed Chloracne. Symptoms included nervousness, irritability, loss of appetite and sexual drive. Spontaneous abortions appeared to double; the level of birth defects could not be determined because of the abortions. In 1977 it

was discovered that 280 children in an area north of the contaminated area were suffering from Chloracne.

Studies in animals are also being conducted. Dr. James Allen, at the University of Wisconsin, has been running studies on the effects of Dioxin-contaminated food on nonhuman primates. This seems particularly efficacious in light of recent evidence that rodents often used in medical research seem to be subject to inherent viruses which could distort test results (Lord - 1978). Dr. Allen's studies with animals indicate that Dioxin persists and accumulates in the tissue of primates. In his rodent studies Dr. Allen found a significant increase in the development of neoplasms "suggesting the carcinogenic potential of the compound TCDD".

Beef cattle grazing on western ranges sprayed with 2-4-5-T a year earlier were found, in 1974, to have sixty parts per trillion Dioxin in their fatty tissue, a significant amount. Dr. Meselson, who has continued his studies at Harvard, has examined the milk of women exposed to the herbicide in Texas and Oregon, and the results seemed to indicate the presence of Dioxin in parts per trillion in some of their milk. Both these results and the cattle tests indicate that *Dioxin, one of the most toxic substances known to man, has entered the human food chain.*

The evidence also indicates that the herbicide Agent Orange (2-4-D + 2-4-5-T + contaminants, especially TCDD) has both teratogenic and carcinogenic potential for exposed animals and humans. The teratogenic effects may be checked in cases where pregnant women are exposed, but evidence in Viet-Nam indicates that the mother may suffer chromatin or chromosomal damage following exposure and pass this damage on to subsequently conceived children (Nguyen - 1971). One of the complaints of Viet-Nam Veterans is the high incidence of birth deformities (including monsters) present in their children (McCarthy - 1978). Karotyping should be done on these Veterans and their offspring and all birth defects recorded. (At present the U.S. has no national register for recording birth defects.) The carcinogenic potential of 2-4-5-T, or Agent Orange, will be harder to ascertain as it involves the development of chronic disease with diverse symptomatology over an undetermined and lengthy amount of time.

The symptomatology developed by populations exposed to Agent Orange and its components, 2-4-D, 2-4-5-T and contaminants, has been demonstrated around the world over a lengthy period of time. Further examination of the teratogenic and carcinogenic effects

have been conducted in different animal experiments. However, no serious epidemiological study has been done in this country, and the government, for example the V.A., has used this to disclaim causality (Fullbright - 1978). The argument used is that there is no scientifically-proven causality, no one has designed a study to attempt to establish such a correlation in humans. Dow Chemical, one of the largest producers of Agent Orange and White, has conducted a considerable amount of research, especially on the unavoidable contaminated Dioxin in Agent Orange. Their most recent conclusion revealed by an 18-member task force after several months of study is that Dioxin is present everywhere in the environment where combustion occurs, and Dow went on to argue against zero effluence limits of Dioxin which the E.P.A. and F.D.A. are interested in. Dow still argues that the Dioxin levels are so low as to be harmless, especially since they are airborne rather than transmitted through the food chain (Science - 1978). The government seems to be moving toward shifting the burden of proof away from itself to the producers with irrefutable defense papers (Whiteside - 1978). E.P.A. toxicologist, Lyman Condie, says that this latest Dow report does not change the agency's view that Dioxin-contaminated pesticides pose a threat to human health.

On March 1 the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) took unprecedented steps against the chemical. In the first such emergency ban ever, the EPA ordered the immediate halt to most uses of the herbicide 2-4-5-T which contains Dioxin, and a similar product used for weather control known as Silvex.

The "emergency suspension" action is temporary while further facts are gathered, but it is the most drastic measure the E.P.A. can take under the law. The E.P.A. said it was acting "on significant new evidence linking the herbicide 2-4-5-T with miscarriages in women in Oregon.

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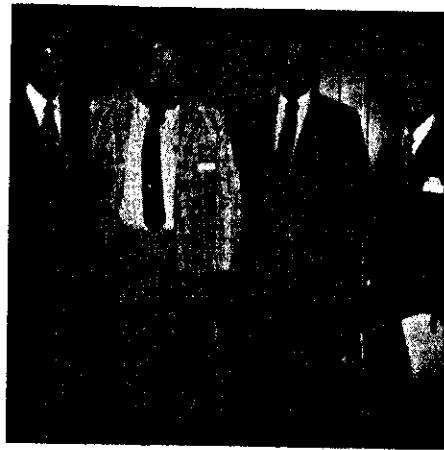
Severo, Richard, "U.S. dispute claims of veterans, says none are herbicide victims" New York Times, front page, May 28, 1979.

AOVI President, Frank McCarthy, met for two days of discussions with Dr. Lennart Hardell, the Swedish scientist whose highly respected studies show a higher incidence of cancer in exposed humans, and Dr. Michael Eriksson who also worked on the studies. The two scientists were in America to testify for the E.P.A. (U.S.) in hearings to totally ban the use of Silvex and 2-4-5-T in America. Mr. McCarthy reports that Dow had Dr. Hardell on the stand for two days and could not discredit him or his studies. He further reports that Dr. Hardell will soon release a new study that will be

more conclusive than his others. Also sitting in on the meetings was Boris Ersson, a Swedish reporter who revealed the fact that Dow paid the air fare, hotel and travel expenses for the Director of the Swedish E.P.A. to attend Dow's pro-herbicide conference held last year in the U.S.A. Swedish law prohibits such an act. Perhaps that is why the Swedish E.P.A. is for the use of 2-4-5-T. However, the Swedish government overruled them and banned the use. Moreover, Mr. Ersson is back in Sweden and he is releasing the story to the public. Hopefully, the Director of the Swedish E.P.A. will be fired.

Dr. Hardell's studies show that exposure to 2-4-5-T increases (6 fold) the risk of cancer. A new study has been performed that also shows an increase (6 fold) in the cancer risk in exposure to 2-4-5-T without the presence of Dioxin.

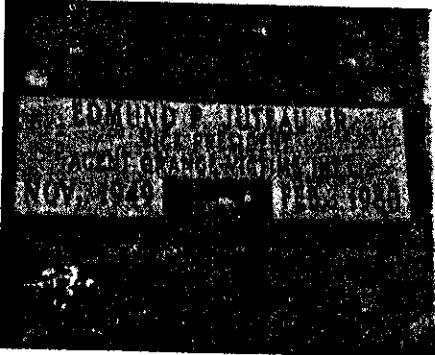
AOVI has on file or access to hundreds of medical and scientific studies that link Agent Orange to cancer, Chloracne, neurological damage, psychological impairments, birth defects and various other afflictions. The evidence is overwhelming. Please contact any AVOI branch office or info point for a list of the studies.



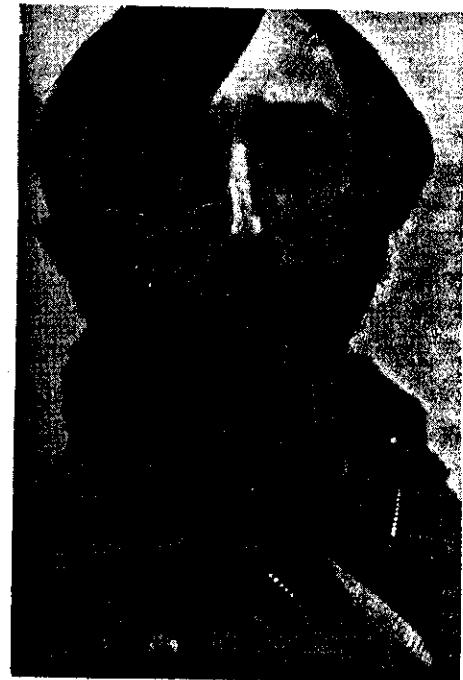
Edmund P. Juteau, Vice President of AVOI and a Combat Medic, sacrificed the last months of his life to providing services for the Veterans, in his area, effected by Agent Orange. Ed debated V.A. officials, appeared at over 107 speaking events, uncovered the fact that the Syracuse V.A. hospital was not providing the Veterans with proper physicals, falsifying their medical records and medical forms that the V.A. is using in their national study on Agent Orange Victims, and the fact that the V.A. had unqualified individuals conducting the physical examinations.

The determination, strength and honesty of Ed Juteau is, surely, missed. To AVOI Ed was a leader. A man who saw the great need and took charge. He asked for nothing except, to have helped his fellow Veterans. AVOI shall

never forget what Ed did for the Viet-Nam Veterans and their families!



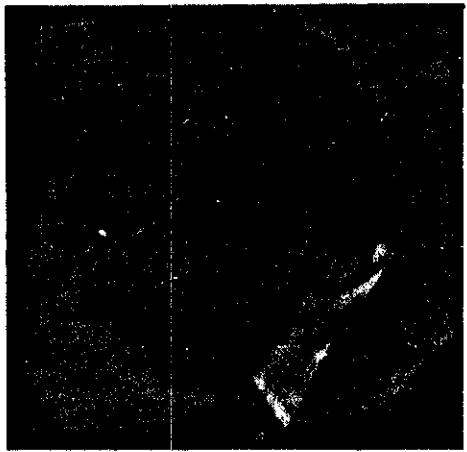
AOVI VP Jimmy Sparrow was a close friend of Paul Reutershan, while serving as post commander of a VFW in Stamford. Jimmy has taken hundreds of calls for help from AO victims, as well as extensive speaking engagements, press coverage and has out reached the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut areas. The Stamford branch office is one of the best in the nation because of Jimmy's efforts and sacrifice. Jimmy, an ex-marine and combat Veteran has, also developed community programs for juveniles in need of help. He is a credit to his state and the nation. (203) 323-7478



AOVI President, Frank McCarthy, was asked by, the late, Paul Reutershan to carry on his work. Since that time Frank brought the AO issue to Congressman Bonior of the Viet-Nam Vets in Congress who formed a Task Force, rallied 86 Congressmen and amended the Viet-Nam Veterans Act to add Agent Orange. Congressman Tom Dashle submitted an AO Bill before the House. Eleven days after Frank met with Congressman Andy McGuire hearings were conducted by the Oversight & Investigative sub-committee.



During Viet-Nam Veterans week (1979) Frank interrupted President Carter's speech with, "What about Agent Orange Victims, Mr. President?" Mr. Carter agreed with Frank that an epidemiological study of the Vets was needed. A White House Task Force was formed, (Inter-agency Work Group) and various government agencies have initiated studies on the Vets. Frank has traveled the nation; seminars, extensive press, outreach and provided the necessary input for state bills in New Jersey, with Assemblyman John Behan in New York and various other States. Frank is a disabled, combat Veteran decorated for heroism with valor and is totally committed to AOVII.



Rodger Pappas, VP AOVII, aside from his extensive duties in the operation of the Stamford, Conn. branch office, directs the U.S.A. end of the Australian/American Alliance. Bob Gibson, of the Australian victims group, "The Viet-Nam Veterans Action Association", Rodger Pappas and Jimmy Sparrow have been the work forces that have brought the two organiza-

tions together. AOVII and VVAA have joined together in the same law suit against Dow and the other chemical companies, and the two groups have formed a bond of unity that exists with the same spirit of "comrade in arms", that our two countries fought with during the Viet-Nam war.

Sadly, the Australian Viet-Nam Vets suffer the same "stigma, poor treatment from their V.A., and Agent Orange effects", as our Vets in America. AOVII extends our Love and Respect to the Australian Viet-Nam Vets and their families who have form-



press and speaking engagements, brought the issue to the attention of various labor unions and is credited with causing a major Boston Hospital to provide help for the children of Veterans born with birth defects. Steve, is and has been one of the major driving forces of AOVII and is considered one of the leading authorities on Agent Orange. (617) 631-0512

Steve, assisted by Roo Baker, a nonsense registered nurse and former surgical nurse in Viet-Nam, provides a vital and effective professional force in the New England area.

Jane Dziedzic, Secretary of AOVII, first became involved when her brother, Paul Reutershan founded AOVII. Since that time she has done extensive media speaking engagements and has devoted her life to AOVII. Her testimony before public hearings in New York State was instrumental in



ed the VVAA. They, like AOVII, have put their lives on the line for the fellow effected Veterans.

Stephan Zardis, aside from outreach and providing services for hundreds of Veterans and their families in the state of Massachusetts, was instrumental in contacting the Australian and New Zealand Viet-Nam Vets effected by Agent Orange. Steve, a combat Veteran is confined to a wheelchair as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange. His achievements are enough to fill this newsletter. He has testified before State hearings, done extensive





stopping the spraying of 2-4-5-T over three counties, one of which brings water to New York City. Jane has mailed newsletters and information to thousands of Veterans and their families free of charge.

Muriel Reutershan is the Treasurer of AVOI. Although AVOI's financial condition has been catastrophic, Muriel's role has been immeasurable. Her sacrifice is the ultimate, in the loss of her son Paul. Since Paul's death she has provided AVOI with the wisdom that keeps AVOI's purpose pure. She knows, more than most, the purpose for which AVOI was created. She has given her time, energy and heart to keep AVOI afloat and without her spirit we would not.



Class Action Law Suit against Dow, Monsanto, Hercules, Hooker, Uniroyal and Diamond Shamrock chemical companies

Paul Reutershan filed the first Agent Orange litigation ever against Dow. At his request, the succeeding President of AVOI, Frank McCarthy found a legal

champion who expanded this law suit to cover all Viet-Nam Veterans and their families.

Victor J. Yannacone, attorney for AVOI filed the Class Action suit that we know today — the largest law suit in the history of the United States.

Working out of his own pocket and never asking any victim for financial help, Victor has attempted to meet the power of the chemical companies. Finally, we found other honest and competent attorneys and a legal consortium has been formed.

Essentially, we are asking the courts to award a percentage of the chemical companies' profits to a court administered public trust fund which will be used to: repair the damage done to our children; compensate those who have been disabled; fund research into the proper medical treatment for Dioxin poisoning.

On November 2, 1980 Victor Yannacone filed a massive law suit against the V.A., naming Max Cleland and his top cohorts, Mc Michaels, Pickarski and Dr. Custis and bringing them into our suit against the Chem. Co.'s. Motivated by the 2nd Circuits "Federal Common law" decision we charged the V.A. with permitting unlicensed doctors to practice medicine on Viet-Nam Vets, issuing excessive doses of psychothropic drugs, burying Agent Orange claims, violating the Constitutional rights of the Veterans and a host of other charges. Prior to this action the V.A. had been exempt from being sued.

AVOI is also a party-plaintiff in the Class Action suit against the Veterans Administration, initiated by the Veterans Law Center. David Addestone, Louis Milford and Lou Gollinker are the attorneys and the suit seeks to force the V.A. to abide by its own rules and provide the Veterans with proper medical tests, treatment and compensation.

Victor J. Yannacone and Consortium
P.O. Drawer 109
Patchogue, N.Y., 11772
(516) 654-0231

The Veterans Law Center
The American University
Washington College of Law
Washington, D.C., 20016
(202) 686-2741

Newest Development Legal Information

Judge George C. Pratt made several rulings in the Agent Orange case.

1. He ruled that our case is now a class action which means that all Agent Orange suits are now consolidated under one action and the chief council is Victor J. Yannacone, Jr.

2. He threw out Dow's motion to dismiss the case under the defense of "Government Contractors" and he said that a trial will determine if they are liable.

3. He threw out Dow's suit against the government, saying that the U.S. is immune from prosecution. He said that the form 95's should be filed by the Vets but that the Jan. 8 deadline is no longer in effect.

Form 95. One copy for the veteran one for each child and one for his wife mailed, return receipt, to each address listed below:

Department of Defense
The Secretary of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Veterans Administration
Guy McMichaels, Chief Council
810 Vermont Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Make sure that each veteran keeps one copy for himself.

4. Pratt, also, threw out our suit against the V.A., saying that we could file a separate suit if we choose. We will file a separate suit.



Charley Hartz, a courageous Veteran and AVOI official, has won a great victory for all Agent Orange victims. His video-tape deposition, the first of a Veteran dying of brain cancer, has been entered into the AVOI class action suit as vivid testimony to the effects of Dioxin.

Although the attorneys for Dow and the other chemical companies screamed and berated Charley in their interrogations, they could not break him down.

Sick and exhausted however, Charley did get discouraged — until during a lunch break on the second day of his "inquisition", he saw the young child of Dan Loney, another Agent Orange victim. The child, born with only one arm, reminded Charley why he was fighting.

Four hours later, the chemical com-



pany attorneys left the building angry as Charley and Aovi attorney Hy Mayerson emerged with a smile.

Charley had not been fooled or swayed to answer in confusion because Charley had the truth as his only weapon. Neither Dow nor the V.A. can draw a lie from the truth!

Joseph (Rockey) and Joan Racanelli, VP, run the Phoenix, Arizona branch office. The two individuals have been with Aovi from the start, outreaching from Arizona to California, conducting seminars, extensive media and have taken hundreds of emergency calls from victims. Rockey, as well as, their daughter, born with spinal defects are effected by Agent Orange. (602) 846-2274



Roberta, Jimmy, Jamie, Krissie & Jessie Lutz organizing Aovi, Long Island and tired of politics and the V.A.

Jimmy and Roberta Lutz know, first hand, what Agent Orange can do to a Viet-Nam Veterans family. They are bringing the families of Long Island together to specialize in real help for the children effected. Aovi is honored to have them with us. (516) 581-4553

New directors of Aovi branch offices and info points: **Ismael Rios** of Camden, New Jersey who suffers from cancer, Chloracne and 9 other illnesses, is organizing the New Jersey area:

Ann and Russell Humphrey from Ohio have recently joined Aovi. Russell has neurological damage, three of their children are effected and they have opened their lives to public scrutiny and are doing an incredible job in their area of Ohio. They inspire us all. (513) 848-4358

Tim and Linda Margo direct the Canton, Ohio Aovi. We welcome their efforts, and respect their sacrifice. (216) 455-8521

Tom Forbes of Philadelphia, Pa came



Victor J. Yannaccone, attorney for Aovi and head of the class action consortium. His untiring efforts and personal sacrifice can never be repaid.



Edmund H. Janiszewski, Agent Orange victim, friend and early supporter of Paul Reutershaw and Aovi Flag Bearer stands at parade rest with the American flag at the rear of the courtroom at each session. Edmund's family lives in the Love Canal and he is Aovi Coordinator for the Environmental Toxin Coalition as well as publisher of Toxic Times.

to the aid of Aovi when the Philadelphia Aovi closed. The Philadelphia chapter exists and will continue to grow because of him. (215) 487-2910

Lenny McCormick of Harrisberg, Pa and his wife, Bev, have been involved with helping Vietnamese & Cambodian refugees. Their chapter is the latest Aovi Info. Point.

Bill and Sharon Morris, also of Ohio, have been operating an information point for Aovi for several months. They have informed, enlightened and helped many Veterans in their area.

Sam Potter of Erie, Pa., directs the newly formed Western Pa., branch of Aovi. Sam's child was born without a nervous system and did not have a chance to survive. We admire Sam's determination. (814) 474-5184

Special mention must be given to individuals and groups who have, during the last two and one half years, helped Aovi to help one another.

Cynthia and Andrew Earle, Jane Holtzer, Willy Blomquist, Michael Moriarty, Ron Cobb, Dexter, Baldwin, McGonagle Foundation, Douglas Trees, David Addlestone, Assemblyman John Behan, Victor & Carol Yannaccone, David & Ellen Dean, Jody Eiseman, Bill McMillon, David Spanier, Seabell Thomas, Francis McLoughlin, Maude DeVictor, Gene Richman, Paul Rafferty, Pat Reeve, Daniel Keller, Dotty Lauderstein, Jane Blomquist, Dotty Poole, Hy Mayerson, Al Santoli, Dick Severo, Dennis O'Malley, Tony Pia, Bob Rand, Ray Lenarcic, Dave Randall, Dennis Thorp, Mike Gold, Wendy Voght, Sharon Wentz, Dooley Worth, Pete Kroner, Dr. John P. Wilson, Dr. Gilbert Bogan, Alison Campbell, Rich Hand, The Consortium, Shirley La Blanc, Otto Lukert, Joel Freeman and last but not



Little Jeffry Woods comes to court.

Center for Veterans Rights, Swords to Plowshears, Save-A-Vet, Veterans of the Viet-Nam War, Coastal Viet-Nam Veterans Assoc., NACV, American

Environmental Toxin Coalition, AMVETS, MOPH, Concerned Viet-Nam Veterans, AOVNY, CAVEAT, Viet-Nam Veterans Action Association, V.A. Vet Centers.



AOVI VP Michael and Maureen Ryan testify before Congressional hearings on Agent Orange.

Police Sgt. Michael Ryan, his wife Maureen and daughter Kerry have traveled the nation speaking out, testifying before Congress, the Senate, State hearings, seminars and have done extensive press, world wide. Little Kerry, born with 18 multiple birth defects and Michael suffer from Dioxin poisoning. They are one of the most knowledgeable families in the world on the subject of Agent Orange birth defects. It must be noted that Michael and Maureen have individually helped hundreds of families that have called them for help.



Kerry Ryan meets another little friend.



A Mother brings her child to court.



Rae Vesco



Rae's son, Paul, a decorated combat Veteran died, age 30, of Lymphoma.

My Son by Rae Vesco

Did I lose my only son
Because of something you have done?
To take him to far off East
and treat him like some common beast
To put him in the field, in that far
off place, unable for days to even
wash his fair face?

To live in mud, filthy clothes, often
soaking wet, drinking dirty water,
rationed food, without complaint,
you can bet!

Did you spray those fine young men,
without protection, that were on
patrol under your direction?

Did you cause his death, in later
years, dying of cancer, unable to
be saved through care, prayers and
tears?

Copyright 1979 by Rae Vesco. All rights reserved.



John and Mildred Woods, shown here testifying before Congressional hearings on Agent Orange, are featured in this newsletter as a tribute for their efforts and sacrifice to the Agent Orange cause. With two children born before the war normally, their two children born after Viet-Nam suffer with birth defects. They, also, have traveled the nation for the benefit of all those effected. We salute them.

The following symptoms and effects were compiled by field studies, animal and human studies, current litigation, civilian exposures, Viet-Nam Veteran exposures, Industrial accidents and various other medical and scientific surveys and studies. They are not all, but, merely, a sample of:

Chloracne — Skin eruptions on various parts of the body; fatigue; nervousness, irritability, numbness of the fingers, hands and legs, insomnia, shortness of breath, loss of libido and vertigo, palpable and tender liver, intolerance to the cold, Nerve damage
Headaches
Upper respiratory distress
Stomach and kidney pains
Edema
Damage to the immunal system
Various tumors
Gastric ulcers
Severe depression
Memory and concentration disturbances
Acute psychosis
Gastric hyperplasia and ulceration
Gastointestinal problems
Vascular leisions
Fever of unknown origin

Birth-Defects: Cleft palates and club foot, combinations of defects, enlarged head, organs outside of the body, open eye, liver and kidney abnormalities and many other defects that have never been seen before in medical science or defects that have unknown origins.

Cancers: Liver and kidney, testicular, lymphoma, lung, ear, and various cancers that should not occur in the age group of the Viet-Nam Veterans.

What to do if you feel that you are a victim of Agent Orange

1. Call the nearest AOVII branch office or info point for referrals to doctors who specialize in the area of Dioxin poisoning, hospitals, attorneys involved with the litigation against the chemical companies, counseling, Veterans Administration procedures and compensation claims and literature on Agent Orange, Dioxin, pending State and Federal Legislation, medical and scientific studies and surveys.

2. Please fill out the enclosed medical questionnaire. This is your record as to your ill health condition. It will not be used for any other reason, whatsoever, without your permission.

3. Realize that you are not alone anymore, that we are a humanitarian group of Viet-Nam Veterans and their families and we are united in our efforts to receive the proper treatment and respect!

What can you do to help:

Viet-Nam Veterans:

1. Examine carefully these pages. If any of the symptoms and effects apply to you or your children, contact one of the AOVII branches in your area. Aside from the V.A. claim and tests we will put you in contact with as much real help as possible.

2. Write your Congressman and Senator, insist that they support the pending legislation in the House, Senate and the various states. If no state bill is pending in your state call us. Demand that they exert some leadership in securing a full retrospective and prospective epidemiological study of all 2.4 million Veterans exposed.

3. Join a chapter of AOVII in your local area, or help form one. More chapters mean strength and unity and a greater chance to help end the suffering, death and birth defects. Also, if you know of fellow Vets give them a copy of this newsletter and encourage them to get involved.

4. Become a member of AOVII. Unlike other Veterans organizations AOVII has never asked for dues or charged money for our vital work. For two years we have existed through those who have operated the individual branch offices and they have been dying Veterans and Veterans whose children are born with defects. We can no longer survive in that way. Our newsletters are behind and our telephones are being turned off by Ma Bell. Consequently, we are forced to ask every Viet-Nam Veteran to help by being part of a unique Brotherhood of determined Veterans and families. Send your check care of AOVII in your respective areas.

Non-Viet-Nam Veterans:

1. Write your local legislators and insist that they support the pending legislation. Also, encourage them to investigate charges by AOVII against the V.A. Also, demand that they exert some leadership in respect to securing the proper medical studies.



Green Mountain Post Films
P.O. Box 177, Montague, Massachusetts 01341
413/863-4754

The Human Arts Assoc. of New York and Green Mountain Post Films of Mass. are currently producing a one hour color documentary film featuring AOVII. The film follows the legal political and scientific events revolving around the AO struggle since 1979. The film will also cover the effects of the herbicide in other countries, and the public and government ambivalence to the Veterans needs.

AOVII has worked closely with the producers of the film, and fully endorses this much-needed educational tool, which can enlighten the public and enhance our outreach programs.

We are asking all Veterans who have films, photos or slides of their tour in Viet-Nam to contact the filmmakers, especially if there is documentation of sprayed jungle or forests, etc. They may be reached through AOVII or Jackie Ochs, 591 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 at 212-925-7995.

The filmmakers are asking for finishing funds for the project and expect little support from corporations and the government, the normal channels for financing documentaries. The filmmakers welcome any financial support (tax deductible) or funding ideas you may have and will be glad to provide more detailed information on the film upon request.

The project has already compiled a wide range of exciting film, including coverage of informational meetings about AO for Vets in New York, Baton Rouge Long Island, Brooklyn, Herkimer, Delaware and New Hampshire. The film promises to reveal many of the untold stories surrounding this notorious Agent Orange.

2. Make a monetary contribution to Aovi. We need your dollars to continue to print and mail newsletters, provide services for those effected and to keep the telephones open to Vets.

3. Become an Associate Member of Aovi. You will receive the same monthly newsletter as the regular membership and have the knowlege that your contribution and active support is helping achieve the goals of Aovi.

"WAR SHADOWS"

Viet-Nam Veteran Paul Reutershans final batle with Agent Orange. This award winning documentary follows the last months of Paul's life as he fights for his fellow Viet-Nam Veterans and their families. "I died in Viet-Nam" was his battle cry and his mission was to "get the word out". This documentary contains extensive Department of Defense footage of the military's defoliation campaign.

Available at the producer's cost (on video only). Contact Jody Eiseman, 24 Tupelo Road, Westport, Conn. 06880.

WOULD
YOU
Believe
T-Shirts?



T-Shirt(s) @ \$6.95 each.

Total _____. Size _____. Color _____.

Sweat Shirt(s) @ \$9.95 each.

Total _____. Size _____. Color _____.

Sizes: S., M., L. & Ex-L. Colors: Orange/Black letters

Mail to: Aovi, Rodger Pappas, 955 Cove Rd., Stamford, Conn. 06902, (203) 323-74

Membership Application

Mail to: Aovi, 42 West 13 Street, Apt. 1C, New York, NY 10011

Member (Vets and families only please)

*Important Note: Vets — If you cannot afford the membership fee, we will accept your membership without fee.

\$ 7

Associate (non-Vets)

\$15

Donor \$5 \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Please make all checks payable to Agent Orange Victims International

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

"To Alleviate the suffering, death and birth defects through dignity, self-respect and solidarity."



Agent Orange Victims International

This Publication is dedicated to all Viet-Nam Veterans who have died as a result of Agent Orange & Dioxin Poisoning. Special dedication to: Paul Reutershan, Edmund Juteau, Dick Delaney, Charles Poole and John Chalmers.