

A NATION AT RISK

By Joe Cole

CDC Strikes OUT - Again

Dr. David Manino of the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Environmental Health says men who smoke are 50 percent more likely to become impotent than those who don't. Mannino says researchers estimate more than ten million U.S. men are impotent and half of those cases are caused by diet, aging, alcohol and medication.

Up front, I don't have all the details on this particular study, however, as reported, this was a study based on a survey of 4,462 Vietnam veterans between the ages of 31 and 49. This in and of itself suggests the study is seriously flawed for the following reason:

- 1.) A 31 year old Vietnam veteran would have been between the ages of 10 and 12 during the war, depending on what you consider the start and stop dates;
- 2.) Exposure to toxic chemi-

cals like Agent Orange causes diabetes, which causes impotency;

3.) A common medical treatment for chemical related illnesses is a prescribed daily regime of Prednisone. Unfortunately, a side effect of prednisone treatments is diabetes; and

4.) Researchers failed to mention impotency can cause a non-smoker to start, and a smoker to smoke more, according to the internationally recognized and respected Vietnam veteran, Vaughn Binzer...

So what's the motive in suggesting smoking causes impotency, based on a totally ridiculous study protocol? Let me suggest a few possibilities:

1. The National Academy of Sciences Veterans and Agent Orange study, released in July 1993, found sufficient evidence of an association between chemical exposure and

- Soft-tissue sarcoma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Hodgkin's disease
- Chloracne
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (in

genetically susceptible individuals)

2. The National Academy also found the evidence suggested a strong association between chemical exposure and:

- Respiratory Cancers (Lung, Larynx, Trachea)
- Prostate Cancer
- Multiple Myeloma

3. The National Academy declared a possibility existed for an association between chemical exposure and:

- 1. Hepatobiliary cancers
- 2. Nasal/nasopharyngeal cancer
- 3. Bone Cancer
- 4. Female reproductive cancers cervical, uterine, ovarian) and breast cancer
- 5. Renal cancer
- 6. Testicular cancer
- 7. Leukemia
- 8. Spontaneous Abortion
- 9. Birth defects
- 10. Neonatal/infant death and stillbirths
- 11. low birth weight
- 12. Childhood cancer in offspring

13. Abnormal sperm parameters and infertility

14. Cognitive and neuropsychiatric disorders

15. Motor/coordination dysfunction

16. Peripheral nervous system disorders

17. Metabolic and digestive disorders (diabetes, changes in liver enzymes, lipid abnormalities, ulcers)

18. Immune system disorders (immune modulation and autoimmunity)

19. Circulatory disorders

20. Respiratory disorders

When the National Academy announced their findings, (of a study based on actual Vietnam veterans), it was suggested that in June 1995, prostate cancer, peripheral neuropathy, diabetes, and some birth defects, would be added to those illnesses already recognized as associated with Vietnam service.

If anyone is taking bets on these illnesses getting added to the current connected list, let me know.

The Saga Continues