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Institute of Medicine
*Committee to Review the Health Effects in
Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides*

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

April 21, 1995 - you are in town
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 10-2 Consortium Mtg @ NMF
Georgetown Holiday Inn - Mirage Room I 2 PM o/c w/ Dr Fallon here
2101 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

The *Committee to Review the Health Effects In Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides* of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention will hold a public meeting to solicit scientific information on the health effects of exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides used during the Vietnam conflict.

Persons interested in making a brief oral presentation (5-7 minutes) should contact Ms. Deborah Katz as soon as possible and no later than April 14, 1995. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony will be chosen by the committee to represent all points of view from those who respond by April 14, 1995. For those not able to attend the public meeting or to testify, written materials will also be accepted and given equal weight to oral testimony, if received by April 21, 1995. Ms. Katz can be contacted by telephone at (202) 334-2357, by fax at (202) 334-2939, or by electronic mail (INTERNET) at DKATZ@NAS.EDU.

As called for in Public Law 102-4 and at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences will review and evaluate the available scientific evidence regarding associations between diseases and herbicide exposure. For each disease and/or condition, the IOM will determine, to the extent that available scientific data permit meaningful determinations, (1) whether a statistical association with herbicide exposure exists, taking into account the strength of the scientific evidence and the appropriateness of the statistical and epidemiological methods used to detect the association; (2) the increased risk of the disease in question among those exposed to herbicides during Vietnam service; and (3) whether there exists a plausible biological mechanism or other evidence of a causal relationship between herbicide exposure and the disease in question.

The Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Agent Orange is updating a previous IOM report, *Veterans and Agent Orange - Health Effects of Herbicides Used in Vietnam*, which was published in 1993. The committee will review new scientific studies published since the writing of the first IOM report (January 1993 to April 1995). This review could lead to revisions in the findings of the 1993 report with respect to the conclusions on health effects.

The IOM will not make recommendations regarding specific individual cases. While the report will provide scientific information for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to consider in making determinations about compensation, these decisions remain the responsibility of the Secretary. Thus, testimony at the hearing should be focused on interpretations of the existing scientific literature relevant to the committee's charge.

Diseases and adverse effects to be considered include: (1) cancers of the stomach, colon, hepatobiliary tract, respiratory tract, testis, prostate, kidney, and brain, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia, soft tissue sarcoma, nasopharyngeal cancer, and other cancers; (2) metabolic disorders including altered lipid metabolism, porphyria cutanea tarda, and diabetes; (3) autoimmune and other immunological disorders; (4) neurologic and neurobehavioral disorders, including peripheral neuropathy; (5) disorders of the digestive system

including gastrointestinal ulcers and hepatotoxic effects; (6) reproductive disorders including birth defects, miscarriages, and abnormal sperm morphology; (7) chloracne and other skin disorders; (8) circulatory disorders; (9) respiratory disorders; and (10) other health conditions. However, the Veterans Administration has asked the committee to focus on the following topics:

- Acute and subacute effects of peripheral neuropathy
- Prostate, hepatobiliary, and nasopharyngeal cancer
- The issue of latency and how it relates to cancer development

To conduct this review, the IOM will establish a committee of approximately 15 members representing a wide range of expertise in environmental and occupational medicine, toxicology, pathology, neurology, clinical oncology, neuropsychology, epidemiology, and biostatistics. The committee chair is David Tollerud, M.D., Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Pittsburgh. Members of the IOM staff are: Kelley A. Brix, M.D., Study Director, Deborah Katz, research assistant, and Rick Kelly, project assistant.

The meeting is open to the public at no cost; however, preregistration is required. Please return the attached registration form to Deborah Katz by April 14, 1995.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
National Academy of Sciences

Committee to Review the Health Effects in
Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING
Georgetown Holiday Inn
April 21, 1995
11:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.

Please complete this form
and return it to the address below by April 14, 1995

NAME:

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

TOPIC OF

TESTIMONY:

COMMENTS:

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX REGISTRATION FORMS TO:

Deborah Katz
National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Medicine
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