



AD

E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

18 September 1990

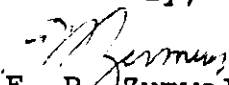
Lawrence B. Hobson, MD, PhD
Director
Environmental Medicine Office
Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Central Office
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Dr. Hobson:

In your letter of July 24, 1990 to Mr. Henry E. Kinsey III, copy attached, you make a statement "research has shown that only those Vietnam veterans who directly handled or sprayed Agent Orange have dioxin levels today above those of non-veterans --". I attach a copy of the recent report of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission which confirms the inaccuracy of your statement.

You also state that veterans known to have had repeated close contact with Agent Orange "have no significant health differences from their contemporaries who not exposed". Recent decisions of the Secretary concerning non-hodgkins lymphoma and soft tissue sarcoma make that statement, after the fact, invalid.

Sincerely,


E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
(703) 841-8960

JUL 26 1990

JUL 24 1990

108/40

Mr. Henry E. Kinsey, III
4734 Country Club Drive
Midland, TX 79703

Dear Mr. Kinsey:

Your letter to retired Navy Admiral Zumwalt regarding blood testing for dioxin levels was recently referred to me for response.

I regret that that there was confusion about your request for a dioxin test. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has never offered to test blood or body fat for the chemical, properly called 2,3,7,8 - tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, for three reasons. Most important is the complicated nature of the necessary assay which requires highly sophisticated equipment, specially trained chemists, and an inordinate time to perform. Very few laboratories are able to make the analyses and the procedure is today used for research purposes.

A second reason is that research has shown that only those Vietnam veterans who directly handled or sprayed Agent Orange have dioxin levels today above those of non-veterans who were not in contact with the herbicide. Thus, there is no reason to suppose that results of the test would show that you had contact with Agent Orange.

Third, high blood levels have been found in veterans who are known to have had repeated close contact with Agent Orange. These veterans, however, have no significant health differences from their contemporaries who were not exposed. Even if your blood level were high it would not be possible to make a connection between Agent Orange exposure and your health problems.

The Agent Orange Registry examinations were and are conducted as a service to Vietnam veterans by discovering any health defect that needed treatment. These examinations were never able to determine whether a veteran had been in contact with Agent Orange. Unfortunately the name "Agent Orange examination" was used early before there was a dioxin test and veterans understandably confused the medical examination with the chemical analysis.

I hope that this information explains the DVA policy about dioxin testing and the reasons for it.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence B. Hobson, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Environmental Medicine Office

Enclosure

cc: E.R. Zumwalt (with enclosure) ✓

LAW OFFICES

ROSS & HARDIES

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

888 16TH STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-4103

202-296-8600

TELECOPIER
802-296-8791

TELIX
2792 46

180 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601-7567
312-888-4000

589 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017-4806
212-849-7078

880 HOWARD AVENUE
SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY 08876-8739
908-583 8700

DATE: 9-13

TIME: 10:05

CLIENT: Zumwalt

CLIENT NO.: 40396-0016

TELEPHONE NO.: 527-6037

TELECOPIER COVER LETTER

TO: Admiral Zumwalt

AT: (Firm Name) _____

FROM: Phil Friedman

AT: ROSS & HARDIES, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

*Tucke
Tde
04 29*

9 Pages (Including Cover Page)

IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS, CONTACT US AT (202) 296-8600

TELECOPIER OPERATOR: _____

AUTOMATIC RECEIVE LINE - (202) 296-8791 SANYO SANFAX 725 - 1,2,3

OR 6 MINUTE MODES AVAILABLE.

This study, to be released today at the 10th Annual Ocean Symposium, would appear to confirm your theory about MARINE Exposure.

09/12/90 16:56

002



NEW JERSEY AGENT ORANGE COMMISSION
P.O. Box 1717
Trenton, New Jersey 08607-1717
(609) 984-7396-7

Executive Director
• Paul L. Jozan

• Allen E. Pelt, Esquire, Chairman
Aberdeen, N.J.

• James Cradle, Vice-Chairman
Newark, N.J.

• Robert F. Marston, Secretary
Newark, N.J.

• Paul R. Lindert
Flackton, N.J.

Kalpa W. Pogorzala, DVM
Ringoes, N.J.

Franz C. Jahn, Ph.D.
E. Brunswick, N.J.

• Walter E. Martin
Trenton, N.J.

Stanley I. Shalton, Ph.D.
Princeton, N.J.

• Paul A. Scipione, Ph.D.
Morristown, N.J.

SPECIAL CONSULTANTS:

• Michael Gershfeld, M.D., Ph.D.

• Daniel F. Greenfield, M.D., M.P.H.

• Charles Kruse

• William W. Lewis

Leon E. Morrow, M.D.

• Henry Viles, M.D.

• John D. Warwick

• Vietnam Veterans

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
WILLIAM LEWIS
201-932-8505
201-932-9255

PRESS CONFERENCE - PRESS CONFERENCE - PRESS CONFERENCE

NEW JERSEY AGENT ORANGE COMMISSION TO RELEASE DATA

The New Jersey Agent Orange Commission will release results from it's POINTMAN II study at a press conference to be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, 1990 in Room 424, the State House Annex, Trenton.

The POINTMAN Project is an on-going effort of the Commission and Rutgers University to determine the effect of the herbicide Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans. This phase of the project began in 1987, and has been measuring dioxin levels in the blood of Vietnam veterans who served in Army, Navy, and Marine Corps units. The details of this testing will be discussed by Commission researchers at the press conference.

The Commission was created by the Legislature in 1980 and is the oldest state Agent Orange Commission in the United States. The results of the first phase of the project were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1988.

09/12/90 16:56

003

POINTMAN II STUDY GROUPS

Army: Second Battalion of the Eighth Infantry,
First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile)
(Army 2/8)

Service between October 1, 1968, and
December 31, 1969. (Tay Ninh Province,
III Corps, northwest of Saigon)

Fifteen men

Controls: Individually matched to Army men for
age, race, dates of service, rank.

Fifteen men

Marines: First through Third Battalions of the
Ninth Marine Regiment, Third Marine
Division
(Ninth Marines)

Service in 1967 and/or 1968.
(Northern I Corps near DMZ)

Twenty men

Navy: Small boat service, inland waters of
South Viet Nam

Service from 1967 on.

Twenty men

09/12/90 16:57

004

SECRET BY AERVA 18100701 10117 12 00 1 10100 1

RESEARCH SUBJECTS AND EXPOSURE STATUS

Research subjects were volunteers sought through the mass media, veterans' service organizations, and community and church groups.

Exposure status evaluated by detailed questionnaire covering military and non-military occupational histories.

Questionnaire data verified from military records.

LAW OFFICES

ROSS & HARDIES

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

888 16TH STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-4103

202-296-8600

TELECOPIER
202-296-8791

TELEX
2785 46

180 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-7257
312-558-1000

528 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017-4808
212-549-7072

880 HOWARD AVENUE
SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY 08875-6730
601-963-2700

DATE: 9-13
TIME: 10:05
CLIENT: Zumwalt
CLIENT NO.: 40396-0016
TELEPHONE NO.: 527-6037

TELECOPIER COVER LETTER

TO: Admiral Zumwalt
AT: (Firm Name) _____
FROM: Phil Freeman
AT: ROSS & HARDIES, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

9 Pages (Including Cover Page)

IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS, CONTACT US AT (202) 296-8600

TELECOPIER OPERATOR: _____

AUTOMATIC RECEIVE LINE - (202) 296-8791 SANYO SANFAX 725 - 1,2,3

OR 6 MINUTE MODES AVAILABLE.

This study, to be released today at the 10th Annual Ocean Symposium, would appear to confirm your theory about MARINE Exposure.

06/12/98 16:57
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

008 005

**AVERAGES AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
FOR 2,3,7,8-TCDD**

(Levels in pg/g blood lipid)

	Controls	Army 2/8	9th Marines	Riverboat Crews
No. of men	15	15	20	20
Average	3.01	3.04	5.03	4.29
S.D.	1.68	1.09	6.60	2.33

MAJOR FINDINGS OF POINTMAN II

The dioxin levels in 26% of the Marines and 15 % of the riverboat crewmen exceed the background level found in the controls, which is below 7 ppt.

When the numbers of men having levels above 7 ppt are compared with those having less than 7 ppt, the Marines are statistically significantly different from the Army 2/8 and from the "exposed" men in the CDC's validation study.

The Ninth Marines and riverboat crews had average dioxin levels greater than those of the Army 2/8 and controls.

06/21/90 16:59

MS 007

CONCLUSIONS

By using military records in combination with the methods developed in Pointman II, other exposed groups can be found.

Because dioxin is excreted from human beings, albeit slowly, dioxin analysis is becoming increasingly more difficult with the passage of time since Viet Nam. The levels in exposed men will eventually become indistinguishable from the background in the general population.

Because of the likely variability in excretion rates of dioxin, it is improper to use blood measurements to qualify individual men for inclusion in or exclusion from a health study. It is also improper to use low levels as a basis for denying compensation.

Blood dioxin measurements can be used to establish exposure of groups, i.e. military units.

ON RESEARCH COSTS

Over a ten year period New Jersey has spent \$1.4 million on the Pointman Project, including both Pointman I, which was a study of spray handlers; and the current phase, Pointman II, a study of ground troops who did not handle spray.

The Federal Government has spent \$40-\$50 million....

2378-TCDD, 9th Marines vs Controls

