

**BENBOW AND PHILLIPS, P.C.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

309 DAVIE AVENUE

P.O. DRAWER 432

STATESVILLE, NC 28687-0432

C. DAVID BENBOW  
RICHARD A. PHILLIPS \*

TELEPHONE (704) 871-9000

FAX (704) 873-0570

\* CERTIFIED MEDIATOR

November 2, 1999

Executive Producer  
60 Minutes  
555 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Re: Agent Orange in Korean DMZ

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed you will find documentation which indicates that Agent Orange was used along the Korean DMZ beginning in April of 1968. I have been trying without success to have the Korean DMZ veterans included in the Agent Orange Act of 1991 under the same rules that apply to Vietnam veterans. You will find enclosed copies of correspondence to and from Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Chairman of the Agent Orange Coordinating Council, to Senator John Edwards, to Senator Tom Daschle, to Senator Jesse Helms, to Secretary Togo West, from Rhee Sungchul (a news reporter at SBS in Seoul, Korea who is doing a story in early November, 1999 on the use of Agent Orange in the DMZ) and a copy of a board of veterans appeals' decision which awarded VA benefits to Tom Wolfe, a non Vietnam veteran from Dayton, Ohio who had served in Korea at Camp Casey near the DMZ in 1968 and 1969.

Even though Tom Wolfe was able to receive VA benefits from his exposure to Agent Orange in Korea, he had to go through a lengthy and exhausting procedure at a time in his life when he was also fighting non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. If the Korean DMZ vets had been under the same rules of the 1991 Agent Orange Act as the Vietnam veterans, Tom Wolfe would not have had to have gone through this extensive process.

I am writing to ask that you consider doing a story on the Korean DMZ and more particularly on the use of Agent Orange beginning in April of 1968 along the Korean DMZ. I feel this story would be especially timely since the Year 2000 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and there will be numerous television documentaries, newspaper and magazine articles regarding the Korean War. Not many people in the United States know that American soldiers were actually involved in a low intensity war in Korea in the late 1960s, and that, in and of itself would make an interesting documentary.

Most soldiers who have served in the Korean DMZ have no idea that Agent Orange was used in the DMZ beginning in 1968. I had no idea it was used there until I received the declassified documents from an Army buddy in the early 1990s. Thousands of American soldiers were exposed to Agent Orange and they do not know of their exposure 30 years ago.

Beginning in January 1999, I have tried to work through the system for the inclusion of my buddies under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and make my buddies aware of their exposure. The system is ignoring my buddies and therefore I am writing to ask your consideration in telling this story of the Korean DMZ veterans of the late 1960s, where I served from February 1968 to June 1969 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



C. David Benbow

CDB/jlt

cc: Senator John Edwards  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Daschle  
509 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jesse Helms  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Togo West, Jr., Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue #1000  
Washington, DC 20420

✓ Admiral Elmo Zumwalt  
1000 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 3105  
Arlington, VA 22209

Senator Max Cleland  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Warner  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510