



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

FROM
PAUL L. SUTTON
CHIEF

BUREAU OF GRANTS APPLICATION / MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF VETERANS' LOANS, GRANTS & SERVICES

TO: Ann Callison DATE: 24 Sept 93

Re.: VVA Resolutions.

Enclosed is entire
set of Resolutions to
replace incomplete set
distributed yesterday
Paul

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN

RESEARCH ON AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN EFFECTS

AO-1-93

Issue:

Research into the human health effects of exposure to the ingredients in Agent Orange/Dioxin and other herbicides and toxic chemicals used in Vietnam needs to continue in order to provide for the most complete understanding of these effects.

Background:

While numerous scientific studies have revealed significant harmful effects of exposure to the ingredients of Agent Orange/Dioxin as well as other herbicides and toxic substances on humans and animals, continued research is needed to fully understand the possible effects of such exposure. The VVA/American Legion Scientific Task Force Review of scientific information indicated there are a number of studies which need replication in order to reach a scientifically accepted standard of significant association. VVA believes there needs to be a large scale study of the effects on Vietnam veterans and their children and that other studies of positively exposed groups are needed to add to the knowledge on this issue. One critical component of such studies must be the effects on the children of Vietnam veterans and other exposed individuals.

This Resolution reaffirms and updates Resolution AO-1-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993, in light of the recent National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) report, demands that the U.S. Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs and other appropriate federal agencies initiate and support an independent comprehensive health study on veterans and their children which includes determinations of the delayed effects of exposure to the ingredients in Agent Orange/Dioxin and other toxic chemicals used primarily in Vietnam. VVA supports and encourages valid, independent on-site scientific research in Southeast Asia to ascertain the delayed effects of exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin and other herbicides and toxic substances used during the Vietnam War. VVA supports and encourages continuing scientific research in communities, industries, and hazardous waste sites in the United States where workers and residents have been exposed to toxic substances similar to those used in Southeast Asia and studies of the delayed effects of exposure.

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN CHILDREN'S REGISTRY

AO-2-93

Issue:

Many veterans having been exposed to Agent Orange/Dioxin during military service or elsewhere have children who may be physically or developmentally impaired as a result of such exposure and there

is no mechanism currently in place to monitor these children to establish patterns of physical or developmental impairments for purposes of ascertaining the effects of Agent Orange/Dioxin exposure on these children's parents.

Background:

It would contribute significantly to the information available on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin on the children of exposed veterans if a data bank were available. The development of a national data bank on these children both could and should be assembled which protects the privacy of these children and their families.

This Resolution reaffirms and updates Resolution AO-2-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993, calls upon the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to recognize the work already done by the Association of Birth Defect Children. This association should continue to register the children of Agent Orange/Dioxin exposed veterans for the purpose of identification of any statistical linkage between parental exposure and the health problems of such children. Furthermore, to support the association in its continuing research of present and future generations of Agent Orange/Dioxin exposed veterans.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

AO-3-93

Issue:

There is no health care or compensation provided to veterans' children who have birth defects or other disabilities resulting from their parents' exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin and other toxic chemicals while in military service.

Background:

While the health care and compensation needs of some veterans affected by exposure to dioxin are being met by the VA and through implementation of P.L. 102-04, services for veterans' children born with defects or learning disabilities associated with their parents' exposure to such chemicals have been ignored by all segments of the government.

This Resolution reaffirms Resolution AO-3-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 supports a comprehensive health care and special needs program to assist Vietnam veterans' children who have birth defects and other disabilities reasonably associated with parental exposure to dioxin and other toxic chemicals while in military service.

HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC CHEMICALS AND IONIZING RADIATION

AO-4-93

Issue:

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) health care providers, while being mandated to treat veterans with illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin and ionizing radiation, do not always recognize the association between exposure and disease or have information alerting them to illnesses related to such exposures. Veterans are therefore sometimes misdiagnosed, go untreated, or are treated inappropriately in DVA facilities.

Background:

Toxic chemicals used by the Armed Forces throughout the Vietnam war and ionizing radiation used previously have been shown to have certain known or suspected health effects on humans which may not be apparent for many years. Treatment for those suffering illnesses associated with these exposures is generally available through the DVA. However, this care and access to it is not consistent throughout the DVA system. Additionally, legislation has limited the time within which care is available.

This Resolution reaffirms Resolution AO-4-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 urges the DVA, through its Health Care Administration, to disseminate information on the possible health effects of exposure to the ingredients in Agent Orange/Dioxin and other toxic chemicals used primarily in Vietnam and ionizing radiation to all medical personnel engaged in patient assessment. VVA further urges the DVA to make a concerted effort to determine the most modern and appropriate treatments for such illnesses and make them available to veterans. VVA supports the elimination of time limits for mandatory health care for illnesses related to exposure to toxic chemicals and ionizing radiation while in military service.

STATE AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN PROGRAMS

AO-5-93

Issue:

State funded Agent Orange/Dioxin programs have significantly contributed to the scientific knowledge about Agent Orange/Dioxin and have engaged in education programs. Over the past few years many of these programs have gone out of existence due to fiscal problems and or lack of interest.

Background:

Since the early 1980's a number of states initiated, most often through the advocacy of Vietnam veterans, state sponsored Agent Orange/Dioxin programs. Some of these programs, Massachusetts and New Jersey in particular, engaged in research programs which substantially contributed to the scientific information concerning Agent Orange/Dioxin exposure. Others have had extensive education programs

for veterans and health care providers. Over the past few years many of these programs have felt the pinch of fiscal constraint and seen their funding severely decreased or stopped.

This Resolution reaffirms Resolution AO-5-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 supports the continuation of relevant state Agent Orange/Dioxin programs and encourages state legislatures to assist in the full resolution of the Agent Orange/Dioxin issue by supporting state funded research and education programs.

VVA AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN GUIDE

AO-6-93

Issue:

New research, new DVA regulations and new legislation have, over the years increased the knowledge about and access to services for veterans regarding Agent Orange/Dioxin exposure. Veterans and veterans advocates need to have timely and accurate information to address their concerns and those of affected veterans and their families.

Background:

Vietnam Veterans of America has printed a number of editions of the highly regarded VVA Guide on Agent Orange. Copies have been provided to all VVA Chapters and State Councils, VVA Service Representatives, Congressional offices and veterans and their families. Through the use of this Guide VVA members have become the most knowledgeable group of veterans on this issue and have used this knowledge to advocate for successful legislative and regulatory initiatives.

This Resolution reaffirms Resolution AO-6-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 mandates the biennial revision and distribution of the VVA Guide on Agent Orange.

ASSURE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENT ORANGE ACT OF 1991

AO-7-93

Issue:

While the legislation enacted on February 6, 1991, P.L.102-04, represents legitimate progress towards a long term resolution of the Agent Orange/Dioxin issue, the success of the statute relies heavily upon the panel assembled by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and upon the willingness of the DVA to accept its recommendations.

Background:

Under the circumstances, the proper execution of the law's intent requires careful monitoring of both the DVA and the NAS in order to assure the NAS panel is appropriately objective and the DVA heeds the recommendations of the NAS.

This Resolution reaffirms Resolution AO-7-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 will monitor the make-up of the NAS or any other contracted panel to assure its integrity as intended by law and will take all steps necessary to promote remedial legislation or other action as needed.

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN NETWORK

AO-8-93

Issue:

Although Vietnam Veterans have information available to them on Agent Orange/Dioxin, they lack the immediate help and support that could be achieved through a Veteran's Agent Orange/Dioxin Network. We will need more expansion and development of the network because there is a strong belief that the National Academy of Sciences will not be fair on their review.

Background:

Vietnam veterans and their families are frustrated over the lack of immediate information on Agent Orange/Dioxin. The DVA has not cooperated in the dissemination of accurate information. The veterans and their families need to know that there is immediate help and information for this intensely human problem. This includes the personal support that affected veterans can receive from other veterans.

The National Academy of Sciences still may have people on the review panel who are alleged to have apparent conflicts of interest. Existing dioxin research groups will be able to unite and exchange information.

This Resolution reaffirms and updates Resolution AO-8-91.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia August 4-8, 1993 directs that the National Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee under the direction of the National Agent Orange/Dioxin Chairman, shall;

1. Hold an annual Agent Orange/Dioxin Symposium which Agent Orange/Dioxin Chairpersons shall attend, and any other interested parties may attend, for the purpose of
 - a. developing a national program of direct and/or referral services;

- b. developing and implementing an interstate and intrastate networking model of information and support services; and
 - c. developing and implementing a questionnaire and registry for the purpose of recording and measuring the past and current health status of VVA members, their spouses, children and grandchildren.
2. Require the National Board of Directors to develop budget allocations for the aforementioned activities, as needed and appropriate.
3. Actively promote and expand the Agent Orange/Dioxin Network.

DIOXIN DISPOSAL METHODS

AO-9-93

Issue:

Disposal/storage of dioxin contaminated soils, sediments, and materials can have a direct health impact on all citizens of this country.

Background:

Ocean dumping of contaminated materials can directly impact on the food chain, leading to ingestion of dioxin laced fish, fowl, etc. In addition, unrestricted disposal of dioxin-contaminated materials in landfills can affect ground water reservoirs and aquifers. Incineration of these materials may result in release into the atmosphere of potentially hazardous substances. Proper and safe disposal must be used in dealing with dioxins. VVA must become knowledgeable about sediments and related factors, and support necessary research to guarantee minimal health risks to the community.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 opposes ocean dumping of dioxin contaminated materials and calls for immediate termination of this practice. VVA supports research on existing methods of disposal or storage of dioxin contaminated sediments and stands ready to work with all concerned scientific and ecological groups to ensure proper disposal or storage of these contaminated sediments.

DESERT STORM CHEMICAL TESTING

AO-10-93

Issue:

Desert Storm veterans suffer from problems that are related to the same type of chemicals contained in Agent Orange. In its very first Convention Resolution VVA vowed "Never again will one

generation of veterans abandon another."

Background:

Many of these veterans fear that the chemical industry will pressure the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and other governmental bodies to dissuade them from finding a connection between certain toxins or chemicals and diseases in Desert Storm veterans, just as they have done in discouraging DVA acceptance of Agent Orange/Dioxin as hazardous to Vietnam veterans.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, August 4-8, 1993 vigorously urges DVA to test Desert Storm veterans exposed to petrochemicals and other toxic materials, to include bio-chemical warfare products, for diseases related to exposure. VVA is determined not to allow this generation of veterans to suffer the passage of twenty or more years without answers to the causes of the many ailments that have plagued them.

**KOREAN VETERANS AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN
HEALTH CARE AND COMPENSATION**

AO-11-93

Issue:

American veterans were exposed to Agent Orange/Dioxin while serving in the Republic of Korea and no action has been taken by the U.S. Government.

Background:

Veterans who served in Korea still feel the effects of such exposure such as cancers, unexplained illnesses, and birth defects in their offspring. The U.S. Government has never credibly dealt with the Agent Orange/Dioxin issue for any veterans. American Korean veterans were not involved with the Agent Orange Product Liability lawsuit, know as MDL 381, and plaintiff veterans did not agree with the settlement.

Position:

Vietnam Veterans of America at National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia August 4-8, 1993 urges all chapters, state councils, and the National leadership of VVA to apply pressure to all branches of Government for research and compensation for any American veterans exposed to Agent Orange/Dioxin while serving in the Republic of Korea, based upon presumptive exposure.