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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20420

MAY 19 2006

Mary Ellen McCarthy  
Democratic Staff  
Committee on Veterans Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room 333, Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I am responding to your inquiry concerning whether the U.S. Army unit designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, can be added to VA's M21-1MR list of units presumed to have been exposed to herbicide use at or near the Korean DMZ (demilitarized zone) between April 1968 and July 1969. I am pleased to inform you that a decision has already been made to include this unit on the list. The decision was based on evidence that became available, including evidence from the authoritative military history narrative Scenes from an Unfinished War: Low-Intensity Conflict in Korea, 1966 - 1969, written by Major Daniel P. Bolger. The official military records that you have sent to us along with your inquiry provide additional evidence to support this decision. Several other military units have also been added to the list. All the newly added units will be forwarded to VA regional offices and incorporated into the M21-1MR as soon as possible. Thank you for your service on behalf of veterans.

Sincerely,

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Rénée L. Szybala

Director

Compensation and Pension Service

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