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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Veterans Research

Vietnam Veterans

Birth Defect Research for Children has worked with Vietnam veterans' families since 1986 when the first Agent Orange Class Assistance Programs were funded. Although BDRC did not have AOCAP funding, we worked with the University of South Carolina in case work that involved counseling with veterans' families and creating a series of fact sheets on the disabilities they were reporting in their children. During this time BDRC also began the first initiative to set up the National Birth Defect Registry, partly to collect the information being reported by the veterans.

BDRC worked with the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission to develop the Vietnam veterans' exposure section of the registry questionnaire. BDRC has collected information from thousands of families of Vietnam veterans and has found a consistent pattern of disabilities in their children. These data have been presented to the National Academy of Sciences, congressional committees, the Veterans' Administration and in national media forums.

- **Agent Orange and Birth Defects.** A comprehensive review of the latest research on Agent Orange and birth defects.
- **The National Vietnam Veterans Birth Defects/Learning Disabilities Project**
- **Letter from the EPA regarding the National Birth Defect Registry.** "We understand that the effects of exposures in the past, including exposures of Vietnam veterans are still of great concern. Your birth defect registry is the type of effort needed to make linkages between environmental exposures and birth defects."

Gulf War Veterans

Just a year after veterans starting returning from the first Gulf War, BDRC started receiving case reports on their children. The registry's scientific advisory board recommended designing a special section of the National Birth Defect Registry to collect data on these cases.

- **Presentation to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Veteran's Administration**
- **465-Page Report by the Scientific Advisory Committee**
- **Testimony to the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses** – BDRC's director was invited to present our findings on increases in Goldenhar Syndrome.