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Report/Article Title	Charter of Veterans Administration Advisory Committee, Amended
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Descripton Motes	Also included are a committee meeting agenda for April 23, 1980 and listing of committee membership April 1980.

CHARTER OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH-RELATED EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY:

It has recently been brought to light that enormous quantities of herbicidal chemicals were used during the Vietnam War and that there is a possibility that large numbers of Americans, many of whom now qualify as veterans, may have encountered these chemicals to an extent that long range significant health problems may have been initiated. There is considerable controversy in the published literature and it is probable that much information remains unpublished. The Veterans Administration has not previously been required to resolve toxicological issues of such a complex and highly controversial The Committee will, therefore, assemble and analyze the information which the Veterans Administration needs in order to formulate appropriate medical policy and procedures in the interests of the involved veterans. The Committee will have an entirely fact-finding and advisory role and will not be required to develop policy. The Committee will adhere to all the provisions of U.S. Public Law #92-463, 5 U.S.C. App. I, Executive Order #12024 and Presidential Circular #A-63, of March 27, 1974 and subsequent applicable revisions.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE COMMITTEE PURPOSE:

It is anticipated that the Committee may achieve its objectives within 24 calendar months. If an extension of time is needed, this will be properly negotiated.

D. AGENCY OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Committee will report to the Chief Medical Director through the Assistant Chief Medical Director for Professional Services.

E. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT:

Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery.

F. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEE:

The Committee holds quarterly sessions at the Veterans Administration Central Office in accordance with an appropriate schedule of dates set at preceding meetings. A structured agenda is followed. Members are asked

to prepare special presentations and gather categories of data uniquely accessible to them. All members state their views fully and explicitly and support these with documentation as needed. The views of individuals with differing opinions are recorded. Testimony is obtained from knowledgeable persons. Meetings are open to the public except when, in the discretion of the Chairman, the privacy of individuals, who may come under discussion, may be infringed. Members of the public may direct questions to the Chairman in writing and submit prepared statements for review by the Committee. At the discretion of the Chairman, such members of the public may be asked to clarify such submitted material prior to consideration by the Committee. The Committee maintains summary minutes of its findings and develops conclusions and interim reports for consideration by the staff of the Veterans Administration. The Committee maintains liaison with all other federal agencies which have knowledge of and expertise in toxicology of chemical substances which may be pertinent to the herbicide issue.

G. ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS:

The estimated annual cost for operating the Committee is \$5000 and about one person year. The Committee should have 12-16 members.

H. NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

The Committee meets quarterly for one half day per session.

I. TERMINATION DATE:

Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, the Committee will expire two years from the date below.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED: April 20, 1979

^{*} Technical amendment made March 1980. Paragraph G. amended to increase maximum number of members from 15 to 16.

Veterans Administration Central Office 810 Vermont Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20420

Room 119

April 23, 1980

AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Call to Order	Paul A. L. Haber, M. D. Chairman	
8:35 a.m.	Opening Remarks Review of Events	Dr. Haber	
	Administrator's Congressional Testimon	y	
9:05 a.m.	Update from Committee Members	Dr. Haber	
9:35 a.m.	Review of Legal Problems	Mr. Fred Conway Office of The General Counsel	
9:45 a.m.	Comments from the Chief Medical Director	Donald L. Custis, M. D.	
10:00 a.m.	Comments from the Administrator of Veterans Affairs		
		Mr. Max Cleland	
10:15 a.m.	Report on Steering Committee Activities General	Richard A. Levinson, M. D. Chairman	
	Fat Biopsy Study		
	Epidemiological Study		
11:00 a.m.	Questions and Discussions	Dr. Haber	
11:30 a.m.	Adjournment		

MEMBERSHIP - APRIL 1980

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