



Uploaded to VFC Website

▶▶ **November 2012** ◀◀

This Document has been provided to you courtesy of Veterans-For-Change!

Feel free to pass to any veteran who might be able to use this information!

For thousands more files like this and hundreds of links to useful information, and hundreds of "Frequently Asked Questions, please go to:

[Veterans-For-Change](http://www.veteransforchange.org)

*Veterans-For-Change is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation
Tax ID #27-3820181*

If Veteran's don't help Veteran's, who will?

We appreciate all donations to continue to provide information and services to Veterans and their families.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=WGT2M5UTB9A78

Note:

VFC is not liable for source information in this document, it is merely provided as a courtesy to our members.



Item ID Number 05524



Not Scanned

Author

Corporate Author

Report/Article Title Statements of Richard Christian, Director, U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group, Record and Reading versions, with a biographical sketch from the Congress of the United States House of Representatives, envelope dated July 18, 1986

Journal/Book Title

Year 1986

Month/Day July 18

Color

Number of Images 10

Description Notes

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bob Edgar
M.C.

Mr. Richard Christian, Director
U. S. Army & Joint Services Environmental Support Group
1730 K Street, N. W., Room 210
Washington, D. C. 20006-3868

18 JUL 1986



DRAFT

Statement

Record Version

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Richard S. Christian, Director of the U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group (ESG), Department of the Army. I am pleased to appear before the Committee to provide, in response to your request, ESG's research missions in support of the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study, mandated by Public Law 96-151.

The Army became actively involved in the Agent Orange issue early on because we recognized its importance to operational readiness.

As the major Service involved in the subject, the Army is The Executive Agent for all the Services on this issue.

Two point four (2.4) million Americans served in Vietnam from 1961 to 1973. These men and women served their country admirably. They deserve the best. If we don't take care of our veterans and reservists: "Who will fight the next war?"

The Army is keenly aware of its obligation and is dedicated to help Vietnam veterans. The American Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine is intelligent and wants frank answers to his concerns, and that is ESG's purpose: to provide such answers.

In the last six years ESG has led in research, assistance, and providing information to Vietnam veterans.

Over 20,000 inquiries have been answered regarding veterans issues. Up to 85% relate to Agent Orange.

DRAFT

Mr. Chairman I will outline the record of ESG involvement in various Agent Orange studies.

First I must state the obvious in order to avoid the hope of easy answers. Unfortunately, but not unpredictably, combat operations are not designed as an epidemiological laboratory. Combat does not contribute to anyone's health, nor does it favor scientific review that is based on the correlation of statistics. Yet we try. I will briefly describe our effort.

Our first study involved Birth Defects. In December of 1983 ESG provided the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) exposure opportunity scores on 536 Vietnam veterans.

Another phase of ESG operations involved assistance to veterans and the Department of Justice. Hundreds of documents were provided in connection with the civil class action lawsuit involving the Vietnam veterans, chemical companies and the U.S. Government. The claim against the U.S. Government was later dismissed, except for wives and dependents claims. This was a major undertaking, as our job involved records support for all parties.

ESG provided exposure opportunity scores on Vietnam veterans for the Veteran Administration's Chloracne and Adipose Tissue Studies.

We are currently doing military research on eight other VA studies concerning Agent Orange.

CDC was also provided personnel data for over 20,000 study subjects for what is termed the Vietnam Experience Study. This study covers all cause and effect ingredients including Agent Orange that may have contributed to the ill-health of the military. Despite the requirements of abstracting 73 personnel data elements for each study subject, this task was completed ahead of schedule. To supply this information 43,000 personnel files had to be analyzed.

In 1983, the Science Panel and Office of Technology Assessment approved ESG's portion of the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study protocol.

DRAFT

On 1 April 1984, we began the research for both the Vietnam Experience Study and the major Agent Orange Study.

Changes were constantly made in battalion tracking for the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study and personnel data abstraction, for both the Agent Orange and the Vietnam Experience Study. This required continual adjustment of research to add, check, refine, assess and massage the data.

In July 1984, we were informed that eleven CDC contracts were signed, resulting in new time tables for ESG. We adjusted to meet the new deadlines. Time tables and numbers of subjects and disqualification factors changed chronically.

In November 1984, a major change in workload required ESG to research an additional 15 battalions, and revised selection of Agent Orange study subjects.

For both the Agent Orange and the Vietnam Experience Studies, CDC requested more documents for deceased veterans.

In January 1985, CDC assigned new time frame deadlines and increased the amounts of personnel data required.

Differences in quality control between the military and the investigators occurred. Nonetheless, these issues were resolved after mutual education of the scientists and military experts in military operations, language, procedures and scientific techniques.

Due to lack of agreement on assumptions, government scientists never approved an exposure model crucial to the study.

On September 12, 1985, ESG completed the only record of documented military spraying by helicopter, backpack, ground spraying, aborts and leaks, termed "Services Herbs Tape." This provided a second source other than the Air Force Operation Ranch Hand, for the matching of units to Agent Orange spraying.

DRAFT

Defoliation spraying may have occurred at main base camps, fire support bases and landing zones. Unfortunately no records are available to substantiate this today. Whether or not they were sprayed by Orange, Blue, White or diesel fuel is not known to us since complete documents are not contained in the units' records. In the 9th Infantry Division's area alone there were about 365 such locations that might or might not have been sprayed. Yet, the records only show a total of 478 perimeter sprays for all of Vietnam during the entire war, although there were 11 plus U.S. Divisions, 2 Korean Divisions, 1 Thai and 1 Australian Division in Vietnam.

From February to April 1986 Major General John E. Murray, U.S. Army, Retired, conducted a peer review at the request of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, to assess the type and quality of the Vietnam War records and all operations and aspects of ESG research.

The peer review revealed a lack of perimeter spray records for a great majority of the units, noted the low number of unit exposures, and recommended that the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study be cancelled. This recommendation also included accomodation of veterans with solatium payments funded by deletion of the Agent Orange Study.

During the peer review, the Chairman of the Science Panel, Agent Orange Working Group tasked ESG to conduct a decisive Pilot Study on unit/troop exposure.

Accordingly, ESG researched and completed grid coordinate locations for all companies of seven combat battalions covering the period 1 October 1966 to 31 March 1969. ESG then matched the grid coordinate locations of each company by date against the Ranch Hand and "Services Herbs Tape" to produce an exposure opportunity score for each company. ESG then provided unit exposure opportunity scores on 700 individuals from these units using varying time and distance criteria.

DRAFT

The peer review supported the Pilot Study results that revealed the dispersion of combat companies on one-half the given days and that the units had little contact with Agent Orange herbicide spray missions.

These were startling discoveries by even my own staff and the White House Agent Orange Sub Panel. We had anticipated higher numbers of exposure than what were actually recorded.

Of riveting importance is the fact that ESG can identify a combat company's locations on a given day. However, records do not permit the location of individual sub-elements or individual troops within these sub-elements at each location. ESG is not qualified to answer the scientific problems this creates. This is an issue the scientists must address. ESG can only report what is contained in the records.

The Military Services performed all this work without outside funding. Over the past six years we have expended 6 million dollars for these efforts.

In summary: over the past three years the Military Services have been scrutinized, scrubbed and critically examined by distinguished groups of experts, such as the National Academy of Science, The Science Panel of the White House Agent Orange Working Group and most recently the Sub Panel on Agent Orange assessment. The records do not support continuance of the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study. We are proud of our exhaustive work.

I shall be most pleased to answer any questions.

DRAFT

Statement

Reading Version

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Richard S. Christian, Director of the U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group (ESG), Department of the Army. I am pleased to appear before the Committee to provide, in response to your request, ESG's research missions in support of the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study, mandated by Public Law 96-151.

As the major Service involved in the subject, the Army is The Executive Agent for all the Services on this issue.

In the last six years ESG has led in research, assistance, and providing information to Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Chairman I will outline the record of ESG involvement in various Agent Orange studies.

Our first study involved Birth Defects. In December of 1983 ESG provided the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) exposure opportunity scores on 536 Vietnam veterans.

ESG provided additional exposure opportunity scores on Vietnam veterans for the Veteran Administration's Chloracne and Adipose Tissue Studies.

We are currently doing military research on eight other VA studies concerning Agent Orange.

CDC was also provided personnel data for over 20,000 study subjects for what is termed the Vietnam Experience Study. This study covers all cause and effect ingredients including Agent Orange that may have contributed to the ill-health of the military.

On 1 April 1984, we began the research for both the Vietnam Experience Study and the major Agent Orange Study.

DRAFT

Changes were constantly made in battalion tracking for the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study and personnel data abstraction, for both the Agent Orange and the Vietnam Experience Study. This required continual adjustment of research to add, check, refine, assess and massage the data.

In July 1984, we were informed that eleven CDC contracts were signed, resulting in new time tables for ESG. Time tables and numbers of subjects and disqualification factors changed chronically.

In November 1984, a major change in workload required ESG to research an additional 15 battalions, and revised selection of Agent Orange study subjects.

Due to lack of agreement on assumptions, government scientists never approved an exposure model crucial to the study.

On September 12, 1985, ESG completed the only record of documented military spraying by helicopter, backpack, ground spraying, aborts and leaks, termed "Services Herbs Tape." This provided a second source other than the Air Force Operation Ranch Hand, for the matching of units to Agent Orange spraying.

Defoliation spraying may have occurred at main base camps, fire support bases and landing zones. Unfortunately no records are available to substantiate this today. In the 9th Infantry Division's area alone there were about 365 such locations that might or might not have been sprayed. Yet, the records only show a total of 478 perimeter sprays for all of Vietnam during the entire war.

From February to April 1986 Major General John E. Murray, U.S. Army, Retired, conducted a peer review at the request of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, to assess the type and quality of the Vietnam War records and all operations and aspects of ESG research.

The peer review revealed a lack of perimeter spray records for a great majority of the units, noted the low number of unit exposures, and recom-

DRAFT

mended that the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study be cancelled. This recommendation also included accomodation of veterans with solatium payments funded by deletion of the Agent Orange Study.

During the peer review, the Chairman of the Science Panel, Agent Orange Working Group tasked ESG to conduct a decisive Pilot Study on unit/troop exposure.

Accordingly, ESG researched and completed grid coordinate locations for all companies of seven combat battalions covering the period 1 October 1966 to 31 March 1969. ESG then matched the grid coordinate locations of each company by date against the Ranch Hand and "Services Herbs Tape" to produce an exposure opportunity score for each company.

Of riveting importance is the fact that ESG can identify a combat company's locations on a given day. However, records do not permit the location of individual sub-elements or individual troops within these sub-elements at each location. ESG is not qualified to answer the scientific problems this creates. This is an issue the scientists must address.

In summary: over the past three years the Military Services have been scrutinized, scrubbed and critically examined by distinguished groups of experts, such as the National Academy of Science, The Science Panel of the White House Agent Orange Working Group and most recently the Sub Panel on Agent Orange assessment. The records do not support continuance of the Agent Orange Epidemiological Study. We are proud of our exhaustive work.

I shall be most pleased to answer any questions.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

DRAFT

RICHARD S. CHRISTIAN

PRESENT POSITION: Director, U.S. Army & Joint Services Environmental Support Group

CIVILIAN CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Records Manager of US Military Assistance Command in Vietnam, 1972 - 1973;
Records Manager of Defense Attache Office, U.S. Embassy, Saigon, Vietnam, 1973;
Deputy Records Manager for U.S. Army Materiel Command, 1973 - 1975;
Records Manager of U.S. Military Forces in the Thailand Region, 1975 - 1976.

ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE: Enlisted Infantryman and Platoon Leader;
Command Sergeant Major of Major Overseas Command;
Administrative Officer, the Pentagon;
Unit Commander;
Assistant Secretary of the General Staff, U.S. Army, Europe;
Administrative Services Division Chief in several Army Major Command organizations;
Administrator, 441st Counter Intelligence Corps;
Various Adjutant General Corps assignments world-wide

CURRENT MILITARY STATUS: Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Corps, U.S. Army, Retired.

CIVILIAN HONORS: Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

MILITARY AWARDS/DECORATIONS: Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster; Bronze Star Medal; Navy Unit Commendation; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Purple Heart; Army Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Korean Service Medal with Bronze Star; United Nations Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Stars; Republic of Vietnam Service Medal; Army Occupation Medal with Clasp - Germany and Japan; Combat Infantry Badge.

EDUCATION: BA Degree - Business Administration;
Graduate, U. S. Army Adjutant General's School.