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THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL
Agent Orange Working Group
STATUS REPORT

Prepared by the ADWG Science Panel

(date)

AGENT ORANGE PROJECTS UPDATE

AGENCY: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL DATE PREPARED: December 8, 1986

TITLE: Vietnam Experience Study (Morbidity Component)

PROJECT I.D. NUMBER:

TEST CHEMICAL:

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the possible health effects of the general Vietnam service experience.

APPROACH: Data collected from veterans who served in Vietnam during 1966-1972 are compared with data collected from a similar group of veterans who served during the same years in other countries.

FINDINGS/STATUS: Data have been collected from telephone interviews with 15,323 Vietnam-era veterans. Additional data, including clinical and laboratory findings, have been collected during comprehensive medical examinations of 4,474 of the interviewees. These data are presently under analysis by CDC.

PUBLICATIONS: Scheduled in mid to late 1987.

START DATE: January 1985 COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing
(Data Collection)

LEVEL OF EFFORT

	To Date: (Total CDC Project)	Projected Total: (Total CD Project)
FTEs	55	55
Funding	\$62 million (Obligated Funds)	\$75 million*

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Veterans Administration

*This figure could change dependent upon the conduct and design of an Agent Orange Exposure Study.

NOTE: The funding amount listed under the To Date Section (\$62 million) represents the amount of money obligated to date for the entire CDC project, not just the specific component listed in the Title Section on this page.

For more information on this or any project in this booklet, contact Dr. Peter E.M. Beach, Executive Secretary of the Domestic Council of the Agent Orange Working Group, Director of Veteran Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary, 202/245-6156.

Agent Orange Completed Project Summary

4/9/87

Agency	Type of Study	Title	End Date	Comments
CDC	Dioxin related - Human and Analytical	Missouri dioxin special investigations - serum/adipose tissue partitioning	86.12	Correlation between human serum and adipose tissue concentrations of 2,3,7,8-TCDD (to be published)
CDC	Dioxin related - Human Health	Missouri dioxin study	86.12	Eight publications; JAMA 255:2031, 1985; JAMA 256:2683, 1986
CDC	Human - Mortality	Vietnam experience study (Mortality component)	87.02	Funding is for total study; JAMA, Feb 13, 1987
CDC	Human - Reproductive	Vietnam veterans' risks for fathering babies with birth defects	84.08	JAMA, Aug 17, 1984
DoD	Other AD - Environmental and Analytical	Fate of TCDD, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T at selected locations contaminated with herbicide Orange	84.10	NATO - HQ AFESC/RDV, Tyndall AFB, FL
DoD	Other AD - Environmental and Analytical	Herbicide Orange site treatment and environmental monitoring	79.11	NATO - Maj Tom Doane, Brooks AFB, TX
DoD	Other AD - Environmental and Analytical	Herbicide Orange soil mapping and groundwater survey	86.03	NATO - Lt Rhodes, Tyndall AFB, FL
DoD	Other AD - Environmental and Analytical	Residual levels of 2,3,7,8-TCDD near herbicide Orange storage and loading areas at Eglin AFB, FL	79.02	NATO - Capt Stoddart, Tyndall AFB, FL
NCI	Dioxin related - Human - Environmental and Analytical	Study of mortality among pesticide applicators from Florida		JNCI 71, 1983
NCI	Dioxin related - Human - Environmental and Analytical	Case-control study of soft tissue sarcomas and lymphomas and their relationship to herbicide applicators in Kansas		JAMA 256, 1986

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

SERUM DIOXIN STUDY OF AIR FORCE OPERATION RANCH HAND VETERANS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was assigned responsibility for the design and conduct of the Agent Orange Exposure study in January 1983 by an interagency agreement with the Veterans Administration. In May 1983, CDC submitted a draft research protocol for review. A revised protocol of the studies evaluating the health of Vietnam veterans was approved by OMB in May 1984. Two component studies, the Vietnam Exposure Study and the Selected Cancers Studies, are on schedule.

The third component study, the Agent Orange exposure study, was planned to begin in January 1986 and was designed to evaluate the health of an Agent Orange exposed cohort of male, U.S. Vietnam veterans with an unexposed cohort of Vietnam veterans. Beginning in January 1984 an intensive effort was made by the U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group, the Science Panel of the Agent Orange Working Group, and the CDC to use military records to separate exposed from unexposed veterans. By June 1986, it was concluded, however, that "any study of ground troops which is dependent upon military records for the ascertainment of exposure to herbicides should not be conducted without additional methods to verify exposure." In order to address this concern, in the summer of 1986 CDC developed a method to measure the level of dioxin in serum in the parts per quadrillion range which enabled the conduct of a feasibility study to validate exposure measures based on military records.

The Air Force has been conducting a study of veterans of Operation Ranch Hand who were given responsibility for the aerial spraying of Agent Orange herbicides in Vietnam. The Ranch Handers are thought to be the most highly exposed group. The Air Force and CDC are currently collaborating in a study using the serum test for dioxin to determine the range of dioxin measurements in these Ranch Handers. Using serum drawn in 1982 and 1987, this study will be able to estimate the half-life of dioxin in humans and the individuals' variability in its degradation. This is the only population group available in the world upon which to do this study.

A protocol involving 200 selected Ranch Hand veterans was developed and approved. Approximately 450 cc of blood was required. These selected veterans were located in nearly all of the 48 contiguous States. In order to conduct this investigation expeditiously it was necessary to identify regional blood drawing facilities convenient to the veterans where quality control of the blood drawing procedures could be assured. The American Red Cross identified four of its best regional blood banks--Atlanta, Cleveland, Los Angeles, and Tulsa--for the study. All four centers agreed to participate and supplied the necessary staff and facilities. In collaboration with Mr. Chester Somerville of the American Red Cross Headquarters, the necessary procedures were put in place in 2 weeks and in another 2 weeks the specimen collection was completed on these 200 veterans.

The Regional Centers allowed CDC to set up blood drawing procedures and schedules that were convenient to the veterans. The employees of the blood

banks enthusiastically and graciously saw to the excellence of the activity and to the comfort and convenience of the veterans. No veteran needed to take more than 36 hours from his family and his daily routine. For this extraordinary effort, the Air Force and CDC would like to express its appreciation to the American Red Cross and, in particular, to the personnel and administration of the four regional blood banks that enabled the expeditious completion of this study, the results of which are of great importance to U.S. veterans, their families, and the U.S. Government.

Mr. Chester Somerville
Director, Blood Operations Support
American Red Cross
1730 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Somerville:

The President of the United States would like to recognize your efforts and those of the American Red Cross in identifying the four Red Cross Regional Blood Banks who collaborated in the study of serum dioxin in operation Ranch Hand veterans.

In 4 weeks, the centers provided facilities and staff to work with the Air Force and the Centers for Disease Control to set up the necessary procedures and complete specimen collection from over 200 veterans from across the country. The men and women in these centers enthusiastically and graciously saw to the excellence of the endeavor and made every effort to accommodate the veterans needs and comforts while ensuring that this investigation be completed in a very short time.

The importance of this study to our understanding of the effects of Agent Orange on the U.S. veterans of the Vietnam Conflict cannot be overstated. The results of the study are of great importance to the veterans of this country and to its Government.

I therefore want to express my appreciation to you and to the American Red Cross for invaluable assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred J. Grindon, M.D.
Director, Blood Services - Atlanta Region
American Red Cross
1925 Monroe Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

DRAFT

Dear Dr. Grindon:

The President of the United States would like to recognize your efforts in the study of serum dioxin in operation Ranch Hand veterans.

In 4 weeks, the Atlanta [Los Angeles, Tulsa, Cleveland] Center provided facilities and staff to work with the Air Force and the Centers for Disease Control to set up the necessary procedures and complete specimen collection from veterans from across the country. The men and women in the Atlanta [Los Angeles, Tulsa, Cleveland] Center enthusiastically and graciously saw to the excellence of the endeavor and made every effort to accommodate the veterans' needs and comforts while ensuring that this investigation be completed in a very short time.

The importance of this study to our understanding of the effects of Agent Orange on the U.S. veterans of the Vietnam Conflict cannot be overstated. The results of the study are of great importance to the veterans of this country and to its Government.

I therefore want to express my appreciation to the staff of the Atlanta [Los Angeles, Tulsa, Cleveland] Center for invaluable assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

IDENTICAL LETTERS TO ADDRESSEES ON ATTACHED LIST

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Doc. 3588J

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