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**Report/Article Title** Memorandum: VA Pilot Study Cohort Selection by the Army Agent Orange Task Force (AAOTF), from Peter A. Flynn to Chairman, White House Agent Orange Working Group, July 19, 1982

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(A) D. Bricker - file

19 JUL 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, WHITE HOUSE AGENT ORANGE WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: VA Pilot Study Cohort Selection by the Army Agent Orange Task Force (AAOTF)

As you know, when the AOWG gave the VA the go-ahead to proceed with their pilot epidemiological study, we in DoD committed ourselves to the AOWG to meeting the January 1, 1983, date by which the VA estimated it would need names for the study. This date was passed to the AAOTF and, as they had agreed in advance, they began to work immediately. That date was felt to be a reasonable one with the programmed personnel on board. In the meantime, we had secured additional active duty personnel from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps as we had said we would. The approach to the records used by the AAOTF was based on decisions of the Science Panel of the AOWG and some announced assumptions on our part where there were no firm guidelines.

Discussions over the last month have made it apparent that there remain serious unresolved issues with regard to the UCLA protocol in both its scope and focus and in regard to some aspects of cohort selection. While the AAOTF has been making excellent progress, there is now a substantial likelihood that the cohort selection process may not fully meet the VA's desires which are still being articulated by the VA. Accordingly, I have directed the AAOTF to suspend its pilot study cohort selection activities until such time as the aforementioned issues are resolved and the AAOTF can be given clear and confirmed marching orders. We and the AAOTF stand ready to assist those individuals and groups who are working with the protocol, particularly in those areas where the records have a direct bearing on what is possible in the way of data extraction. When definite new directions are made available, we will, of course, immediately resume the selection process for the pilot study. It is clear that the January 1, 1983, date can no longer be met. A new date will have to be set depending on when we commence work and the scope of the required records work.

As a matter of incidental interest, the AAOFP has briefed the National Academy of Science review personnel as requested by the VA.

We continue to stand ready to be of all possible assistance with this important study.

**SIGNED**

Peter A. Flynn  
Captain, MC, USN  
Director for Professional  
Services

cc: Mr. R. Christian, AAOFP  
Dr. Vernon Houk, CDC, Science Panel Chairman  
Dr. Carl Keller, Research Panel Chairman

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COORDINATION:

Dr. Bricker \_\_\_\_\_