

08,01-04/16/93-00918

(804) 445-2931

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18232:BCB:srw

APR 16 1993

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Peter Burger  
North Carolina Department of Environment,  
Health, and Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 27687  
401 Oberlin Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Re: MCB Camp Lejeune; Addition of Site 82 (Piney Green Road)  
to Operable Unit #2 with Sites 6 (Storage Lots 201 and  
203) and 9 (Fire Fighter Training Pit)

Dear Mr. Burger:

As you are aware, the areas of investigation for Operable Unit #2 (Sites 6 and 9) have expanded beyond those areas described in the original RI/FS Project Plans. In the course of these RI/FS field work efforts we discovered contamination north of the Lot 203 area of Site 6. Subsequently, we expanded the investigation further north in an attempt to define the limits of the contamination. The areas investigated during the RI/FS field work efforts for Operable Unit #2 eventually expanded to the extent that Site 82 (Piney Green Road), which adjoins Lot 203 to the north, was fully investigated as part of these field work efforts. As such, we propose Site 82 be added to Operable Unit #2 and included in the RI/FS documentation for this operable unit, which we will submit within the next two months. Additionally, we propose the Site Inspection for Site 82 be revised to recommend a RI/FS and finalized.

As we are currently preparing RI/FS documentation for Operable Unit #2, please provide a response to these proposals by May 7, 1993.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to Mr. Byron Brant at (804) 445-2931.

Sincerely,

L. A. BOUCHER, P.E.  
Head  
Installation Restoration Section  
South  
Environmental Programs Branch  
Environmental Quality Division  
By direction of the Commander

Re: MCB Camp Lejeune; Addition of Site 82 (Piney Green Road)  
to Operable Unit #2 with Sites 6 (Storage Lots 201 and  
203) and 9 (Fire Fighter Training Pit)

Copy to:  
US EPA Region IV (Ms. Michelle Glenn)  
MCB Camp Lejeune (Mr. Neal Paul)

Blind copy to:  
1823 (BCB) (2 copies)  
18S  
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08.01-04/19/93-00926



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS BASE  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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19 APR 1993

Ms. Michelle Glenn  
United States Environmental Protection  
Agency, Region IV  
Attn: Camp Lejeune Remedial Project Manager  
345 Courtland Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Dear Ms. Glenn:

The following is a chronological summary of the events concerning claims made by Mr. Roger Johnson of alleged Agent Orange burial activities at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune and his professed exposure to Agent Orange.

a. On November 3, 1992, at 1:00 p.m., the Environmental Management Department, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, received notification, from the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office, Wilmington, North Carolina, that a former Camp Lejeune Marine, Mr. Roger Johnson, had contacted the National Response Center regarding his participation in an alleged Agent Orange burial activity on Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune in 1974 and/or 1975.

b. On November 4, 1992, Major Thorn, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, contacted Mr. Johnson who would only allude to the site location but not reveal it. He explained that he was one of 15 Marines detailed to the "top secret" project, which was under the command of a Colonel Bradford. According to Mr. Johnson, during the alleged disposal activity, three barrels were either punctured or spilled, and he was contaminated with what he believed to be Agent Orange, resulting in his deteriorating spinal condition. He also claimed that subsequent to the burial of 8,000 drums in an underground concrete vault, there was a three story BEQ constructed on the site. Mr. Johnson wished to receive medical treatment for his spinal condition through the Veterans Administration and expressed his intention of using the information he had regarding the alleged Agent Orange site as leverage to obtain this treatment. Major Thorn also noted that Mr. Johnson frequently rambled about his supposed personal meetings with General Gray, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North.

c. On November 9, 1992, Mr. Johnson, who was again contacted by Major Thorn, stated that if he did not receive his requested medical treatment, he would report the location of the alleged burial activity to the news media. Furthermore, he claimed that

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two additional burial sites exist on Camp Lejeune, one underneath the Naval Hospital, and the other beneath "Barracks #1209". Investigations by the Environmental Management Department, Facilities Department, Occupational Health and Preventative Medicine Services, as well as the Naval Investigative Service (NIS), concluded that these claims were unfounded.

d. On November 28, 1992, Major Thorn once more contacted Mr. Johnson, who not only admitted to abusing alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana before, during, and after his service in the military, but also acknowledged to having been detained in a psychiatric facility. Mr. Johnson further stated that his brother-in-law, who was also supposedly exposed to Agent Orange, now stands only three feet tall and possesses a spine in the shape of a "C".

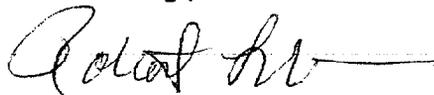
e. On February 11, 1993, the NIS stated that, having interviewed all pertinent command personnel and having reviewed associated records, they could not substantiate the claims made by Mr. Johnson. Therefore, the NIS concluded that it would no longer expend its resources with respect to this matter without additional relevant information surfacing.

Since the initial notification of the alleged Agent Orange burial activities, Camp Lejeune has employed various talents and resources from not only the Environmental Management Department, the Facilities Department, the Naval Hospital, and the Naval Investigative Service, but also the Base Public Affairs Office, the Base Staff Judge Advocate, and the Veterans Administration to assist Mr. Johnson and investigate his claims. Additionally, we have utilized the assets of the Center for Disease Control, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic Division. We have been diligent in our efforts to inform and maintain current correspondence concerning this situation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, and the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. Unfortunately, Mr. Johnson has been extremely uncooperative and has not only refused to disclose the alleged site location, but has also declined our offers to assist him with his Veterans Affairs matters. Absent any substantiation regarding Mr. Johnson's statements, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune does not recognize the necessity of further investigation.

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If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Neal Paul, Director, Installation Restoration Division, Environmental Management Department, at telephone (919) 451-5872.

Sincerely,



ROBERT L. WARREN  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Environmental Management  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to:

CMC (LFL)

→ LANTNAVFACENCOM (1823)

EACO (LtCol Mercier)

JPAO (Maj Farrar)

SJA