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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER REGARDING SUBMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS AND LETTERS TO INITIATE
CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION FOR VETERANS HAVING HANDLED AGENT ORANGE
NCBC GULFPORT MS
12/19/1991
VETERANS SERVICE CENTER HANCOCK COUNTY MISSISSIPPI

PAUL MOODY

County Service Officer

TELEPHONE
(601) 467-2100



Veteran's Service Center

HANCOCK COUNTY

5090/5

Post Office Box 429
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

December 19, 1991

Commanding Officer
Via: Public Affairs Officer *NS 12/23/91*
U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing copies of letters written by this office to initiate Congressional legislation that provides Veterans Administration medical care for all personnel stationed at the Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Ms. between the years 1960 and 1988. I am also including personnel from Keesler Air Force Base that most certainly were involved in handling the barrels of Agent Orange.

Two (2) peacetime veterans between the ages of 23 and 28 have come to this office for veterans assistance. Both are now being treated for Soft Tissue Carcinoma. The only correlation between the two disabilities is the fact that both men were stationed at the CB base.

I firmly believe many of our fine Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen were exposed to Agent Orange at the CB base and will eventually suffer from a number of diseases caused by Agent Orange. *19*

We must make every effort to have U.S. legislation passed to provide Veterans Administration medical treatment, on a priority basis, to these men and women.

I also want to address the Civilian employees exposure to Agent Orange but feel the issue of their exposure would be better developed in separate correspondence. *470*

Your Medical Staff may want to research the multitude of diseases caused by Agent Orange, some of which are terminal, and address the Agent Orange problem to the Department of Defense. *10*

In anticipation of successful legislation, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Paul Moody
Paul Moody

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12/23
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PAUL MOODY
County Service Officer



Veteran's Service Center
HANCOCK COUNTY

Post Office Box 429
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

December 19, 1991

Mr. Edward Derwinski
Department of Veteran Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Derwinski,

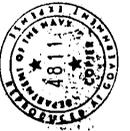
Agent Orange, the defoliant used in the jungles of Vietnam, has been identified as a possible source of numerous diseases. These diseases include; but are not limited to; skin disorders, liver disorders, Cancers, Chloracne, Peripheral Neuropathy and other presumptive disorders too numerous to list in this letter.

All veterans serving in Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and can receive an Agent Orange examination and medical treatment at a VA Medical Center. Their names, and disabilities discovered during the Agent Orange examination, are placed on a National Agent Orange Registry.

I believe Agent Orange "presumed exposure status" should include non-Vietnam veterans who have also been exposed to Agent Orange. Very specifically, the veterans that should be afforded Agent Orange status, are the military servicemen stationed at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi from 1960 until 1988.

The U.S. Air Force stored 15,000 barrels of Agent Orange at the base from the 1960's to 1977, when the Air Force burned the herbicide at sea. Some of the barrels leaked and spilled during the period of storage and in 1988, the Department of Defense spent \$20 million to incinerate 26,000 tons of contaminated soil from 29 acres of the Construction Battalion Center. Numerous servicemen from all branches of the Armed Forces were exposed and contaminated by Agent Orange, much in the manner of the Vietnam veteran, and should be afforded that same Agent Orange umbrella of protection offered by the Veterans Administration.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your help in supporting legislation that will afford equal medical care for our non-Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. I am enclosing a newspaper article from the Sun Herald, Gulfport/Biloxi, Ms. dated November 22, 1991 that addresses Agent Orange. Many previous articles have been written and many television broadcasts have been aired locally concerning storage of Agent Orange at the Construction Battalion Center.



Perhaps the magnitude of the Gulfport Agent Orange problem has not extended outside the local area. It's possible the Veterans Administration, U.S. Congress and the House of Representatives are not aware of the potential devastation of life threatening Agent Orange diseases to the veteran and family of those who served their country while stationed at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi during periods of peacetime.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the U.S. Congressmen and Representatives from Mississippi in hopes of stimulating their enthusiasm to propose legislation extending Agent Orange Medical care to those veterans stationed at the Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, whether in a permanent or temporary duty status, from 1960 to 1988.

In anticipation of strong support and expedient action, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Paul Moody

Paul Moody

CC: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Trent Lott
Congressman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery
Congressman Gene Taylor



TIM ISBELL/THE SUN HERALD

Eleven acres of the Seabee base in Gulfport are covered with the soil that was burned in 1988 to remove Agent Orange.

Air Force, Navy want soil cleared from EPA's hazardous waste list

By SHARON EBNER
THE SUN HERALD

■ Three years after Air Force officials said it was clean, soil that was burned to remove the herbicide Agent Orange sits in an open field at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport and is listed by the EPA as a hazardous waste.

The Air Force and Navy are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to declare it non-hazardous. The process could take another 18 months or more.

If they fail, an additional cleanup could

cost \$20 million.

For now, the gray soil sits in mounds covering 11 acres of the 29 acres on which the Agent Orange was stored at the Seabee base. Seabee officials want to plow it back into the ground and use the field as a storage area.

The soil falls into a category that, regardless of the actual amount of contamination or health hazard, is listed by the EPA as a hazardous waste, said Steve Spengler, chief of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act branch of the state Office of Pollution Control's hazardous

waste division.

"There are very, very low levels of dioxin in it, but it's a hazardous waste because it was listed," Spengler said.

However, he said, state and federal environmental agencies want more information about any contamination from dioxin or other chemicals in the soil and groundwater at the Seabee base before taking the soil off the list.

"The original data didn't show much of

Please see **SOIL**, Back Page

(OVER)

PAUL MOODY
County Service Officer

TELEPHONE
(601) 467-2406



Veteran's Service Center
HANCOCK COUNTY

Post Office Box 429
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

December 19, 1991

Honorable Trent Lott
U.S. Senate
487 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter written by this office to Edward Derwinski of the Veterans Administration, expressing concern that some of our peacetime veterans, stationed at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi may be developing certain diseases that can be related to Agent Orange.

I am urgently requesting that you or your staff investigate the Agent Orange history of the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi and to propose legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code to include those veterans stationed at the Construction Battalion Center from 1960 to 1988.

With the greatest of respect for your support for the U.S. Armed Forces Veteran, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Paul Moody
Paul Moody

CC: Senator Thad Cochran
Congressman Gene Taylor
Congressman G. V (Sonny) Montgomery

PAUL MOODY
County Service Officer

TELEPHONE
(601) 467-2400

Veteran's Service Center
HANCOCK COUNTY

Post Office Box 429
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

December 19, 1991

Honorable Gene Taylor
U.S. House of Representatives
1429 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Taylor,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter written by this office to Edward Derwinski of the Veterans Administration, expressing concern that some of our peacetime veterans, stationed at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi may be developing certain diseases that can be related to Agent Orange.

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Sincerely yours,

Paul Moody
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CC: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Trent Lott
Congressman G. V (Sonny) Montgomery

PAUL MOODY
County Service Officer



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HANCOCK COUNTY

Post Office Box 429
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

December 19, 1991

Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery
U.S. House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Montgomery,

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Senator Trent Lott
Congressman Gene Taylor

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Post Office Box 429
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December 19, 1991

Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate
326 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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PAUL MOODY
County Service Officer



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December 19, 1991

Commanding General
Via: Public Affairs Officer
Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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