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National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati OH 45226-1998

9 November 2012
HETA 2012-0245

Major Wesley T. Carter, USAF Retired
2349 Nut Tree Lane
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Dear Major Carter:

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) received your request for a health hazard evaluation. You requested assistance regarding the issue of Agent Orange exposure to crewmen in U.S. Air Force planes resulting from Agent Orange spray missions. You contacted the NIOSH health hazard evaluation program previously and we suggested other routes you may want to consider. We also requested assistance from our colleagues in other groups in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who were more familiar with the issues. On January 25, 2012, Dr. Thomas Sinks, Deputy Director, National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) wrote to you with his assessment. In that letter, he concluded that the possibility of inhalation exposure to TCDD in these aircraft could not be excluded. Although very limited in scope, the only available data showed an aircraft contaminated with TCDD at levels above those used by the Department of Defense for screening. Dr. Sinks wrote that "The information available is insufficient to establish with accuracy the degree of exposure (low or high) or the risk of adverse health effects to this population."

Regarding this matter, I defer to Dr. Sinks and the expertise within NCEH/ATSDR. I am unaware of any further developments.

This letter will close our file on your request for a NIOSH health hazard evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

Allison Tepper

Allison Tepper, Ph.D.

Branch Chief

Hazard Evaluations and Technical

Assistance Branch

Division of Surveillance, Hazard

Evaluations and Field Studies