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PROCESSING C-123 AIRCRAFT AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS

The Department of Veteran Affairs has made the decision to consider a select group of Air Force Service members as being exposed to herbicides through regular and repeated duties while serving as flight medical and ground maintenance crew members on contaminated Operation Ranch Hand (ORC) C-123 aircraft that were used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam.

The St. Paul Regional Office will process all claims for Agent Orange exposure related to C-123 Aircraft AO. The St. Paul RO will be responsible to address all outstanding issues claimed. St. Paul Regional Office will take jurisdiction and follow standard claims processing procedures

STANDARD FORMS AND APPEALS RULE

We are noticing an increase in intent to file forms (VAF 21-0966) with a receipt date prior to March 24, 2015. This is a reminder that when entering intent to file data into VBMS, please keep a close eye on receipt dates. If it is after March 24, 2015, VA will treat those forms that do not identify disability by body system, symptom or anatomical segment, as a request for application. Consistent with current practice, VA will consider 21-0966 forms that do identify claimed disabilities with sufficient specificity received before March 24, 2015, as informal claims.