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**Item ID Number** 01543

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**Report/Article Title** Memorandum: from Colonel George D. Lathrop to Lt. Col. Moynahan, Lt. Col. Wolfe, Maj. Rhode, and Maj. Young, with subject Out of Channel Communications with the VA, 19 March 1980.

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 0000

**Month/Day**

**Color**

**Number of Images** 1

**Descriptor Notes** Memo directs that all VA phone calls be sent to Lathrop for response. Reply to memo requested by endorsement. This copy includes Major Alvin L. Young's reply.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

19 Mar 80,

Subject: Out of Channel Communications with the VA

To: Lt Col Moynahan  
Lt Col Wolfe  
Maj Rhode  
Maj Young

1. Recently the Veteran's Administration has inappropriately contacted members of this Division directly, both by phone and letter, requesting our assistance in sensitive areas related to Herbicide Orange studies. I am concerned that in our posture of expertise and willingness to help other investigators, we can inadvertently create political problems that could compromise both the VA study efforts as well as the Ranch Hand study.

2. Henceforth, refer all VA phone calls and letters to me for response. If the matter is purely technical, I will ask appropriate individuals to assist me in a conference call. If the VA inquiry concerns the complex aspects of how to conduct or interpret studies, resources, or policy, I will refer the call to Higher Headquarters. In my absence, Maj Rhode will make this decision; if we are jointly unavailable, the inquiry should be referred to Lt Col Moynahan.

3. Reply by endorsement.



GEORGE D. LATHROP, Colonel, USAF, MC  
Chief, Epidemiology Division

ISF Endorsement

19 Mar 1980

I have read your memo and will comply with your directive.



ALVIN L. YOUNG, Major, USAF  
Consultant, Environmental Sciences