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Report/Article Title	Typescript: A Chronology of Events in the Congressionally Mandated Epidemiologic Study of Viet Nam Veterans and Projected Dates for the Completion of Various Tasks in the Design of the Study, revised July 7, 1981
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Description Notes	Provides chronology from passage of Veterans Health Programs Extension and Improvement Act of 1979 to OTA review of draft protocol by September 21, 1981.

A Chronology of Events in the Congressionally Mandated Epidemiologic Study of Viet Nam Veterans and Projected Dates for the Completion of Various Tasks in the Design of the Study.

December 1979	Congress passes Veterans Health Programs Extension and Improvement Act of 1979 (PL 96-151). The Act directs (1) the Administrator of the VA to prepare a protocol (plan) for the study of Viet Nam veterans who may be experiencing health effects resulting from exposure to dioxins contained in Agent Orange; (2) the Director of the Office of Technology Assessment to review and approve the study protocol within 180 days after passage of Act (that time period ended about June 20, 1980). If the OTA Director did not approve the plan by then, he was periodically to report to Congress reasons for the lack of approval.
Dec. 20, 1979	President signs Act into Law.
December 1979	VA decides to use competitive bid procedure to select an epidemiologist to design the study protocol.
Feb. 4, 1980	VA publishes its intention to let contract for design of the protocol in the Commerce Business Daily.
Mar. 19, 1980	VA issues Request for Proposals (RFP).
Apr. 11, 1980	Conference of potential bidders hosted by VA.
May 6, 1980	National Veterans Law Center initiates legal action and bid protest about procedures used by VA in soliciting bids.
May 8, 1980	Last day for receipt of bids.
May 1980	A selection board of government experts reviews the bids and makes tentative ranking. No further action is taken because of legal suit and bid protest pending against VA.
Jun. 13, 1980	Judge Harold H. Green of the DC District Federal Court asked that GAO make a ruling about the issues raised in the bid protest.
August 1980	OTA begins making periodic reports to the Committees of Congress about reasons it has not approved the study protocol. At that time, VA expected to issue contract in September. Subsequent reports kept Congressional Committees informed of continuing legal delays.
Feb. 2, 1981	GAO finds in favor of VA, and VA can proceed with letting contract.

Feb/Mar 1981	VA contacts bidders and seeks updated information about their interest in and capability to design the study protocol.
April 1981	VA reconstitutes selection board of government experts to examine revised bids.
May 1, 1981	VA selects the School of Public Health, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) to design the study protocol.
May 1981	OTA begins to assemble panel to review the study protocol.
May 26, 1981	UCLA requests and is subsequently granted a 30-day extension of the contract.

THESE EVENTS BRING US TO THE PRESENT

Early August 1981 — Draft of study plan to be delivered to VA. The draft plan is to be distributed by the VA to the following organizations for review:

1. OTA
2. The National Academy of Sciences
3. The Interagency Work Group to Study Possible Long-Term Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants
4. The Veterans Administration Committee on Health-Related Effects of Herbicides

OTA expects to complete its review of the draft protocol within 30 days of its receipt from VA. Assuming that OTA receives the protocol in mid-August, the review will be finished by mid-September.

Mid-August 1981	Dispatch of the draft protocol to all members of the OTA review panel.
Week of Sept 7, 1981	Meeting of the review panel to discuss the protocol and consider what suggestions might be made to UCLA to improve the study plan.
Week of Sept 14, 1981	OTA staff will prepare written report of the review and suggestions for modification of the study plan.
By Sept 21, 1981	OTA review document will be delivered to VA.

Following review of the August draft, the reviewers' comments and suggestions will be forwarded to UCLA. Approximately 30 days will be allowed for those modifications to be incorporated or rejected with explanation by UCLA.

The revised protocol should reach VA sometime in October. If it requires review by the 4 organizations listed above, additional time will be required for completion of the study plan and its review.

After completion of the study plan, a decision will have to be made about what organization should carry out the study.

Revised July 7, 1981