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**Item ID Number** 04929



**Not Scanned**

**Author**

**Corporate Author**

**Report/Article Title** Memorandums with attachment: From Major J.W. Tremblay and Colonel William E. Mabson regarding Herbicide Orange Follow-on, both dated 1978

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 1978

**Month/Day**

**Color**



**Number of Images** 8

**Description Notes**

# MEMO

from Maj. J. W. Tremblay

To HQ AFSC/SGP Date 9 <sup>6</sup>/<sub>78</sub> Time 1030

ATTN: c/c Lewis

John,

Enclosed is cy  
of package you  
requested.

Cy of 22 May ltr to  
AFSC c atch's  
"Herb Orange Follow-On"

*File # 17*

Col Mabson/2001/Imp/19 May 78

CC

22 MAY 1978

Herbicide Orange Follow-On

HQ AFSC/SGP

1. References:

- a. HQ USAF/SGPA message 261230Z Apr 78.
- b. HQ AFSC/SG message 282115Z Apr 78.

2. Reference 1a requested that four information packages regarding Herbicide Orange be prepared and forwarded to HQ USAF/SGP. Reference 1b requested that copies of all information generated in this project be forwarded to HQ AFSC/SG.

3. The "Summary Flyer to Alert Physicians," (reference 1a, para 2d), was telecopied to HQ USAF/SGP for review and comment on 28 Apr 1978. The attached document which contains all changes and comments of both HQ USAF/SG and the Veterans Administration is provided for your information in accordance with reference 1b.

SIGNED

WILLIAM E. MABSON, Colonel, USAF, BSC  
Commander

1 Atch  
Summary Flyer to Alert  
Physicians

Cy to: AMD/CC

B10/24

TOR-1170120Z

ROUTINE

MLN-002350

RTTUZYUW RUEAHQA1410 1170027-UUUU--RUVKAB.  
ZNR UUUUU  
R 261230Z APR 78  
FM HQ USAF WASH DC/SGPA  
TO RUEGAWA/HQ AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD/SG  
INFO RUVKAB/AMD BROOKS AFB TX/CC  
RUVKAB/USAF OEHL BROOKS AFB TX/CC  
RUVAAA/6570AMRL WPAFB OH/TH  
BT

*AmS/CC*  
*GH/CC*

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: HERBICIDE ORANGE FOLLOW-ON

1. THE AIR FORCE IS WORKING WITH THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGATIONS OF PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN IN HERBICIDE ORANGE.

2. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN COL HANSON, USAF OEHL/CC, AND LT COL BAYER, HQ USAF/SGPA, AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AMONG LT COL CALCAGNI AND CAPT YOUNG OF THE USAF OEHL AND MAJ GEN DETTINGER, COL WATSON, LT COL BAYER, LT COL LANEY, AND MRS. PAT BRAGG OF THIS HEADQUARTERS HAVE IDENTIFIED REQUIREMENTS FOR:

A. A COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE OF HERBICIDE ORANGE/DIOXIN TOXICOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL FATE DATA, SPECIFICALLY TO INCLUDE KNOWLEDGE GAINED SUBSEQUENT TO PREPARATION OF THE AIR FORCE HERBICIDE ORANGE

PAGE 2 RUEAHQA1410 UNCLAS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. 6570 AMRL/TH REVIEW AND CRITIQUE TO BE OBTAINED BEFORE SUBMISSION OF FINAL REPORT TO THIS HEADQUARTERS. IN ADDITION, OUTSIDE INFLUENCES MAY DICTATE PERIODIC 2-3 PAGE SUMMARIES OF WORK DURING THE REPORT WRITING PERIOD. EVERY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE BY THIS HEADQUARTERS TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SUCH REQUESTS IN ORDER THAT MAXIMUM EFFORT CAN BE DEVOTED TO REPORT COMPLETION. HOWEVER, A FIRM SUBMISSION DATE TO THIS HEADQUARTERS OF MID-JUNE 1978 IS CONFIRMED.

B. DR. CALCAGNI, USAF OEHL, TO IMMEDIATELY INITIATE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL PRE- AND POST-PROJECT PACER HQ PERSONNEL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND CLINICAL LABORATORY DATA AND TO PREPARE A DETAILED, BUT BRIEF, SUMMARY PAPER COVERING PHYSICAL, CLINICAL, AND LABORATORY FINDINGS, AN ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS, AND A SUMMARY OF MEDICAL IMPRESSIONS. EXPEDITE SUBMISSION OF REQUESTED PAPER TO THIS HEADQUARTERS.

C. DR. CALCAGNI, USAF OEHL, TO DRAFT A CLINICAL EVALUATION OUTLINE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IF A REASON DEVELOPS TO BEGIN EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH STATUS OF ACTIVE DUTY INDIVIDUALS SUSPECTED OF BEING PREVIOUSLY EXPOSED TO HERBICIDE ORANGE. THE OUTLINE IS TO BE BRIEF, BUT COMPREHENSIVE, AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON SYMPTOMATOLOGY

TOR-1170120Z

ROUTINE

MLN-002350

TOR-1170120Z

ROUTINE

MLN-002350

PAGE 3 RUEAHGA1410 UNCLAS

THAT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH DIOXIN EXPOSURE WITH SOME DEGREE OF SCIENTIFIC CREDIBILITY. PROVIDE TO THIS HEADQUARTERS IN DRAFT FOR REVIEW.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF A BRIEF (1-2 PAGE) SUMMARY FLYER TO ALERT AIR FORCE PHYSICIANS TO THE CURRENT HERBICIDE ORANGE DEBATE, WHAT HERBICIDE ORANGE IS, RVN USES, THE CLAIMS NOW BEING FILED BY VETERANS WITH THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, AND TO ADVISE RESPECTING AN APPROACH TO ACTIVE DUTY PATIENT MANAGEMENT SHOULD INDIVIDUALS PRESENT WITH QUESTIONS OR ALLEGED SYMPTOMS. PROVIDE DRAFT TO THIS HEADQUARTERS SOONEST.

3. THIS MESSAGE CONFIRMS ABOVE TASKING PROVIDED USAF CEHL BY TELEPHONE IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN COL MARSON AND LT COL BAYER. PRODUCTS OF THE ABOVE TASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENABLE A TIMELY RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL AIR FORCE DEMANDS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION GUIDANCE.

BT

01410

NNNN

TOR-1170120Z

ROUTINE

MLN-002350

*Biography*  
*Col Taylor AD1*  
*Col Watson WSM*

100-11500422

ROUTINE

MEM-007031

RTTUZEXU RUC OAMA 7314 1 18:21 20-UUUU-RUVKAD.

FM HONOLULU

R 0221Z APR 78

~~TO RUEKAWAH/AM BROTHERS AFB TX/CC~~

~~INFO RUEKAWAH/NO USAF WASH DC/SBPA~~

~~FROM RUEKAWAH/570 ANRL WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH/TH~~

~~BT~~  
~~UNCLAS~~

MESSAGE (R261230Z APR 78)

1. REQUEST THAT YOU SUPPORT THIS PROJECT ON A PRIORITY BASIS. NOTE THAT NEITHER YOUR HEADQUARTERS NOR THIS HEADQUARTERS WAS INCLUDED ON PAST FORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE. WE ASSUME ANRL/TH WILL BE ABLE TO DIVERT TIME TO THE REQUESTED REVIEW.
2. PLEASE PROVIDE THIS OFFICE COPIES OF ALL SUMMARIES, EVALUATIONS, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GENERATED IN THIS PROJECT.

BT  
DTB14

*And / cc*  
*X OEHL / cc*  
*De*

*LOA -*

*Remind me to call  
Col Lewis on this*

*WSM*

*Call Col John Watson*

*SMSgt Todd*

100-11500422

ROUTINE

MEM-007031

*Biop...*

FOR-115004Z

ROUTINE

PLN-007031

RTTUZEXN RUC OAMA7314 1 18:21 20 -UUUU--RUVKAAB.

ZNY UUUU

R 202118Z APR 78

FM AFSC ANDREWS AFB MO/S6

TO RUVKAAB/AMC BROOKS AFB TX/CC

INFO RUVKAAB/AMC USAF WASH DC/S6PA

RUVKAAB/AMC Oehl BROOKS AFB TX/CC

RUVKAAB/AMC70 ANRL WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH/TH

BT

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: HERBICIDE ORANGE FOLLOW-ON (HQ USAF/S6PA MESSAGE, R261230Z APR 78)

1. REQUEST THAT YOU SUPPORT THIS PROJECT ON A PRIORITY BASIS. NOTE THAT NEITHER YOUR HEADQUARTERS NOR THIS HEADQUARTERS WAS INCLUDED ON PAST FORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE. WE ASSUME ANRL/TH WILL BE ABLE TO DIVERT TIME TO THE REQUESTED REVIEW.

2. PLEASE PROVIDE THIS OFFICE COPIES OF ALL SUMMARIES, EVALUATIONS, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GENERATED IN THIS PROJECT.

BT

7314

*AMD/CC*  
*Oehl/CC*

*DL*

*M/R: Called T. Lewis on 5<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> - On leave. Left msg for him to contact Col. Mabson when he returns from leave on 12 July.*

FOR-115004Z

ROUTINE

PLN-007031



Proposed Draft to HQ USAF for the Summary Flyer to Alert Physicians to the Current Herbicide Orange Debate. (For LtCol Sherrill Laney, Ext 35792, 28 Apr 78)

As a result of recent television and newspaper publicity on Herbicide Orange, Air Force physicians may be asked by their patients to respond to statements made by the media and to investigate symptoms described in the media publicity. The programs and articles resulted from a number of claims filed by veterans with the Veterans Administration alleging that present physical disorders are related to exposure to Herbicide Orange. The following information is intended to aid the physician in managing an active duty patient should the individual present questions or allege symptoms.

Herbicide Orange (frequently referred to by the media as Agent Orange) was an equal mixture of two herbicides; 2, 4, 5 Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4, 5-T) and 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D). They have been used world wide in agriculture since 1947. Human health hazards associated with the use of these herbicides have been minimal and primarily related to self-ingestion or gross misuse. Herbicide Orange was used extensively in Southeast Asia from 1962 to 1969 to defoliate jungle vegetation and deprive the enemy of a refuge. In most instances, military personnel did not enter treated areas until 4-6 weeks after treatment, thus greatly minimizing their chance of contracting or inhaling the herbicide. Air Force personnel most likely to have been exposed were those involved in actual dextrumming and spraying operations.

A contaminant in the mixture was a substance called 2, 3, 7, 8 Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD, Dioxin). This highly toxic contaminant was present in <sup>present quantities</sup> ~~(very small)~~ amounts in most batches of the herbicide. Symptoms described by the media have been documented only in industrial accidents or

gross overexposure. Immediate symptoms such as headache, eye and skin irritation are the result of the herbicide per se and not dioxin (TCDD). These symptoms clear upon removal from exposure. Central and peripheral neuropathy, along with skeletal muscle damage have been described in very high exposure to 2, 4-D alone. Other symptoms are believed to be related to the dioxin (TCDD). Included are an acneiform rash with hyperpigmentation, muscular pain, hepatotoxicity, nephrotoxicity, prophyria cutanea tarda, hirsutism, peripheral neuropathy, hyperlipidemia and constitutional symptoms such as anorexia, fatigue, lassitude, mental depression, and loss of libido. There is no substantiated evidence for carcinogenicity, teratogenicity, mutagenicity or fetotoxicity in man.

It is emphasized, however, that in all cases displaying the symptoms mentioned above, the estimated doses of TCDD received were much greater than would be expected in personnel routinely working with Herbicide Orange. With the exception of a few persistent cases of acne, there is no evidence for sustained illness except where permanent organ damage had occurred. Furthermore, there is no documentation of the development of adverse effects more than a few months after exposure had ceased.

Personnel describing any of the above symptoms should be reassured that it is highly unlikely that their present symptoms are related to Herbicide Orange. They should be thoroughly evaluated to identify the etiology of the symptoms and treated accordingly.

Further information, if needed, may be obtained by contacting LtCol John Calcagni, USAF, MC, at the USAF Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory, Brooks AFB, Texas. *AUTODON 240-2001, Commercial 512, 536-4001.*