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Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

March 6, 2013

Domenic A. Baldini
Chief, Joint Services Records
Research Center US Army
Records Management and
Declassification Agency
7701 Telegraph Road
Room 2C12, Kingman Building
Alexandria, Virginia 22315-3860

Dear Mr. Baldini:

On January 25, 2012, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) sent the attached letter to Wesley T. Carter, USAF Retired. Major Carter had contacted ATSDR seeking an opinion about his potential exposure to 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) while piloting C-123 aircraft from 1972-1982. The letter represented the opinion of ATSDR and our subject matter experts.

The ATSDR letter to Major Carter included several important findings. Information contained within parentheses have been added for explanation:

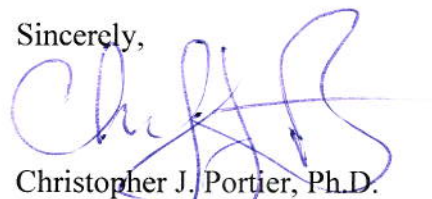
- ATSDR calculated an average value of 6.36 ng TCDD/100 cm² for the three C-123 interior wipe samples collected on November 20, 1994. This calculation was based on information from a consultative letter from Capt Wade Weisman & Ronald Porter (see footnote 3 in correspondence to Major Carter).
- This value is 182 times higher than the screening value established by the United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – Technical Guide 312. (see footnote 2 in correspondence to Major Carter.) [Levels below a screening value are often considered acceptable. Levels above the screening value are often considered unacceptable because of an associated health risk.]
- ATSDR pointed out that the average value of the three wipe samples represented a 200-fold excess cancer risk above the screening value established by the Department of the Army.
- ATSDR stated that the office worker scenario used in Technical Guide 312 likely underestimates the daily exposures of Air Force flight personnel inside confined contaminated aircraft but that this depends upon exposed skin surface area, duration of exposure, hand washing, and food intake [as well as airborne dust].

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- ATSDR stated that TCDD levels on-board contaminated planes were likely **higher in 1972-1982 than in 1994** when samples were taken.
- ATSDR stated that it could not exclude inhalation [or ingestion] exposures to TCDD while working on contaminated aircraft.
- Based upon the available information, **ATSDR concluded that aircrew operating in this, and similar, environments were exposed to TCDD.**

I hope this information is useful. Please contact Thomas Sinks, Ph.D., Deputy Director at 770 488-0604 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Portier, Ph.D.

Director, National Center, and
Environmental Health, and
Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry