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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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

March 6, 2013

Ikeda, Robin (CDC/ONDIEH/OD)

to me, Tom, Sascha, Patty

Dear Major Carter,

Thank you for your email and warm welcome regarding my new acting position. I have recently been briefed about ATSDR actions related to this situation. I have also reviewed the ATSDR correspondence related to C-123 aircraft and I am in agreement with it. I understand that the VA has already received our letters and that ATSDR staff have spoken with VA staff about your situation.

The letter from ATSDR to General Hickey regarding exposures at Camp Lejeune was somewhat different. We sent that letter after completing an extensive dose-reconstruction model of exposures to volatile organic compounds at Camp Lejeune. We were obliged to notify the VA because they had been relying on out-of-date information previously generated by us.

The limited, but high quality, sampling of C-123 aircraft that we reviewed in 2012 confirm that some post-Vietnam era C-123 aircraft were contaminated with TCDD dioxin. All C-123 aircraft have since been destroyed. Thus, it is no longer possible to further characterize human exposure pathways through additional sampling. Without additional environmental sampling information, an official health consultation would not shed additional light on this situation beyond that provided in January 2012 and March 2013. I understand that United States Air Force restricted entry into these contaminated planes once they were found to be contaminated. ATSDR concurs with this position and believes it would also have applied to pilots and crew had these planes remained operational.

I hope this email is helpful. Thank you again for your service to [our](#) country.

Robin

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