October is Agent Orange Awareness Month
The following article was written by USMC Vietnam Veteran, Paul Sutton of New Jersey. Paul is a past Chair of VVA’s National Agent Orange Committee and a nationally recognized expert in the subject matter. The article was published in the Spring, 2008 edition of The Mariner. It is reprinted here with the author’s permission.

The following is taken from a scientific presentation given by the author to the first ever joint US-Vietnam Conference on the use of herbicides in Vietnam, held in March 2002, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

BACKGROUND
Much of South Vietnam is covered with very dense jungle vegetation. This dense vegetation was used as cover by the forces opposing the United States and South Vietnamese armies. One means of counteracting this tactic was the use of herbicides to kill and defoliate vegetation. Herbicides were widely used to destroy enemy cover, food crops and to clear United States base perimeters of vegetation. These chemicals were applied by airplanes (Operation Ranch Hand), helicopters, trucks, riverboats and individual backpacks.

Three million acres of South Vietnam were sprayed with 50,000 tons of Agent Orange and other herbicides, containing over 500 pounds of dioxin. Because herbicides were used in Vietnam to destroy crops and defoliate jungle cover, the military used 27 times more herbicide per unit area than most domestic applications, which are primarily used to prevent weed growth. Dioxin is the focus of veterans’ health concerns because of its toxicity. However, many different chemicals with the potential for producing health problems were used in Vietnam.

Veteran Exposures
There are a variety of means by which veterans could have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. Veterans may have taken part in the actual spraying which involved airplanes, helicopters, in Vietnam river boats, trucks or backpacks. They may also have been exposed to Agent Orange by consuming contaminated food or drinking water. Veterans could have been in areas while spraying occurred or in areas that were recently sprayed and areas that were sprayed and then burned. Burning increases by 25% the dioxin toxicity of the Agent Orange present.

EARLY RESEARCH
Agent Orange had its genesis as a defoliant in an obscure laboratory at the University of Chicago during World War II. Working on experimental plant growth at the time, Professor E.J. Kraus, chairman of the school’s botany department, discovered that he could regulate the growth of plants through the infusion of various hormones. Among the discoveries he made was that certain broadleaf vegetation could be killed by introducing specific chemicals. In some instances, deterioration of the vegetation was noticed within 24-48 hours of the application of the chemicals.

ARMY EXPERIMENTS WITH DEFOILANTS
The Army continued to experiment with 2,4-D during the 1950s and late in the decade found a potent combination of chemicals which quickly found its way into the Army’s chemical arsenal. Army scientists found that by mixing 2,4-D and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) and spraying it on plants, there would be an almost immediate negative effect on the foliage. What they didn’t realize, or chose to ignore, was that 2,4,5-T contained dioxin, a useless by-product of herbicide production. It would be twenty more years until concern was raised about dioxin, a chemical the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would later call “one of the most perplexing and potentially dangerous” known to man. After minimal experimentation in 1961, a variety of chemical agents was shipped to Vietnam to aid in anti-guerrilla efforts. The chemicals were to be used to destroy food sources and eliminate foliage that concealed enemy troop movements.

RAINBOW HERBICIDES
The various chemicals were labeled by color-coded stripes on the barrels, an arsenal of herbicides known by the colors of the rainbow, including Agent Blue (which contained arsenic), Agent White, Agent Purple, and the lethal combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T - Agent Orange.
On January 13, 1962, three U.S. Air Force C-123s left Tan Son Nhut airfield to begin Operation Hades (later called Operation Ranch Hand), the defoliation of portions of South Vietnam's heavily forested countryside in which Viet Cong guerrillas could easily hide. By September, 1962, the spraying program had intensified, despite an early lack of success, as U.S. officials targeted the Ca Mau Peninsula, a scene of heavy communist activity. Ranch Hand aircraft sprayed more than 9,000 acres of mangrove forests there, defoliating approximately 95 percent of the targeted area. That mission was deemed a success and full approval was given for continuation of Operation Ranch Hand as the U.S. stepped up its involvement in Vietnam.

**SIX TO TWENTY-FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN RECOMMENDED**

Over the next nine years, an estimated 12 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed throughout Vietnam. The U.S. military command in Vietnam insisted publicly the defoliation program was militarily successful and had little adverse impact on the economy of the villagers who came into contact with it.

Although the herbicides were widely used in the United States, they usually were heavily diluted with water or oil. In Vietnam, military applications were sprayed at the rate of three gallons per acre and contained approximately 12 pounds of 2,4-D and 13.8 pounds of 2,3,5-T. The military sprayed herbicides in Vietnam six to 25 times the rate suggested by the manufacturer.

In 1962, 15,000 gallons of herbicide were sprayed throughout Vietnam. The following year that amount nearly quadrupled, as 59,000 gallons of chemicals were poured into the forests and streams. The amounts increased significantly after that: 175,000 gallons in 1964, 621,000 gallons in 1965 and 2.28 million gallons in 1966.

**AIR FORCE KNEW OF HEALTH DANGER**

Scientists involved in Operation Ranch Hand and documents uncovered in the late 1980’s in the National Archives present a troubling picture. There are strong indications that military officials were aware as early as 1967 of the limited effectiveness of chemical defoliation and they knew of potential long-term health risks of frequent spraying.

Dr. James Clary was an Air Force scientist in Vietnam who helped write the history of Operation Ranch Hand. Clary says the Air Force knew Agent Orange was far more hazardous to the health of humans than anyone would admit at the time. "When we (military scientists) initiated the herbicide program in the 1960s," Clary wrote in a 1988 letter to a member of Congress investigating Agent Orange, "we were aware of the potential for damage due to dioxin contamination in the herbicide. We were even aware that the 'military' formulation had a higher dioxin concentration than the 'civilian' version, due to the lower cost and speed of manufacture. However, because the material was to be used on the 'enemy,' none of us were overly concerned. We never considered a scenario in which our own personnel would become contaminated with the herbicide. And, if we had, *we would have expected our own government to give assistance to veterans so contaminated.*"

**MIST DRIFT**

One of the first defoliation efforts of Operation Ranch Hand was near a rubber plantation in January, 1962. According to an unsigned U.S. Army memorandum dated January 24, 1966, titled "Use of Herbicides in Vietnam," studies showed that within a week of spraying, the trees in the plantation "showed considerable leaf fall."

"The injury to the young rubber trees occurred even though the plantation was located some 500 yards away and upwind of the target at the time of the spray delivery." The memo went on to say that "vapors of the chemical were strong enough in concentration to cause this injury to the rubber." These vapors, "appear to come from 'mist drift' or from vaporization either in the atmosphere or after the spray has settled on the vegetation." The issue of "mist drift" continued to plague the defoliation program. How far would it drift? How fast? Wind speed and direction were of major concerns in answering these questions. Yet, there were other questions, many of which could not be answered. What happened in humid weather? How quickly did the chemicals diffuse in the atmosphere or were they carried into the clouds and dropped dozens of miles away? How long would the rainbow herbicides linger in the air or on the ground once they were sprayed? It developed that the distance was ten kilometers and more, more than six miles. In essence,
troops operating more than six miles from defoliation operations could find themselves, their water and their food doused with chemical agents, including dioxin-laced Agent Orange.

**DEFOILIANTS DUMPED ON PEOPLE AND INTO WATER SUPPLIES**

In addition to the planned dumps of herbicides, accidental and intentional dumps of defoliants over populated areas and into the water supplies was not unusual, according to government documents.

A memorandum for the record dated October 31, 1967, and signed by Col. W.T. Moseley, chief of MACV's Chemical Operations Division, reported an emergency dump of herbicide far from the intended target. At approximately 1120 hours, October 29, 1967, aircraft #576 made an emergency dump of herbicide in Long Khanh Province due to failure of one engine and loss of power in the other. Approximately 1,000 gallons of herbicide WHITE were dumped from an altitude of 2,500 feet. No mention was made of wind speed or direction, but chemicals dropped from that height had the potential to drift a long way.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in the summer of 1968 sent a letter to the Secretaries of State and Defense urging a study to determine the ecological effects of herbicide spraying in Vietnam. That letter prompted a cable from Secretary of State Dean Rusk to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. The cable, dated August 26, 1968, sought additional information but informed embassy officials of the tactic State was going to take in its reply to the AAAS. "The Department of State's proposed reply notes that the limited investigations of the ecological problem which have been conducted by agencies of the USG thus far have failed to reveal serious ecological disturbances, but acknowledges that the long-term effect of herbicides can be determined definitively only by long-term studies." Rusk suggested releasing "certain non-sensitive" portions of a study on the ecological effects of herbicide spraying in Vietnam done earlier that year by Dr. Fred H. Tschiirley, then assistant chief of the Corps Protection Research Branch, Corps Research Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. Tschiirley went to Vietnam under the auspices of the State Department early in 1968 and returned with exactly the report the U.S. government and the chemical companies wanted.

Tschiirley foresaw no long-term ecological impact on Vietnam as a result of the herbicide spraying. In addition, in his report of April 1968, later reprinted in part in the February 21, 1969 issue of Science magazine, Tschiirley exonerated the chemical companies. "There is no evidence," Tschiirley wrote, "to suggest that the herbicides used in Vietnam will cause toxicity problems for man or animals."

Rusk urged that Tschiirley's report be made public. What Rusk did not mention was that Tschiirley's report had been heavily edited, in essence changing its findings.

**USE OF CHEMICALS CONTINUED IN VIETNAM**

While the debate over the danger of Agent Orange and dioxin heated up in scientific circles, the U.S. Air Force continued flying defoliation sorties, and the troops on the ground continued to live in the chemical mist of the rainbow herbicides. They slept with it, drank it in their water, ate it in their food and breathed it when it dropped out of the air in a fine, white pungent mist.

Some of the troops in Vietnam used the empty Agent Orange drums for barbecue pits. Others stored watermelons and potatoes in them. Still others rigged the residue-laden drums for showers. The spraying continued unabated in 1968, even though, according to military records, it apparently was having minimal effects on the enemy. A series of memorandums uncovered in the National Archives and now declassified indicate that defoliation killed a lot of plants, but had little real effect on military operations.

**ORANGE AEROSOL DISCOVERED**

Meanwhile, the military continued to learn just how toxic Agent Orange could be. On October 23, 1969, an urgent message was sent from Fort Detrick, Maryland, to MACV concerning cleaning of drums containing herbicides. The message provided detailed instructions on how to clean the drums and warned that it was particularly important to clean Agent Orange drums. "Using the (Agent) Orange drums for storing petroleum products without thoroughly cleaning them can result in creation of an orange aerosol when the contaminated petroleum products are consumed in internal combustion engines. The Orange aerosol thus generated can be most devastating to vegetation in the vicinity of engines. Some critics claim that some of the damage to vegetation along Saigon streets can be attributed to this source. White and Blue residues are less of a problem in this regard since they are not volatile." Not only was Agent Orange being sprayed from aircraft, but it was unwittingly being sprayed out of the exhausts of trucks, jeeps and gasoline generators.
VETS BEGIN DEVELOPING HEALTH PROBLEMS

As soldiers who had served in Vietnam attempted to settle back into civilian life following their tours, some of them began to develop unusual health problems. There were skin and liver diseases and what seemed to be an abnormal number of cancers to soft tissue organs such as the lungs and stomach. There also seemed to be an unusually high number of birth defects among children born to Vietnam veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange. Some veterans experienced wild mood swings, while others developed a painful skin rash known as chloracne. Many of these veterans were found to have high levels of dioxin in their blood, but scientists and the U.S. government insisted there was no link between their illnesses and Agent Orange. In the mid 1970s, there was renewed interest in dioxin and its effects on human health following an industrial accident in Seveso, Italy, in which dioxin was released into the air, causing animal deaths and human sickness.

STUDIES CONTRADICTORY AND CONFUSING

By 1983, the results of studies of Agent Orange and dioxin exposure began to trickle in. They were, for the most part, contradictory and confusing. A series of studies conducted between 1974 and 1983 by Dr. Lennart Hardell, the so called Swedish studies, showed a link between exposure to Agent Orange and soft tissue sarcomas and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. And in July 1983, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report citing “an association” between dioxin exposure and incidence of soft tissue sarcoma.

TEST RESULTS CONTINUE TO BE MIXED

Results of Agent Orange tests continued to be mixed. The results varied greatly, depending on who was doing the testing. In December, 1985, the Air Force released the third of its Operation Ranch Hand studies. It confirmed the other two: that there was no evidence that Agent Orange had any adverse affects on those who handled it during the war. "At this time, there is no evidence of increased mortality as a result of herbicide exposure among individuals who performed the Ranch Hand spray operation in Southeast Asia," the Air Force concluded.

After seven years of study, the CDC had made no progress on one of the most important and highly publicized issues of the war in Vietnam. In charge of the CDC study was Dr. Vernon Houk, director of the agency's Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control. The White House's Agent Orange Working Group was supposed to supervise the CDC study while the Pentagon's Environmental Support Group was charged with providing the CDC with records of Agent Orange spraying and troop deployment. Houk's CDC team complained throughout the study that those records were too spotty to make a scientific study of the effects of Agent Orange on soldiers.

Not so, said the Pentagon. Richard Christian, head of the Pentagon's Environmental Support Group, testified before Congress in mid 1986 that the records of troop movements and spraying were more than adequate for a scientific study. Christian's testimony was bolstered by two other sources. Retired Army Maj. Gen. John Murray had been asked by Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger in early 1986 to undertake a study to determine if Pentagon records were adequate for purposes of the study. After four months, Murray also determined that the records for a comprehensive study of Agent Orange were more than adequate.

STUDY CALLED A FRAUD

But again, there was more information available that was never presented. The Institute of Medicine in the weeks before the CDC released its results of blood tests wrote a stinging rebuke of the CDC's tests methods. It said that none of the CDC's conclusions was supported by scientific data. The CDC refused to turn this report over to the White House. "Either it was a politically rigged operation or it was a monumentally bungled operation," said Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY), chairman of the Government Operations Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee. Other information began turning up that there were concerted efforts by various agencies of the government to conceal records and information about the effects of Agent Orange. Daschle learned that there were major discrepancies between a January 1984 draft of the Air Force's Operation Ranch Hand study and the February 1984 report. According to Daschle, the draft showed there were twice as many birth defects among the children of Ranch Hand
participants. "The draft also reported that the Ranch Handers were less well, than the controls by a ratio of 5 to 1," said Daschle.

But these results were deleted from the final Ranch Hand report, which said there had been no adverse effects from exposure to Agent Orange. "The Air Force deleted these findings from the final report at the suggestion of a Ranch Hand Advisory Committee set up by the White House Agent Orange Working Group," said Daschle.

Air Force scientists involved in the study said they were pressured by non-scientists within the Air Force and the White House to change the results and delete critical information for the final report. Daschle says he has even obtained two versions of the minutes of the meeting in which that pressure was applied. One confirms what the scientists told him. Another set deletes that information. "What happened there was a fraud perpetrated by people whose names we still do not know," said Daschle.

In a study released March 29, 1990, the CDC admitted that Vietnam veterans face a higher risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, but denied that it was a result of exposure to Agent Orange. It said the studies showed that Vietnam veterans do not have higher rates of soft tissue sarcomas, Hodgkin's disease, nasal cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer and liver cancer.

**BIZARRE FINDING**

One of the more bizarre aspects of this report from the CDC was the claim that those veterans who suffered most from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma had served on Navy ships off the coast of Vietnam. It said that those who had served in III Corps, which had some of the heaviest Agent Orange spraying of the war, seemed to be at lower risk.

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**STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF HERBICIDAL WARFARE IN VIETNAM**

(from the 15th Field Artillery Regiment at www.landscaper.net/agent2.htm)

**Operations Trail Dust and Ranch Hand - August 10, 1961 to October 31, 1971**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL GALLONS USED</th>
<th>TOTAL ACRES EFFECTED</th>
<th>TOTAL SQ MILES EFFECTED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>17,171</td>
<td>5,724</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>74,760</td>
<td>24,920</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>281,607</td>
<td>93,869</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>664,657</td>
<td>221,552</td>
<td>1,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>2,535,788</td>
<td>845,263</td>
<td>3,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>5,123,353</td>
<td>1,707,784</td>
<td>8,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>5,089,010</td>
<td>1,696,337</td>
<td>7,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>4,558,817</td>
<td>1,519,606</td>
<td>7,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>758,966</td>
<td>252,989</td>
<td>1,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>10,039</td>
<td>3,346</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>281,201</td>
<td>93,734</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>19,395,369</td>
<td>6,465,123</td>
<td>30,305</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHEMICAL AGENT</th>
<th>TOTAL GALLONS PROCURED BY DOD</th>
<th>TOTAL GALLONS USED</th>
<th>PERCENT OF TOTAL USED</th>
<th>TOTAL GALLONS REMAINING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>8,208</td>
<td>8,208</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>122,792</td>
<td>122,792</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>2,166,656</td>
<td>2,166,656</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5,600,000</td>
<td>5,239,853</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>360,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>13,927,985</td>
<td>11,712,860</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
<td>2,215,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>21,970,641</td>
<td>19,395,369</td>
<td>2,575,272</td>
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</table>
### Number of Gallons Applied by Fixed Wing Aircraft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corps</th>
<th>Orange</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Blue</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Corps</td>
<td>1,874,360</td>
<td>228,230</td>
<td>252,732</td>
<td>2,355,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Corps</td>
<td>879,338</td>
<td>118,268</td>
<td>90,850</td>
<td>1,088,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Corps</td>
<td>2,103,608</td>
<td>1,853,616</td>
<td>129,005</td>
<td>4,086,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Corps</td>
<td>456,380</td>
<td>197,339</td>
<td>15,815</td>
<td>669,534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These tables do NOT include U.S. Army helicopter or ground applications, or any form of the insecticide programs by GVN or the U.S. Military.

The definitions of the following six herbicides were taken from the Wikipedia web site.

**Agent Orange** or Herbicide Orange (HO) is one of the herbicides and defoliants used by the U.S. military as part of its chemical warfare program, Operation Ranch Hand, during the Vietnam War from 1961 to 1971.

A 50:50 mixture of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D, it was manufactured for the U.S. Department of Defense primarily by Monsanto Corporation and Dow Chemical. The 2,4,5-T used to produce Agent Orange was contaminated with 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzodioxin (TCDD), an extremely toxic dioxin compound. It was given its name from the color of the orange-striped 55 US gallon (208 l) barrels in which it was shipped, and was by far the most widely used of the so-called "Rainbow Herbicides".

**Agent White** is the code name for a herbicide and defoliant used by the U.S. military in its Herbicidal warfare program during the Vietnam War. The name comes from the white stripe painted on the barrels to identify the contents. It was one of the so-called "rainbow herbicides" that included the more infamous Agent Orange. Agent White is commercially available as Dow AgroSciences Tordon 101.

Agent White is a 4:1 mixture of 2,4-D and Picloram. Unlike the more infamous Agent Orange, Agent White did not contain dioxin, which was a contaminant in the defoliants that included 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T). However, it appears the Picloram was contaminated with hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and nitrosamines, both known carcinogens. Agent White was a proprietary product of the Dow Chemical Company. Around 1985, Dow Chemical was forced to re-certify Picloram after having greatly reduced the amounts of both contaminants.

Agent White was often used when Agent Orange was not available, including for several months after the use of Agent Orange was halted in April 1970. Approximately 5.4 million US gallons (20,000 m³) of Agent White was used in Vietnam between 1966 and 1971. In addition the US Military tested Agent White, Tordon 101 and Picloram in varying concentrations at test sites in the US and Puerto Rico in the 1960s.

**Agent Blue**; \((\mathrm{CH}_3)_2\mathrm{AsO} \cdot \mathrm{OH}\), obtained by the oxidation of cacodyl, and having the properties of an exceedingly stable acid; is one of the "rainbow herbicides" that is known for its use by the United States during the Vietnam War. The purpose of Agent Blue was narrow-leaf plants and trees (grass, rice, bamboo, banana, etc.) Agent Blue is a mixture of two arsenic-containing compounds: sodium cacodylate and cacodylic acid. Agent Blue is chemically unrelated to the more infamous Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the war.

Agent Blue affects plants by causing them to dry out. As rice is highly dependent on water to live, using Agent Blue on these paddies can destroy an entire field and leave it unsuitable for further planting. This is why Agent Blue was also used where food was not a factor, but foliage was. Approximately 19.6 million gallons of Agent Blue were used in Vietnam during the war, destroying 500,000 acres (2,000 km²) of crops. From 1965 on the Ansul Chemical Company delivered the herbicide Phytar 560 with the 26.4% sodium cacodylate and 4.7% cacodylic acid in water.

Today, large quantities of the chemical named Agent Blue are still used on lawns and crops throughout the USA. Taken from ZNet Ecology. It has been over twelve years since the last herbicide mission that was done. But there is still
big controversy going around about the past missions that were sent out. Agent Blue and White are the least effective of all the herbicides.

**Agent Purple** was chemically similar to the better-known Agent Orange, both of them were consisting of a mixture of the herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T and in both cases the 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T constituted equal shares of the Agent. The difference was in the form of 2,4,5-T. While all the 2,4,5-T in Agent Orange was n-butyl ester 2,4,5-T in Agent Purple the 2,4,5-T was itself mixture of its two salt forms: 60% n-butyl ester 2,4,5-T, and 40% isobutyl ester 2,4,5-T. The Agent Purple had then the following composition: 50% n-butyl ester 2,4-D, 30% n-butyl ester 2,4,5-T, and 20% isobutyl ester 2,4,5-T.

Even prior to Operation Ranch Hand (1962-1971) it was known that 2,4,5-T, and thus Agents Purple, Pink, Green and Orange, were contaminated with tetrachlorodibenzodioxin (TCDD), an extremely toxic and persistent by-product formed during synthesis. Dioxin-levels varied considerably from batch to batch, and even within the same batch; generally, agents produced earlier, such as Purple and Pink suffered from higher levels of contamination. A 2003 *Nature* paper by Stellman et al., which re-apprised the average TCDD content of Agent Orange from the 3 ppm that USAF had reported to a level of 13 ppm, also estimated that Agent Purple may have had 32.8 ppm of TCDD on average. A sample of Agent Purple archived at Eglin Air Force Base had an even higher content of 45 ppm TCDD.

Agent Purple was used only in the earliest stages of the spraying program, between 1962 and 1965 as well as in earlier tests conducted by the US military outside of Vietnam. About 500,000 gallons were sprayed in Vietnam total. (~1.9 million liters). When the need to clear brush around CFB Gagetown in Canada arose, quantities of Agent Purple and Agent Orange were also sprayed there in a testing program during 1966 and 1967.

**Agent Pink's** only active ingredient was 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), one of the common phenoxy herbicides of the era. Agent Pink contained about 60%–40% of this active substance. Even prior to Operation Ranch Hand (1962-1971) it was known that a dioxin, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD), is produced as a byproduct of the manufacture of 2,4,5-T, and was present in any of the herbicides that used it, but to greater proportion in the earlier Agents, such as Pink.

A 2003 *Nature* paper by Stellman et al., which re-apprised the average TCDD content of Agent Orange from the 3 ppm that USAF had reported to a level of 13 ppm, also estimated that Agent Pink may have had 65.5 ppm of TCDD on average. The comparatively smaller amounts of Pink and Purple --spraying of 50,312 l of Pink is documented, but an additional 413,852 l appear on procurement records-- probably deposited a large percentage of the total dioxin.

**Agent Green** was mixed with Agent Pink and used for crop destruction. Agent Green's only active ingredient was 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), one of the common phenoxy herbicides of the era. Even prior to Operation Ranch Hand (1962-1971) it was known that a dioxin, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD), is produced as a side effect of the manufacture of 2,4,5-T, and was thus present in any of the herbicides that used it. Owing to Agent Green's consisting entirely of 2,4,5-T, along with the similar Agent Pink, and earlier-produced batches of 2,4,5-T having higher TCDD-levels, it contained many times the average level of dioxin found in Agent Orange.
The Blue Water Navy and Agent Orange/Dioxin Exposure
(from the Fleet Reserve Association website, www.fra.org)

The Fleet Reserve Association urges all Vietnam Veterans to review the latest updates to a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard (USCG) vessels exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam Era. The list, maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is of particular interest to those former service members experiencing health problems related to herbicide exposure, as it may help expedite their claims for VA health and disability benefits.

The list, currently at 285 ships, can be found at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist.asp. Ships will be regularly added to the list based on information confirmed in official records of ship operations: ships that temporarily operated in the inland waterways or docked to the shore; and ships that operated in Vietnam’s close coastal waters for extended periods with evidence that crewmembers went ashore. If a veteran’s service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through his/her military records during the specified time frames, exposure to herbicides can be presumed and service-related benefits may be available for Agent Orange-related ailments.

Thousands of Navy and Coast Guard veterans who served aboard ships during the Vietnam war experience health problems related to herbicide exposure, but their illnesses and disabilities are not automatically considered service-connected in the eyes of the VA. The VA restricts this type of presumptive service connection to veterans who had “boots on the ground” or can prove their ship operated on inland waterways. Each addition to the VA’s list of exposed vessels will make it easier for these veterans to prove exposure.

If you or someone you know served aboard any of these vessels during the times indicated and has herbicide-related health problems, a VA claim for exposure to an herbicide agent should be filed as soon as possible. Veterans should understand that the list is not complete and presumption of exposure will not be denied solely because a veteran’s ship is not on it.

A recent report by the Institute of Medicine (books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=13026&page=R1) proves the distillation process used to generate potable water from sea water did not remove Agent Orange from the water; it actually enhanced the effect of the dioxin by a factor of ten (10). This report provides strong evidence for extending the presumption of exposure to Blue Water Veterans.

C-123 Aircraft Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure
(from www.c123agentorange.com and the Department of Veterans Affairs website)

C-123 medium assault transports used for spraying Agent Orange during the Vietnam War remained contaminated with TCDD (dioxin) until their destruction as toxic waste in 2010. Veterans (aircrew, maintenance and aerial port) assigned to these aircraft need military herbicide exposure medical care.

VA’s Office of Public Health claims to have reviewed all available scientific information regarding the exposure potential. The VA has concluded that the potential of exposure for the post-Vietnam crews that flew or maintained those planes is extremely low and therefore, the risk of long-term health effects is minimal. While the VA claims there is only a minimal risk of long-term health effects to these veterans, it is best to err on the side of caution and consult a Veterans Service Officer about filing a claim for service-connection due to Agent Orange/Dioxin exposure.
Camp Lejeune Water Contamination
(from the Department of Veterans Affairs website)

From the 1950s to the 1980s, Veterans and family members living or serving at the USMC Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including industrial solvents and components of fuels.

On August 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law the “Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012”. For veterans who served at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987, this law provides VA health care for fifteen (15) medical conditions. Support for health care costs may also be provided for family members for these conditions once new regulations are published.

The new law requires VA to provide health care for the following illnesses or conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bladder cancer</th>
<th>Miscarriage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast cancer</td>
<td>Multiple myeloma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal cancer</td>
<td>Myelodysplastic syndromes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female infertility</td>
<td>Neurobehavioral effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatic steatosis</td>
<td>Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney cancer</td>
<td>Renal toxicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukemia</td>
<td>Scleroderma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be eligible for care under this law, the Veteran must have served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than thirty (30) days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987.

Veterans who are eligible for care under the Camp Lejeune authority, regardless of current enrollment status with the VA, will not be charged a copayment for health care related to the above illnesses or conditions, nor will a third party insurance company be billed for these services. Copayments for care unrelated to the above illnesses or conditions may be applicable.

Before the VA can provide health care to covered family members, regulations must be published. Once the regulations are in place, a family member will need to show documentation that the Servicemember was stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days, their relationship to the Camp Lejeune Servicemember, and proof of residency on Camp Lejeune for not less than 30 days between the qualifying dates. VA will be the final payer for health care related to the 15 covered conditions after payment has been made by your other health insurance plan, Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE. You are strongly urged not to alter or cancel current health insurance as this could put family members at great risk for obtaining and paying for health care for anything that is not within the 15 conditions provided for under the law.

For further information and to sign up for updates: the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Public Health has a website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp

The USMC encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register to receive notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/index.aspx
Where Else did the U.S. Military Use Herbicides?
(from www.agentorangerecord.com/information/what_is_dioxin/sites/P1/)

Beginning as early as 1943, the U.S. Military began to test various chemicals to be used to control vegetation. In 1943, they enlisted the University of Chicago to study various applications of herbicides, including 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Starting in 1944, the military began testing the use of herbicides (though not yet 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D) against tropical foliage in Florida. In the 1950s, the Department of the Army Chemical Corps at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, began to develop herbicide formulations and spray equipment in the event they would be needed for the Korean War. Spray equipment and herbicides were stored at Guam, but never used during the Korean War.

Throughout the 1950s and early 60s, testing of herbicides continued to be conducted in Florida, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Montana, Maryland, North Dakota, Utah, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, and New York. Most of the early tests were targeted against crops, though spraying of foliage became the focus as Vietnam entered more and more into the picture. In 1959, in Camp Drum, New York, 1,035 acres of sugar maples and other hardwoods were sprayed in a test to see how effective the herbicides were against foliage. By the early 1960s, formulations of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D had been developed to be used for defoliation, and organic arsenicals to be used for crop destruction. In addition, spray equipment had been adapted to enable aerial spraying at controlled rates and concentrations.

Throughout the 1960s, testing of herbicides, particularly of combinations of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, took place in Florida, Hawaii, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. In addition, overseas testing was conducted in Canada, Korea, Puerto Rico, India, and Thailand.

For a listing of those sites in or outside the U.S. where herbicides were tested or stored, go to www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/outside_vietnam_usa.asp

Veterans’ Diseases Associated with Agent Orange
(from the Department of Veterans Affairs website)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for disability compensation or survivors’ benefits for these diseases.

**AL Amyloidosis** - A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.

**Chronic B-cell Leukemias** - A type of cancer which affects white blood cells.

**Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)** - A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA’s rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

**Diabetes Mellitus Type 2** - A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body’s inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

**Hodgkin’s Disease** - A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

**Ischemic Heart Disease** - A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart that leads to chest pain.

**Multiple Myeloma** - A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.
Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma - A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.

Parkinson’s Disease - A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement.

Peripheral Neuropathy, Acute and Subacute - A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Currently, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure and resolve within two years.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda - A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA’s rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer - Cancer of the prostate: one of the most common cancers among men.

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer) - Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or mesothelioma) - A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

Birth Defects in Children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans (from the Department of Veterans Affairs website)

Spina Bifida (except Spina Bifida Occulta) - a defect in the developing fetus that results in incomplete closing of the spine, is associated with a Veterans’ exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.

Surgery to close the infant’s back and to protect the spinal cord is generally performed within 24 hours after birth to minimize the risk of infection and to preserve existing function in the spinal cord.

People born with spina bifida may need other surgeries and extensive medical care because of the potential paralysis resulting from the damage to the spinal cord. Hydrocephalus also can be controlled by a surgical procedure, which relieves the fluid build-up by redirecting it to the abdominal area. Because of medical advances, most children born with spina bifida live well into adulthood.

Signs and symptoms depend on the type and severity, a [person with spina bifida may have nerve damage, paralysis and be unable to walk, and have problems with their bowels or bladder. Sometimes spina bifida can cause hydrocephalus, or fluid in the brain.

VA presumes that spina bifida in biological children of certain Vietnam-Era Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange was caused by the Veterans’ military service. Children who meet the following requirements may be eligible for VA compensation (a monthly allowance based on the child’s degree of disability), health care, and vocational training (provides up to 24 months of full-time training, rehabilitation and job assistance with the possibility of an extension up to 24 months if needed to achieve the employment goal. The child may not begin vocational training before his or her 18th birthday or the date he or she completes secondary schooling, whichever comes first).

- Are biological children of Veterans who served:
  - In Vietnam during the period from January 9, 1962 through May 7, 1975, or
  - In or near the Korean demilitarized zone between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971 and were exposed to herbicides. Veterans who served in a unit in or near the Korean demilitarized zone anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971 are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.
  - Were conceived after the date on which the Veteran first entered Vietnam or the Korean demilitarized zone during the qualifying service period.
Birth Defects in Children of Women Vietnam Veterans
(from the Department of Veterans Affairs website)

VA presumes that certain birth defects in biological children of women Vietnam Veterans were caused by military service when the birth mother served in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.

Birth defects are abnormalities present at birth that result in mental or physical disabilities.

VA recognizes a wide range of birth defects as associated with women Veterans’ service in Vietnam. These diseases are not tied to herbicides, including Agent Orange, or dioxin exposure, but rather to the birth mother’s service in Vietnam.

Covered birth defects include, but are not limited to, the following conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achondroplasia</td>
<td>Hypospadias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleft lip and cleft palate</td>
<td>Imperforate anus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital heart disease</td>
<td>Neural tube defects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital talipes equinovarus (clubfoot)</td>
<td>Poland syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal and intestinal atresia</td>
<td>Pyloric stenosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallerman-Streiff syndrome</td>
<td>Syndactyly (fused digits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip dysplasia</td>
<td>Tracheoesophageal fistula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirschprung’s disease (congenital megacolon)</td>
<td>Undescended testicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocephalus due to aqueductal stenosis</td>
<td>Williams syndrome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conditions due to family disorders, birth-related injuries, or fetal or neonatal infirmities with well-established causes are not covered. If any of the birth defects listed above are determined to be a family disorder in a particular family, they are not covered birth defects.

Important Dates Concerning Herbicides, Agent Orange, and Vietnam Veterans

1940s - Arthur W. Galston, a graduate student at the University of Illinois, discovers that chemicals that inhibit plant growth can also increase the number of floral buds and harvestable pods produced on soybean plants getting ready to flower. Scientific studies on the effects of growth inhibitors continue during World War II, at Ft. Detrick, Maryland.

1950 - President Dwight Eisenhower refuses to sign an order that would allow the use of herbicides in Korea.

19?? - Research on herbicides continues at Ft. Detrick, Maryland.

1959 - The United States Military experiments with herbicides at Fort Drum, New York.


1962 - The first shipment of Agent Orange arrives in Vietnam. Systematic testing continues for years.

1965 - Operation Ranch Hand “Only we can prevent forests” begins in Vietnam.

1966 - Professor Arthur W. Galston and 12 colleagues from the American Society of Plant Physiologists send a letter to President Lyndon B. Johnson expressing their concerns that herbicides might harm human beings in Vietnam, and challenging the use of herbicides to destroy food crops.
1967 - A team of Japanese film makers interview Vietnamese who live in areas where Agent Orange has been used.

1969 - Dr. Bert Pfeiffer and other scientists visit Vietnam. Also, reports of frequent birth defects in defoliated areas of Vietnam.

1969 - Bionetics Laboratories of Bethesda, Maryland, releases the results of its study, completed in 1965, that even in the lowest dose given, 2,4-5-T causes cleft palates, missing and deformed eyes, cystic kidneys, and enlarged livers in the offspring of laboratory animals.

1970 - Congress directs the Department of Defense to engage the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of the ecological and physiological effects of Agent Orange.


1970 - April - The Surgeon General reports to the Hart Committee on restrictions of 2,4,5-T; suspension of liquid formulation for home use; suspension of all aquatic uses; intent to cancel registration of non-liquid formulations for use around homes and on all food crops.

1970 - Dow and other chemical companies appeal decision to cancel use on food crops.

1970 - Thomas Whiteside writes in the June 20, 1970 issue of The New Yorker that the sale and use of 2,4,5-T continues within the United States.

1978 - Paul Rheutershan announces that he “died in Vietnam and didn’t even know it.” Beginning of class action lawsuit on behalf of Vietnam Veterans and their families.

1979 - Environmental Protection Agency issues emergency suspension of 2,4,5-T and 2-45-TP (Silvex) in the United States.


1983 - February - The State of New York Temporary Commission on Dioxin Exposure publishes What You Should Know About Dioxin

1983 - Veterans class action lawsuit settled out of court for 180 million dollars.


2001 - The New Jersey Agent Orange Commission publishes the Physicians Desk Guide

2003 - April - VVA’s National Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee publishes an insert to the NVLSP Self-help Guide on Agent Orange

2004 - Vietnamese launch class action lawsuit charging chemical manufacturers of Agent Orange with war crimes.
2005 - Judge Julius Weinstein dismisses class action lawsuit on behalf of Vietnamese people exposed to Agent Orange.

2009 - VVA starts the “Faces of Agent Orange” project

2009 - June - The Ford Foundation announces it is funding and launching a full-scale, public relations campaign to win the sympathy of the American people for the plight of Agent Orange victims in Vietnam.

2009 - June - Understanding the Impact 40 Years Later U.S. Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange: National Organization on Disability with funding from the Ford Foundation; Special Initiative on Agent Orange/Dioxin is published

2009 - July - VVA holds its first Agent Orange Town Hall meeting at the AVVA Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY

2010 - January - VVA’s National Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee presents its Position Paper on Birth Defects


2010 - February - VVA publishes its Self-Help Guide to Service-Connected Disability Compensation for Exposure to Agent Orange

2012 - September - VVA Chapter 20 holds an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting in Rochester, NY

2013 - September - VVA Chapter 77 holds an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting in Buffalo, NY

2013 - October - VVA Chapter 862 holds an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting in State College, PA

Want More Information About Agent Orange/Dioxin?

One of the best resources for information about Agent Orange/Dioxin is the web page for VVA’s National Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee - www.vva.org/Committees/AgentOrange/index.html this web page is a treasure trove of information about Agent Orange/Dioxin. On the web page for the committee, you can learn who the committee members are, what VVA Convention Resolutions are about Agent Orange, find links to various other sites about Agent Orange, read/download VVA’s Self-Help Guide to Service Connected Disability Compensation for Exposure to Agent Orange, read Admiral Zumwalt’s report to the VA concerning Agent Orange, and many other items of interest.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) publishes periodic updates on Agent Orange and Veterans which can be read at iom.edu/Activities/Veterans/AgentOrangeNinthUpdate.aspx

Another excellent source of information about Agent Orange/Dioxin can be found at www.agentorangelegacy.blogspot.com

A good place to start getting information on Agent Orange/Dioxin and how it affects our children and grandchildren can be found at www.birthdefects.org/research/veterans.php

Other helpful websites: www.agentorangelegacy.com; to unite the children who are suffering the effects of AO

www.agentorangepilotoftears.com; support network for victims and widows

www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/; VA benefits website for AO exposure

www.avva.org; Associates of Vietnam veterans of America website
For more suggestions on web sites, videos, books, and studies on Agent Orange/Dioxin go to: www.hatfieldgroup.com/services/containment-monitoring-agent-orange/useful-agent-orange-websites-videos-books-studies/ OR get to a computer and type Agent Orange into a search engine and you’ll be amazed at the amount of information that comes up.

**How to Get Help**

If you think that you or a family member has a health condition related to your military service, make an appointment to see a Veterans Service Officer and find out how to file a claim with the Veterans Administration.

In Monroe County, call the Veterans Service Agency at (585) 753-6040
In Wayne County, call the Veterans Service Agency at (315) 946-5993
In Orleans County, call the Veterans Service Agency at (585) 589-7000 x-3218
In Ontario County, call the Veterans Service Agency at (585) 396-4185
In Genesee County, call the Veterans Service Agency at (585) 343-8216

**Go to the nearest VA medical facility and request an Agent Orange Registry Health Exam:**

The VA’s Agent Orange Registry health exam alerts veterans to **possible long-term health problems** that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service. The Registry data helps the VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

The comprehensive health exam includes an exposure history, medical history, physical exam, and any tests if needed. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veterans and in a follow-up letter.

**Important Points About Registry Health Exams**

- **Free** to eligible Veterans and no co-payment
- **Not a disability compensation exam** or required for other VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA’s health care system is **not necessary**
- Based on the **Veteran’s recollection** of service, not on their military records
- Will **not confirm** exposure to Agent Orange
- Veterans can receive **additional registry exams**, if new problems develop
- Veterans’ family members are **not eligible** for an Agent Orange Registry exam

**These Veterans are Eligible for the Agent Orange Registry Health Exam**

**Vietnam**

- Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, regardless of length of time
- Veterans who served aboard smaller river patrol and swift boats that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam (also known as “Brown Water Veterans”)

**Korea**

- Veterans who served in a unit in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971
Thailand

- U.S. Air Force Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases near U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975
- U.S. Army Veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975
- U.S. Army Veterans who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the Army Veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned a military occupational specialty whose duty placed him or her at or near the base perimeter.

Other potential Agent Orange exposures

- Veterans who may have been exposed to herbicides during a military operation or as a result of testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes.

**Contact Your Local VA Environmental Health Coordinator about Getting an Agent Orange Registry Health Exam**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bath VA Medical Center</th>
<th>Canandaigua VAMC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bath, NY 14810</td>
<td>Canandaigua, NY 14424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 Veterans Avenue</td>
<td>Brenda Bryant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 Fort Hill Avenue</td>
<td>Mary Ann Hartranft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly VanGelder</td>
<td>April Reber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(607) 664-4880</td>
<td>(607) 664-4899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Kelly.VanGelder@va.gov">Kelly.VanGelder@va.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:April.Reber@va.gov">April.Reber@va.gov</a></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syracuse VAMC</th>
<th>Rochester Outpatient Clinic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse, NY 13210</td>
<td>Rochester, NY 14620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 Irving Avenue</td>
<td>465 Westfall Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul A. Denis</td>
<td>Michael VanZummeren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(315) 425-4400 x54335</td>
<td>(315) 425-4400 x-56579</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Paul.Denis@va.gov">Paul.Denis@va.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Michael.VanZummeren@va.gov">Michael.VanZummeren@va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deidra Brooks</td>
<td>Cheryl Rutherford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(585) 463-2685</td>
<td>(585) 463-2631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Deidra.Brooks@va.gov">Deidra.Brooks@va.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cheryl.Rutherford@va.gov">Cheryl.Rutherford@va.gov</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buffalo VAMC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo, NY 14215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3495 Bailey Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arleen D. Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(716) 862-8787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Arleen.Haas@va.gov">Arleen.Haas@va.gov</a></td>
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</table>
AGENT ORANGE PIN ORDER FORM

SHIPPING INFORMATION:
Name: ___________________________ State/Chapter: _______________________
Address: _________________________ Contact Phone #: ________________________
City: ___________________________ ST: _______ Zip: ________ - ________
E-Mail: ____________________________

PRICING & SHIPPING:
Pin(s): 1-99 $3/ea. 100 pins or more: $2/ea.

QUANTITY Total pricing for pin(s): $ ____________

Standard Shipping: less than 100 pins add $5.00 $ ________________
Standard Shipping: 100 pins or more add $10.00 $ ________________

Total (pricing and shipping) $ ________________

Make check or money order payable to: AVVA
Mail form and payment to: Penny Meinhardt, National Fundraising Chair
4215 Dove Road; Lot #67
Port Huron, MI 48060-7409
vvameinhardt@comcast.net
810-985-6595

COMMITTEE USE ONLY
Rec’d date: ________________________
Ship’d Date: ________________________
# MEMORIAL REPORT

Website  [http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/](http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/)

Remembering our Fallen Heroes - October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Felix A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur Thomas</td>
<td>Stachowski</td>
<td>10/2/1948</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Way</td>
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<td>Aaron</td>
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<td>John Lemoine</td>
<td>Coon</td>
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<td>David Bruce</td>
<td>Knapp</td>
<td>10/8/1949</td>
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<td>James V</td>
<td>Bigtree</td>
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<td>Melvin David</td>
<td>Morgan Jr.</td>
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<td>Wilson</td>
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<td>Robert Ayers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Jeremiah</td>
<td>Valesko Jr.</td>
<td>10/20/1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Joseph</td>
<td>Seiler</td>
<td>10/20/1948</td>
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<td>John Bruce</td>
<td>Mularz</td>
<td>10/21/1947</td>
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<td>John Louis</td>
<td>Waugh</td>
<td>10/22/1944</td>
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<td>Ronald Paul</td>
<td>Sisson</td>
<td>10/26/1942</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Ronald</td>
<td>Smallridge</td>
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<td>John Carl</td>
<td>Gresens</td>
<td>10/29/1946</td>
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**Memorial Tours & Presentations**

Persons interested in onsite tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact: Chuck Macaluso  
(H) 585-225-8288  
chuckmac66@yahoo.com
With the Convention in full swing, I had the opportunity to attend an emotional POW/MIA memorial service in front of the Hyatt Regency Hotel early Friday morning. The local VVA Chapter Honor Guard presented the colors while a wreath was thrown into the St. John River in honor of all those who fought and who are still missing from the Vietnam War.

One Very special speaker was Bill Bryns from Orange Park Florida who survived 10 month in captivity after his plane was shot down over North Vietnam. He said that his faith in God is what helped him and his family survived and was bothered by the fact that many never returned home. He remained in the service after his release and eventually retired from the US Air Force. When asked if he had any regrets, he said yes, that he had to leave a perfectly good plane in Vietnam. After the ceremony, we all returned to the Convention for the business at hand that day. The next morning, I was notified by several of my fellow delegates that I was on the local FCN News while the ceremony was being recorded. I was asked but decided not to sign any autographs while on Chapter business.
Unfortunately there have been no reports from the Defense Prisoner of War* Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action (JPAC) and the National League of Families this month. The total number of Americans missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War still stands at 1644.

There are reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars:

- **Capt. Henry S. White** and **Staff Sgt. Thomas L. Meek**, US Marine Corps were lost on July 21, 1943 on Mavea Island, republic of Vanuatu. They were accounted for on July 3, 2013. They will be buried as a group with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **PFC. Herene K. Blevins**, US Army was lost on December 2, 1950 near the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on August 6, 2013 and will be laid to rest with full military honors in Hagerstown, Maryland.
- **Sgt. Charles L. Scott**, US Army was lost December 2, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for August 7, 2013 and will be laid to rest with full military honors on September 5, 2013 in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- **PFC. Ronald C. Huffman**, US Army was lost on February 12, 1951 near Saemal, South Korea. He was accounted for on August 8, 2013. He will be laid to rest with full military honors in Princeton, West Virginia.
- **SGT. Melvin E. Wolfe**, US Army was lost on December 12, 1950 at the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on August 26, 2013. He will be laid to rest with full military honors on September 23, 2013 in Boulder City, Nevada.
- **2nd LT. Vernal J. Bird**, US Army Air Corps was lost on March 1944 in Papua, New Guinea. He was accounted for on August 28, 2013. He will be laid to rest with full military honors on September 28, 2013 in Springville, Utah.

It has been a long time brothers but you are finally home. 
Rest in Peace for we never gave up hope.

**Birthdays:**

- **A - June 14**  
- **USMC - Nov. 10**  
- **N - Oct. 13**  
- **AF - Aug. 16**  
- **CG - Sept. 9**

**Join the Marines!**

At the November meeting our Marines will celebrate their 238th Birthday with Chapter members. Come celebrate and have a piece of cake.

*Hosted by - Bruce VanApeldoorn & Brother Marines*
POW / MIA Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony
September 14th, Vietnam Veterans Memorial

POW/MIA Chairman, Joe Peck, opens the ceremony.

Chapter member Jerry Lamb

Ida Gatto enjoying the warm September weather!

Patriot Guard member, Rob Podiaski, presented honors throughout the ceremony.
POW/MIA Remembrance Day - September 20th
Charlotte Beach Memorial

L to R: Tom Puff, Joe Peck, & Don Amerose

L to R: Joe Peck & Dick Oleksyn place the wreath
I mentioned these sites at our August membership meeting for the Affordable Healthcare Act information... [http://www.va.gov/health/aca](http://www.va.gov/health/aca)  This is the VA website for information regarding the Affordable Healthcare Act for Veterans.  [https://www.healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)  This is the health insurance marketplace for non-veterans; it is not fully operating yet but does have information on it currently.

The ROPC and Canandaigua VA MC will be conducting “walk in flu shot clinics” at both locations starting on or about September 30, 2013.  During the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, no appointments necessary for enrolled veterans using the VA health care system.  Look for signs and directions at both locations.  The flu shots will be administered through Wednesday, November 27, 2013 via this walk in basis.  After that, you can have a flu shot during your routine VA primary care visit through the flu season.  Last year (2012) the local VA locations administered over 9,000 flu shots.  The goal this year is over 10,000, mark your calendars and get the shot before flu season gets a hold on your health.

**Have You Heard?** ► *Murphy’s Other 15 Laws*  In a continuing effort to “smile more, frown less, please read on...

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He, who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don’t.
7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there’s a 90% probability you’ll get it wrong.
9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone from California would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
11. The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.
12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
13. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
14. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
15. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people, who weren’t smart enough to get out of jury duty.
Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 555 members and AVVA is at 45 members as of 07/31/13. We have had 7 Vietnam Vets who have not renewed this month and 2 Associate Members who have not renewed.

Please renew your membership when you get the notice from National. This way you will be kept on the Membership Roster, otherwise you will be dropped from membership. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact me.

We have hit a lull in new member registration; please try to recruit a new member to keep us moving forward with membership. Chapter 20 Membership is open to U.S. Veterans who served active duty (other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 07, 1975, or any duty location between August 05, 1964 and May 07, 1975. Associate Membership is open to anyone; you do not need to be a Veteran.

I am asking all members of Chapter 20 and AVVA to keep in mind, when you meet people to ask them to join us. Membership Applications are available on our Website or by contacting me.
Convention Report by Lynn Gursslin

This was my first opportunity to attend the National Convention in Jacksonville Florida. We left Rochester at 6:30 am and with some long delays during the day we finally arrived in Florida at 5pm. That evening about 7pm we all had a chance to attend the welcome home party hosted by the National Convention Committee. Wednesday morning was the opening session and presentation of the colors. There was entertainment and we also had the opportunity to listen to the guest speaker David Bonior.

That evening I attended the POW/MIA committee where they spoke about anyone who may remember where they were in Vietnam during any certain battle or action. They were looking for information on gravesites where they could direct the Vietnamese to find and identify the remains of their 10,000 plus missing. In turn, the Vietnamese would help us in locating our missing. I really got a lot out of this committee and was glad I attended. I also had the opportunity to attend the Homeless veteran committee with Ron Trovato. I really learned a lot about the homeless men and women who are out there today. If you are interested in learning more about this, I was able to obtain information and books about this matter. Anyone can come and see me at any membership meeting.

On Thursday, we spent the whole day going over all the new amendments and bylaws which was very interesting and along with much controversy and debates.

Early Friday morning, all the delegates participated in the elections for new officers for the National Organization. After which we all finished up with the general session. When that ended around 11:30 am we went and rented 2 vehicles and a group of us went to St. Augustine to spend the rest of the day sightseeing and shopping. Hank introduced us to a local BBQ place where we all enjoyed and raved about the excellent cuisine. After we arrived at our destination, some of the group went to the old fort and the rest went through the old street of shops were we had the opportunity to people watch and enjoy some local goodies like their ice cream, while the women shopped feverishly. After a big lightning storm started to roll in, we decided it was time to head back to Jacksonville. We did however make a quick stop along the ocean to enjoy a little beach walk. All in all, we all had a great time even though it was cut short by the incoming storm.

Saturday the results of the election were posted and the new officers were sworn in for their 2-year term. That night we all attended the banquet that was very enjoyable with some great food. We also watched as many received achievement awards that were given out from the National Organization including one to a member of Chapter 20 and one to Arlo Guthrie.

Sunday was our travel day to finally come home. I really enjoyed this convention and had a chance to meet a lot of people from different states and obtained a lot of valuable information. This was the biggest convention ever with almost 800 delegates attending and I am glad I was a part this experience. I definitely look forward to the next one.

God Bless, Lynn Grusslin

Happy Anniversary to Chuck & Joan Macaluso October 18th, 1969
At the September membership meeting, President Valentino presented the Treasurer with a check earned by the Marching Unit’s participation in the Webster Firemen’s Parade.

Patrick Fisher of UsTOO, a Prostate Cancer support group, was a guest speaker at the September membership meeting.

Chuck Macaluso
October 5th, 1947
If you do not receive your emailed notice of the BTL by the end of the first week (each month) go to Chapter 20 website vva20.org and download from that site.
Susan Schutz, Director of the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic on Westfall Road will talk about the status of the new clinic for Rochester. Her presentation will be at the 40 & 8 Chateau at 933 University Avenue at 7:30pm. ALL veterans are invited to attend the presentation. For more information email davdsoropc@gmail.com or call 463-2782.

This is a great opportunity to hear right from the people who know, what the actual plans are for the ROPC in Rochester. This is YOUR clinic, please show the VA that veterans care and are interested by attending this event.
The sky was a brilliant blue
It was the perfect background
The sun was just setting
The breeze was settling down
THE DAY THE FLAGS STOOD STILL
Seven mighty flags standing proud
Not a ripple could be found
Old Glory stood as proud as could be
She saluted the mighty six
THE DAY THE FLAGS STOOD STILL
As the memorial ceremony started
For the POW/MIA’S no one moved
The “mighty six” were the branches of the military
No, the POW/MIA Flag was not forgotten
THE DAY THE FLAGS STOOD STILL
As day turned to darkness
The moon was out as brilliant as can be
It looked down on all the flags
Old Glory stood as proud as could be
THE DAY THE FLAGS STOOD STILL
The flag that was the brightest
Was the POW/MIA Flag
THAT FLAG WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN
Even on.............THE DAY THE FLAGS STOOD STILL

“I was inspired to write this from where I stood on the walkway looking at the tent area behind it were the 7 flags - ARMY, MARINES, AIR FORCE, NAVY, COAST GUARD, OLD GLORY AND THE POW/MIA FLAG. The moon was in the right spot to look down on the area and the ceremony - it was the perfect setting for everything.”

Bob Wilkinson, Associate Member, Chapter 20
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: ___________________________________
Zip: ________ County ____________________

I am not a Vietnam Vet, but I want to help Vietnam Veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: ____________________
(     ) $10  (     ) $20  (     ) $50  (     )    Other ($__________)

Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (for Vietnam-era veterans)

Term: (     ) 1 year: $20  (     ) 3 years $50
(     ) Life Membership:
    $200 (ages 56-60),
    $175 (ages 61-65),
    $150 (ages 66-71)
    $100 (ages 72+)

Date of Birth: ____________________ Sex (     ) M (     ) F
Home Phone: (     ) __________________________
Work Phone: (     ) __________________________
Email Address: ___________________________
Sponsor: _________________________________

Payment Options: (     ) Check   (     ) Money Order
Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214 to:
Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612
Attn: Membership

VVA is a non-profit service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.

BETWEEN THE LINES:
Between the Lines is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20 or the Vietnam Veterans of America, its’ officers, board of directors or the general membership. Between the Lines can be viewed on the Chapter 20 website at www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles and suggestions. Submissions should include name and phone number and can be sent to Between the Lines, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 or emailed to chuckmac66@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity and to not use materials we think inappropriate for the publication. Deadline for submissions for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. Exceptions may be granted by contacting the editor.
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BOARD MEETINGS

October 1, 2013
November 5, 2013
December 3, 2013

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

October 10, 2013
November 14, 2013
December 12, 2013

Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on Volunteer Contact List
Contact: Chuck Macaluso
(h) 585-225-8288
chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Monthly Membership Meetings start at 6:30 pm
At the Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, Rochester

Driving Directions to the Italian American Sports Club:

The Club is located at 1250 Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road, directly across from the stone quarry, next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East: Heading west on 490, exit Mt. Read Blvd. and turn left; south on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right, west on Buffalo Road, 1.4 miles, the Italian-American Sports Club is on the right side.

From the West: Heading east on 490, exit 33 east, Buffalo Road (Gates Center); head east on Buffalo Road; continue past Howard Road; the Italian-American Sports Club will be on the left side in about .5 mile.
**Contact Information**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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<td>Veterans Walk – C. Macaluso</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chuckmac66@yahoo.com">chuckmac66@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>225-8288 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Affairs – Rosemary Rossi-Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pefrose@gmail.com">pefrose@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>738-6138 c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES**

**VAA Chapter 20**

- P. O. Box 12580
- Rochester, NY 14612
- www.vva20.org

**REGION 2 DIRECTOR**

- Herb Worthington
- hworthington@comcast.net
- 732-849-5737

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION**

- Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial 753-7275
- VA Outpatient Clinic 465 Westfall Rd 463-2600
- Veterans Outreach Center 459 South Avenue 546-1081
- VA Vet Center 232-5040
- Veterans Administration 800-827-1000
- Monroe County Veterans Service Agency 753-6040
- e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
- VA Veterans Benefits Hotline 800-827-1000
- VA Veterans Bill of Rights 800-342-3358
- VA Medical Center in Batavia 297-1000
- VA Hospital in Buffalo 716-834-9200
- VA Medical Center in Canandaigua 394-2000
- VA Medical Center in Bat 607-664-4000
- Vietnam Veterans of America National Office 800-882-1316
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund 202-393-0090
- National League of Families
  - POW/MIA Updates 202-223-6846
  - Richards House at VOC 506-9060
  - The Resource Center at VOC 546-4250
  - Stars & Stripes – The Flag Store 546-3524
  - Persian Gulf Vets, Inc. 385-4097
- Operation Welcome Home 234-4694
- National Caregivers Support Line 855-260-3274
- Homeless Hotline 877-424-3838
- Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255
- Women’s Veteran Hotline 855-829-6636

**WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES**

| Veterans Widows International Network | members@aol.com/vetwidows |
| NYS Department of Health | www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets |
| Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park | www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial |
| Operation Welcome Home | www.operationwelcomehome.org |
| VVA New York State Council | www.nyvietnamvets.org |
| Honor Flight | www.HonorFlightRochester.org |

**Miscellaneous**

- VVA Vehicle Donations 224-8484
- VVA Chapter 20 info@vva20.org 482-7396
Upcoming Events (2013):

October 2 – ROPC Announcement
October 10 – Chapter Membership Meeting
October 15 – Memorial Board Meeting
October 26 – Pennsylvania Agent Orange Town Hall

MyHealthVet

MHV provides access to:
• Online prescription refills with the VA
• Trusted health information
• Links to Federal and VA benefits and resources
• Personal Health Journals and Health e-Logs

The mission of My HealthVet (MHV) is to improve health care for ALL veterans, independent of where they receive care, by providing health information and health assessments via the Internet. MHV is a website designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans’ health care. It is for all veterans and offers additional services to those receiving care at VA medical centers.

MHV registrants will also be able to view appointments, co-pay balances and copies of key portions of their VA medical records online and much more as additional functionality is released. This is available to veterans, their families, veteran advocates and VA employees. Non-veterans are welcome to use many of the features, although they will not have access to all functions VA patients have.

You can access the website at www.myhealth.va.gov. You will need to register to use key features and will be assigned a User ID and Password for return visits. Please note that in order to access enhanced options of this website, you must complete an “In Person Authentication” (IPA) at your local VA facility. This step provides for confidentiality of your information and is required by The Privacy Act, Title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a, implemented by Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §575-1.584.