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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, *et*
al.,
 Plaintiffs,
 v.
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, *et*
al.,
 Defendants.

Case No. CV 09-0037-CW

**PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION
 AND MOTION TO COMPEL
 DISCOVERY AND MEMORANDUM
 OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN
 SUPPORT THEREOF**

Hearing Date: September 22, 2011
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Courtroom: E, 15th Floor
 Judge: Hon. Jacqueline Scott Corley

Complaint filed January 7, 2009

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NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on September 22, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley, at the United States District Courthouse, San Francisco, California, Vietnam Veterans of America; Bruce Price; Franklin D. Rochelle; Larry Meirow; Eric P. Muth; David C. Dufrane; Tim Michael Josephs; and William Blazinski (“Plaintiffs”) will and hereby do move the Court for an order overruling objections and compelling Defendant Department of Veterans Affairs to produce documents responsive to Plaintiffs’ requests for production and respond to Plaintiffs’ interrogatories as specified in the attached Motion to Compel Discovery.

This motion to overrule objections and compel discovery is based on this Notice of Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities filed herewith, the Declaration of Laura O’Neill (“O’Neill Decl.”) and attached exhibits filed herewith, all other pleadings and matters of record, and such further oral and documentary evidence as may be presented at or before the hearing on this motion. Counsel for Plaintiffs certify that, prior to filing this motion, they in good faith conferred with Defendants’ counsel in an effort to resolve these matters without court action.

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**I. INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiffs have waited decades to receive information about the chemical and biological test programs at Edgewood and other sites. Yet the government continues to cloak the tests in secrecy. Defendant Department of Veterans Affairs (“DVA”) seeks to insulate itself and its co-defendants by refusing to provide discovery regarding matters that are critical to Plaintiffs’ bias, notice, and healthcare claims against Defendants. Plaintiffs have waited long enough. The Court should compel the discovery sought by the Plaintiffs.

Plaintiffs assert a bias claim against DVA. Plaintiffs allege that because DVA was involved in the Edgewood testing program and similar programs, the agency is incapable of making neutral, unbiased benefits determinations for veterans who were test subjects. To fairly adjudicate the facts of a claim, an adjudicator must be neutral to the possibility that Defendants’ testing programs, including the Edgewood test programs, caused harm to test subjects. DVA cannot be neutral to such a possibility because DVA’s own culpable conduct has left it reluctant to admit that such testing caused harm.

To prove their bias claim, Plaintiffs need two general types of evidence: (1) evidence of the *reasons* for DVA’s bias (such as evidence of DVA involvement in the Edgewood testing program and similar programs); and (2) evidence of the *manifestation* of DVA’s bias (such as evidence that DVA deliberately misled test subjects about the health effects of the testing in order to discourage them from filing claims and statistical evidence regarding claims). The Court should compel production of evidence regarding the *reasons* for and the *manifestation* of DVA’s bias. The Court should also compel production of evidence that is relevant to Plaintiffs’ notice and healthcare claims against the other Defendants.

II. STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE DECIDED

Plaintiffs seek an order compelling DVA to: (1) produce documents improperly withheld or redacted on the basis of the deliberative process privilege; (2) provide statistics as requested in Interrogatory 19; (3) search for and produce documents that evidence DVA involvement in research regarding the substances tested during the Edgewood test programs; (4) search for and

1 produce documents related to testing that occurred prior to 1953; and (5) produce the death
2 certificates of deceased test subjects. In accordance with the Magistrate's instructions at the
3 August 4, 2011 discovery hearing, this Motion focuses on the relevance of the information
4 sought, with the understanding that Plaintiffs will address in their reply brief any burden
5 objections that Defendants advance in their opposition brief.

6 **III. PLAINTIFFS HAVE MET AND CONFERRED IN GOOD FAITH WITH**
7 **DEFENDANTS**

8 The parties have attempted to resolve these issues via letters dated April 29, May 12, May
9 16, May 27, June 3, June 14, and June 20, 2011. The parties also have conferred at length via
10 telephone on May 9, July 14, July 21, August 2, and August 15, 2011. (O'Neill Decl. ¶ 18.) In
11 addition, the parties conferred in person on August 4, 2011, as requested by the Court. (O'Neill
12 Decl. ¶ 19.) Despite these good faith efforts to resolve these disputes, the parties have reached an
13 impasse regarding the issues discussed herein. Civil L.R. 37-1(b). The parties submitted a Joint
14 Statement of Discovery Dispute on July 22, 2011. (Docket No. 243.) On August 4, 2011, the
15 Court ordered the parties to submit formal briefing. (Docket No. 248.)

16 **IV. THE COURT SHOULD GRANT PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL**
17 **DISCOVERY**

18 **A. DVA Must Produce Documents Improperly Withheld on the Basis of the**
19 **Deliberative Process Privilege**

20 DVA has improperly withheld or redacted hundreds of documents on the basis of the
21 deliberative process privilege. DVA's assertion of the privilege is improper for four reasons.
22 First, DVA has not met the procedural requirements for asserting the privilege. Second, the
23 privilege does not apply where, as here, the government's intent is at issue in the litigation.
24 Third, the deliberative process privilege is qualified and should yield in the face of Plaintiffs'
25 need for the documents. Fourth, DVA should not be allowed to use the privilege as both a shield
26 and a sword. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court order DVA to produce the documents
27 that DVA has improperly withheld or, in the alternative, conduct an in camera review of the
28 withheld documents.

1 DVA has improperly withheld documents related to the following general subject areas:
 2 (1) the drafting of the notification letter sent to test subjects (180 documents total); (2) efforts to
 3 notify test subjects generally (135 documents total); (3) preparation of training materials for
 4 claims adjudicators and clinicians (5 documents total); (4) the provision of healthcare to test
 5 subjects (107 documents total); (5) draft correspondence with members of Congress regarding the
 6 notification of test subjects (40 documents total); (6) draft correspondence with the American
 7 Legion of Honor regarding notification of test subjects (16 documents total).¹

8 DVA has represented that it is still in the process of reviewing five million pages of
 9 documents and that it intends to produce another privilege log identifying additional documents it
 10 is withholding. Plaintiffs reserve the right to challenge any additional documents withheld on the
 11 basis of privilege once DVA produces any additional privilege logs.

12 **1. DVA Cannot Rely on the Privilege Because DVA Has Not Met the**
 13 **Privilege's Procedural Requirements**

14 To assert the deliberative process privilege, the government must make a "formal claim of
 15 privilege, lodged by the head of the department which has control over the matter, after actual
 16 personal consideration by that officer." *Al-Haramain Islamic Found., Inc. v. Bush*, 507 F.3d
 17 1190, 1202 (9th Cir. 2007). In addition, the government must give "precise and certain reasons"
 18 for asserting confidentiality over the information withheld. *L.H. v. Schwarzenegger*, No. CIV. S-
 19 06-2042 LKK/GGH, 2007 WL 2009807, at*2 (E.D. Cal. July 6, 2007) (quoting *United States v.*
 20 *O'Neill*, 619 F.2d 222, 226 (3d Cir.1980)).

21 To date, DVA has not complied with these important procedural requirements. DVA has
 22 made no formal assertion of the deliberative process privilege, nor has it provided "precise and
 23 certain reasons" for asserting confidentiality over the information withheld. If the confidentiality
 24 of the documents were truly important, DVA would *not* have waited to bring the issue before the
 25 head of the department. Moreover, the fact that DVA has waited months until Plaintiffs brought a
 26

27 ¹ Plaintiffs have specifically identified for DVA the documents Plaintiffs contend have
 28 been improperly withheld.

1 motion to compel to address these procedural requirements will only serve to entrench the agency
2 in its litigation position before the appropriate officer has given “actual personal consideration” of
3 the issue. The procedural requirements provide a safeguard to ensure that the privilege is not
4 abused. DVA’s failure to properly follow the procedural requirements of the privilege counsels
5 in favor of disclosure.

6 **2. The Deliberative Process Privilege Does Not Apply Because Plaintiffs’**
7 **Bias Claim Is Directed at DVA’s Intent**

8 The deliberative process privilege does not apply where “plaintiff’s cause of action is
9 directed at the government’s intent.” *In re Subpoena Duces Tecum Served on Office of*
10 *Comptroller of Currency*, 145 F.3d 1422, 1424 (D.C. Cir. 1998); *see L.H. v. Schwarzenegger*,
11 2007 WL 2009807, at *4 (noting that the privilege does not apply where “the agency’s
12 deliberative process is at issue”); *Convertino v. United States DOJ*, 669 F. Supp. 2d 1, 4 (D.D.C.
13 2009) (noting that the privilege does not apply where the government’s intent is squarely at
14 issue). This is particularly true where, as here, a plaintiff has asserted a constitutional claim for
15 discrimination. *In re Subpoena Duces Tecum*, 145 F.3d at 1424 (“it seems rather obvious to us
16 that the privilege has no place in a Title VII action or in a constitutional claim for
17 discrimination”).

18 Because Plaintiffs state a constitutional claim for bias directed at DVA’s intent, the
19 deliberative process privilege should not apply. Plaintiffs allege that DVA deliberately
20 discouraged test subjects and survivors from filing claims for benefits by misleading test subjects
21 in its notification letter, by understating the risks posed to test subjects in materials provided to
22 adjudicators, and by excluding survivors and certain test subjects from its notification efforts
23 altogether. (Third Amended Complaint ¶¶ 15, 173, 228, 229, and 231.) In particular, in its
24 notification letter to test subjects, DVA falsely suggested that *no* significant long-term health
25 effects were associated with the testing (*see* O’Neill Decl. ¶ 9, Ex. H at VET001_014268),
26 despite the fact that DVA was aware that studies showed long-term health effects were a likely
27 consequence of the test programs (*see* O’Neill Decl. ¶ 17, Ex. P at VET001_015608). During an
28

1 August 4, 2011 hearing, the Court noted that DVA's intent in drafting the notification letter
2 "would be squarely relevant" to Plaintiffs' bias claims. (Docket No. 250 at 88:4-5.)

3 DVA has withheld documents likely to show the bias alleged by Plaintiffs. DVA has
4 withheld drafts of the notification letter and correspondence discussing these drafts. DVA has
5 also withheld documents discussing the preparation of materials for use by adjudicators in
6 connection with test subjects' claims. In addition, DVA has withheld documents concerning
7 decisions regarding whom it would notify and why. Because Plaintiffs allege that DVA
8 deliberately understated the health risks to test subjects in its notification letter and in materials
9 provided to adjudicators, and because Plaintiffs allege that DVA deliberately excluded survivors
10 and certain test subjects from its notification effort in order to discourage the filing of claims,
11 these withheld documents are likely to evidence bias. DVA should not be allowed to use the
12 privilege to shield incriminating evidence of bias. The Court should order production of the
13 withheld documents.

14 **3. The Privilege Is Qualified and Should Be Overcome Given Plaintiffs'**
15 **Need for the Documents**

16 The Court should also order production of the documents because the privilege is a
17 qualified privilege and can be overcome by a showing of need. *F.T.C. v. Warner Comms. Inc.*,
18 742 F.2d 1156, 1161 (9th Cir. 1984); Charles Alan Wright, et al., *Federal Practice & Procedure*,
19 § 5680 (2011) ("[t]he deliberative process privilege should seldom be upheld in a case where
20 there is any need for the evidence because it rests on such a puny instrumental rationale"). "A
21 litigant may obtain deliberative materials if his or her need for the materials and the need for
22 accurate fact-finding override the government's interest in non-disclosure." *F.T.C.*, 742 F.2d at
23 1161. To determine whether the privilege is overcome by need, the Court must balance the
24 following factors: (1) the relevance of the evidence; (2) the availability of other evidence; (3) the
25 government's role in the litigation; and (4) the extent to which disclosure would hinder frank and
26 independent discussion regarding contemplated policies and decisions. *Id.* A court may also
27 consider the following factors: (5) the interest of the litigant, and ultimately society, in accurate
28 judicial fact finding; (6) the seriousness of the litigation and the issues involved; (7) the presence

1 of issues concerning alleged governmental misconduct; and (8) the federal interest in the
2 enforcement of federal law. *North Pacifica, LLC v. City of Pacifica*, 274 F. Supp. 2d 1118, 1122
3 (N.D. Cal. 2003).

4 The Court should order DVA to produce the withheld documents because each of the
5 relevant factors weighs in favor of disclosure:

- 6 • *Relevance of the evidence.* The withheld documents are highly relevant to Plaintiffs' bias
7 claim against DVA. The Complaint alleges that DVA deliberately understated the risks
8 associated with the testing in order to discourage test subjects from applying for benefits.
9 (Third Amended Complaint ¶ 231.) DVA's decisions regarding how and why to notify
10 test subjects about the test programs and associated health risks go to the heart of
11 Plaintiffs' bias claim. At an August 4, 2011 hearing, the Court emphasized that such
12 decisions would be relevant to Plaintiffs' bias claim. (Docket No. 250 at 89:5–6.) For
13 similar reasons, the other withheld documents are likely to show evidence of bias.
14 Therefore, the documents sought are highly relevant to Plaintiffs' bias claim.
- 15 • *Availability of other evidence.* Plaintiffs cannot obtain information about DVA's decision
16 to understate the risks associated with the test programs other than through
17 contemporaneous correspondence and memoranda that were prepared in the process of
18 making that decision.
- 19 • *Government's role in the litigation.* DVA is a defendant whose action is the focal point of
20 the litigation, which counsels in favor of disclosure. *Sierra Club v. Kempthorne*,
21 488 F. Supp. 2d 1188, 1193 (S.D. Ala. 2007) (noting that an agency's role in litigation as
22 a defendant whose action is the focal point weighs in afavor of disclosure).
- 23 • *Extent to which disclosure would hinder frank and independent discussion.* Disclosure
24 would not hinder the kind of frank and independent discussion the privilege is intended to
25 promote. Rather, it might remind agency employees that discrimination against particular
26 groups of veterans will not be tolerated and that their actions are subject to public
27 scrutiny. *North Pacifica, LLC*, 274 F. Supp. 2d at 1125 ("if because of this case,
28

1 [government employees] are reminded that they are subject to scrutiny, a useful purpose
2 will have been served”).

- 3 • *Interest of the litigant and society in accurate judicial fact finding.* Given the long history
4 of secrecy surrounding the test programs; the selective, partial production by DVA; and
5 the serious nature of the bias allegations, both Plaintiffs and society have a great interest
6 in accurate fact finding. *Id.* at 1124.
- 7 • *Seriousness of the litigation and the issues involved.* The fact that Plaintiffs make serious
8 allegations that DVA has discriminated against test subjects in violation of the
9 Constitution counsels in favor of disclosure. *Id.* at 1123-24.
- 10 • *Presence of issues concerning alleged governmental misconduct.* As discussed above,
11 Plaintiffs allege that DVA — who participated in the wrongdoing and was therefore
12 motivated by bias — *intentionally* misled test subjects regarding the health risks
13 associated the test programs. The presence of this alleged misconduct weighs in favor of
14 disclosure.
- 15 • *Federal interest in the enforcement of federal law.* The federal interest in enforcing the
16 Constitution is strong, which weighs in favor of disclosure. *Id.* at 1123 (“the federal
17 interest in the enforcement of federal constitutional rights weighs in favor of disclosure”).

18 In conclusion, Plaintiffs’ need for the evidence is great and the interests in favor of
19 disclosure are strong. Plaintiffs will be handicapped in their efforts to prove a bias claim if DVA
20 is allowed to hide evidence of bias behind the deliberative process privilege. The Court should
21 order production of the documents DVA has withheld on the basis of the deliberative process
22 privilege.

23 **4. DVA Should Not Be Allowed to Use the Privilege as Both a Shield and** 24 **a Sword**

25 The deliberative process may not be used as both a shield and a sword. *Allstate Ins. Co. v.*
26 *Serio*, No. 97 CIV. 0670(RCC), 2000 WL 554221, at *11 (S.D.N.Y. May 5, 2000) (concluding
27 that the deliberative process privilege could not be used as both a shield and a sword); *cf. In re*
28 *City of New York*, 607 F.3d 923, 947 (2nd Cir. 2010) (discussing the law enforcement privilege

1 and noting that a party cannot use the privilege as both a shield and a sword); *Chiron Corp. v.*
2 *Genetech, Inc.*, 179 F. Supp. 2d 1182, 1186 (E.D. Cal. 2001) (“[f]airness dictates that a party may
3 not use the attorney-client privilege as both a sword and a shield”). DVA has attempted to use the
4 privilege as both a shield and a sword by selectively withholding documents related to the
5 decision-making process regarding notification efforts while producing others. For example,
6 DVA produced some drafts of the notification letter (*see* O’Neill Decl. ¶ 13, Ex. L) but withheld
7 other drafts (*see* O’Neill Decl. ¶ 14, Ex. M at 37, page #s 1077-1078). DVA’s willingness to
8 produce some documents related to the decision-making process but not others shows that DVA
9 is not concerned with protecting the confidentiality of the decision-making process but rather is
10 attempting to shield highly relevant, incriminating evidence. The Court should order production
11 of the documents DVA has withheld on the basis of the deliberative process privilege or, in the
12 alternative, conduct an in camera review of these documents.

13 **B. DVA Must Produce Up-to-Date Statistics Regarding “Chem-Bio Claims”**

14 Plaintiffs seek updated statistics regarding “Chem-Bio” claims for service-connected
15 benefits based on test subjects’ exposure to the test substances administered during the test
16 programs (Interrogatory 19).² (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 4, Ex. C at 6.) DVA has refused to provide these
17 statistics, stating that it “cannot produce” them. (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 7, Ex. F at 16.) DVA’s
18 contention is unconvincing.

19 DVA has previously and regularly compiled these very statistics regarding “Chem-Bio”
20 claims and included them in a monthly report on its Outreach Activities. (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 11,
21 Ex. J.) These statistics are compiled by running a simple computer query. DVA uses certain
22 “End Product” tags to track particular claims in its computer system; the “End Product” tag 683
23 (EP 683) identifies claims for service-connected benefits based on exposure to test substances
24 administered during the Chem-Bio test programs. (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 16, Ex. O at

25
26 ² DVA has also refused to produce the statistics requested in Interrogatories 15 and 17
27 (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 7, Ex. F at 10, 12–13) but has agreed to produce all claims files of identifiable
28 test subjects and survivors. Plaintiffs reserve the right to move to compel responses to
Interrogatories 15 and 17 if the information provided in the claims files is not sufficient for
purposes of compiling the needed statistics.

1 VET001_015124.) Thus, *it is very difficult to believe that DVA cannot produce statistics that can*
2 *be compiled by running a simple query on its computer system.* Documents show that DVA was
3 able to compile these statistics using the EP 683 tag as late as October 2010 (*see* O’Neill Decl.
4 ¶ 10, Ex. I) — the month before DVA was added as a defendant in this litigation.

5 The clear implication of DVA’s refusal to produce these statistics is that the statistics
6 support Plaintiffs’ claims. DVA has produced earlier statistics, which show that DVA has
7 granted a surprisingly small number of claims submitted by test participants. As of December
8 2009, DVA had granted only two out of eighty-six claims. (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 11, Ex. J, p. 11.)
9 DVA cannot refuse to provide discovery of evidence merely because the evidence is not
10 favorable. To date, DVA has not explained why it is suddenly unable to compile statistics that it
11 regularly compiled (through a simple query in a computer system) until DVA was named a party
12 in this litigation.

13 DVA adjudicators use the EP 683 tag for all claims that allege “disease or injury as a
14 result of participation in any chemical or biological test.” (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 16, Ex. O at
15 VET001_015124.) Thus, statistics compiled through use of the EP 683 tag represent claims that
16 are *based* on exposure to the test substances. DVA has provided some statistics, but those
17 statistics include all claims brought by test subjects — whether or not the claimant alleges the
18 injury is related to participation in the testing programs. Plaintiffs need statistics regarding claims
19 in which a test subject alleges that a disease or disability was caused or worsened by participation
20 in the test programs to prove their bias claim.

21 Statistics compiled through the use of the EP 683 tag are also important because they
22 include the claims of test subjects for whom test participation *cannot* be verified, as well as for
23 those for whom participation *can* be verified. (*See* O’Neill Decl. ¶ 8, Ex. G at 212:11-14.) The
24 statistics provided by DVA to date only include the claims of “identifiable” test subjects — in
25 other words, test subjects for whom participation in testing can be verified. (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 7,
26 Ex. F at 12.) Because we know that testing cannot be confirmed for *thousands* of test subjects
27 who participated in the testing (*see* O’Neill Decl. ¶ 12, Ex. K at 2), it is critical that the universe
28 of test subjects not be limited to those for whom testing can be verified.

1 Current statistics compiled through use of the EP 683 tag are highly relevant to Plaintiffs’
2 bias claim. The Court should compel DVA to provide these statistics.

3 **C. DVA Must Search for and Produce Documents Related to All Substances**
4 **Tested as Part of Defendants’ Biological and Chemical Warfare Testing**
5 **Programs**

6 DVA has refused to search for documents regarding the full range of substances tested
7 during Defendants’ test programs conducted between 1942 and 1975, as identified in the Chem-
8 Bio Database that Defendants produced. While Plaintiffs are willing to limit discovery to a
9 narrowed list of substances for certain discovery requests (Request For Production Nos. 202, 203,
10 205, and 216), Plaintiffs seek discovery related to all substances tested during Defendants’ testing
11 programs for requests related to DVA involvement in testing (Request for Production Nos. 194,
12 195, 206, 214, and 215). (O’Neill Decl. ¶ 2, Ex. A.)

13 Evidence of DVA involvement in research regarding *any* of the substances tested at
14 Edgewood would be highly relevant to Plaintiffs’ bias claim. If DVA participated in the testing
15 of any of these substances — whether at Edgewood or elsewhere — then DVA would have an
16 impermissible interest in the outcome of adjudications related to those substances. DVA’s own
17 participation in testing has left it reluctant to admit that any harm came from exposure to the
18 substances. Evidence of DVA involvement in testing is therefore highly relevant to Plaintiffs’
19 bias claim.

20 DVA contends that a search for all test substances would be overly burdensome. That
21 DVA may have succeeded in burying evidence of involvement in the testing does not excuse it
22 from its obligation to look for responsive documents. DVA has shown no effort to locate these
23 key documents, despite the fact that Plaintiffs have pointed DVA to available documents that
24 evidence their participation in the test programs. To deprive Plaintiffs of testing information
25 under these circumstances would add insult to Plaintiffs’ injury. Plaintiffs have suffered long
26 enough because of the secret nature of the testing program. Plaintiffs deserve to know the extent
27 of DVA’s involvement in research regarding the substances tested at Edgewood.
28

1 **D. DVA Must Search for and Produce Documents Related to Testing that**
2 **Occurred Prior to 1953**

3 For the reasons stated in Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel 30(b)(6) Depositions and
4 Production of Documents against the other Defendants, the Court should compel DVA to search
5 for and provide discovery regarding testing that occurred prior to 1953. The Complaint addresses
6 testing from the World War II era through the claimed end of the program in 1975 or 1976.

7 **E. DVA Must Produce Death Certificates of Deceased Test Subjects**

8 Plaintiffs seek the death certificates of all deceased test subjects (Request for Production
9 No. 218). (O'Neill Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. B. at 5.) DVA has refused to produce all of the death
10 certificates that it possesses.

11 Death certificates are the most reliable means available to Plaintiffs of obtaining cause-of-
12 death information, which is relevant to Plaintiffs' notice and healthcare claims against the other
13 Defendants. Plaintiffs contend that Defendants' test programs have produced many casualties in
14 the form of adverse health effects and premature deaths. Moreover, Defendants have failed to
15 provide test subjects with accurate information about the long-term health effects caused by the
16 test programs by refusing to study patterns in the death certificates. Instead, Defendants rely on
17 highly flawed "studies" of certain substances. Many of the existing studies regarding test
18 subjects' health rely on surveys, and do not encompass information about deceased test
19 subjects — a shortcoming that has the effect of excluding those who suffered the most serious
20 illnesses from the studies' findings.

21 After months of negotiation, DVA has finally agreed to produce the claims files of test
22 subjects and survivors, which are likely to contain some death certificates. In addition, DVA has
23 agreed to search for death certificates in "Notice of Death" folders and in DVA's electronic
24 recordkeeping system. Nonetheless, DVA has not confirmed that it will produce all death
25 certificates in its possession, custody, or control. DVA should be compelled to produce all death
26 certificates in its possession.

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V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court order DVA to produce all documents improperly withheld on the basis of the deliberative process privilege, and to undertake a search for and production of documents as discussed above.

Dated: August 18, 2011

GORDON P. ERSPAMER
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. CV 09-0037-CW

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL
DISCOVERY**

Hearing Date: September 22, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Courtroom: E, 15th Floor
Judge: Hon. Jacqueline Scott Corley

Complaint filed January 7, 2009

1 Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel Discovery came before this Court for hearing on September
2 22, 2011. Having read and considered the submissions of the parties, and finding good cause
3 therefore, the Court hereby GRANTS the motion to overrule objections and compel discovery.

4 The Court ORDERS Defendant Department of Veterans Affairs ("DVA") to: (1) produce
5 all documents improperly withheld or redacted on the basis of the deliberative process privilege;
6 (2) provide statistics as requested by Interrogatory 19; (3) search for and produce documents that
7 evidence DVA involvement in research regarding the substances tested during the Edgewood test
8 programs; (4) search for and produce documents related to testing that occurred prior to 1953; and
9 (5) produce all death certificates of deceased test subjects in DVA's possession, custody, or
10 control as requested by Request for Production No. 218.

11 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion is GRANTED.

12 Dated: _____
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16 By: _____
17 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
18 HONORABLE JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY
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