

Exhibit M

From: Kilpatrick, Michael, SES, OASD\ (HA\) [Michael.Kilpatrick@tma.osd.mil]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2006 11:02:04 AM
To: "Morris, Dee, DHS" <Dee.Morris@deploymenthealth.osd.mil>
CC: "Roy S. Finno/CTR/OSAGWI" <Roy.S.Finno@osagwi.osd.mil>
Subject: RE: LA Daily News: Ex-Test subjects may be in danger

Looks like the VA and Len are talking to reporters. Interesting that Tom Pamparin has an idea on what the letters are going to say to each individual. Sounds like what the agreement was last week is now out the window. Good luck on the VA creating a letter for each person.

Do we need to share this with AT&L so they know what's coming? I'll send this to Ms Embrey so she knows.

Michael E. Kilpatrick, M.D.
Deputy Director, Deployment Health Support
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs
703 578-8510

-----Original Message-----

From: Dee Morris/OSAGWI [mailto:Dee.Morris@deploymenthealth.osd.mil]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2006 10:21 AM
To: Michael.Kilpatrick
Cc: Roy S. Finno/CTR/OSAGWI
Subject: Fw: LA Daily News: Ex-Test subjects may be in danger

The Committee is getting impatient. There are some inaccuracies in the article. VA agreed not to include agent/dose in the letters to veterans.

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----- Forwarded by Dee Morris/OSAGWI on 04/03/2006 10:19 AM -----

"Salvatore, Joe"

<Joe.Salvatore@va

.gov>

To

"Dee Morris/OSAGWI"

04/03/2006 10:11

<Dee.Morris@deploymenthealth.osd.mil>
AM

1>

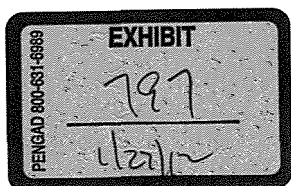
cc

Subject

FW: LA Daily News: Ex-test

subjects

may be in danger



war" - both sides produced, yet never used, millions of tons of chemical weapons.

In the meantime, thousands of servicemen were used as subjects in the chemical defense research. Many tests continued through the 1970s.

Army historian Jeffrey Smart has spent the past 22 years at Aberdeen Proving Ground, formerly the Edgewood Arsenal, where many of the chemical tests - particularly on protective equipment - were conducted.

He said documents show the men knew they were participating in potentially dangerous tests, but not the specific agents being used.

"We have documents that say one thing, and you talk to a veteran and he'll say something else," he said. "It's hard to determine, and I can't doubt what they say may be true."

Ken Jones of Riverside said he knew exactly what he was doing when he volunteered in 1954 to be among 2,300 subjects in a germ-warfare project known as Operation White Coat.

The studies, which ran between 1954-73, used mostly Seventh-day Adventists draftees like Jones whose religious beliefs discouraged combat and who were instead given the option of serving as human test volunteers.

While many veterans later said they felt pressured to sign the consent forms, Jones said he never felt coerced.

He can still recall the day he and two other men exchanged their fatigues for scrubs and entered the fabled "Eight Ball" at Fort Detrick, Md. - a 1-million-liter test sphere used to study static microbial aerosols - and strapped on gas masks before breathing in Q-fever for about five minutes.

"I'm not going to be out on the streets protesting, because I feel like what I did was a benefit to humanity," Jones said, noting that the tests helped the government develop hazmat suits, gas masks and vaccines.

Jones went into quarantine for 17 days and says he never developed health problems from the experience. Many others did, though, and Jones said he think the government should help those veterans.

"If somebody has a medical problem from it, I think the government owes that individual something to take care of it," he said.

House Veterans Affairs Committee aide Len Sistek said that's the goal of notifying veterans. The new list his staff provided to the government

includes the names of military personnel who underwent testing at Fort Detrick; Edgewood Arsenal, now known as Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland; and Dougway Proving Ground in Utah.

Previous generations of veterans, Sisteck pointed out, viewed chemical and biological testing with a different lens.

"There's been a sea change in how America perceives this stuff," he said.

"Whoever allowed the bad guy to get ahead of them with chemical or biological weaponry was at a huge disadvantage on the battlefield. It was part of the war effort."

Still, he and others argued, the government has a responsibility to provide benefits to those who did experience health problems.

"It's a value call," he said. "We're smarter now than we were then. We might have thought it was something totally benign, or that clothing was protective and now know it wasn't."

"When you sign on the dotted line, you sign up for a broad spectrum of risks. But just because you were a volunteer does not mean America doesn't have a duty to you."

Leaders at the Department of Veterans Affairs said they agree.

"Obviously we're concerned, and we want to provide outreach to anyone who may have been harmed by toxic chemical tests," said VA Assistant Director for Policy Thomas Pamperin.

He and Kim Tibbitts, the agency's assistant director for procedures for compensation and pension services, said they first have to determine who the servicemen are and what agents they were exposed to. Many names on the list, Tibbitts said, include only a name but no Social Security number, and identify chemicals by codes that must be tracked down with the Department of Defense.

From there, he said, the agency plans to use personnel records and address locating services to determine if the serviceman is still living, or has surviving relatives.

In the notification letters, Pamperin said, veterans will be told the chemical they were exposed to and the dosage, and be encouraged to seek hospital tests to determine if they suffered related injuries.

"If (eligible) - and, hopefully, none of them have been harmed - they

will
receive the kind of compensation they're entitled to," Pamperin said.

Rick Weidman of the Vietnam Veterans of America accused the VA of
dragging
its feet.

"The VA is incredibly slow," he said. "They don't really want to do it.
They will screw around with that list for a year or longer, and then
they'll say they can not find a lot of the veterans. If you wait long
enough, we'll all be dead."

Pamperin strongly disputed the criticisms.

"I understand that some frustrated veterans believe that to be true," he
said. "Our responsibility is to implement (veterans' benefits) to the
full
extent Congress has authorized it, without regard to how much is spent,"
he
said.

Noting that over the past five years about 200,000 veterans have
successfully sought compensation, he said, "I am unaware of anyone who
has
been formally or informally been telling us to slow down our ratings to
save money."

Pamperin and Tibbitts said even if all 7,000 people on the new list
apply
for and obtain benefits, that's still a drop in the bucket compared to
the
825,000 disability determinations it handles.

The agency is expected to start notifying the first 1,000 veterans on
the
list by July, according to the committee.

"It's just incumbent upon the department to find out and put this thing
behind us," Strickland said. "It is going to take resources and effort,
but
it's something that needs to be done."

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The Veterans Administration helpline is (800) 749-8387

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