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 12

13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 15 OAKLAND DIVISION
 16

17 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, et al.,
 18 Plaintiffs,
 19 v.
 20 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, et al.,
 21 Defendants.

Case No. CV 09-0037-CW

**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO
 DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR
 PROTECTIVE ORDER STAYING
 FURTHER DISCOVERY AND
 FOR MODIFICATION OF CASE
 MANAGEMENT ORDER**

Date: Oct. 7, 2010
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Ctrm: 2, 4th Floor
 Judge: Hon. Claudia Wilken

Complaint Filed: January 7, 2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES	ii
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. BACKGROUND	2
III. ARGUMENT	6
A. Defendants Have Not Met Their Heavy Burden to Show That a Protective Order Is Appropriate	6
1. The Statement of Work Concerns Only a Small Portion of Relevant Information.....	7
2. There Is No Guarantee That the Investigation Will Be Completed, Nor Does the Investigation Address Defendants’ Obligations to Provide Notice and Healthcare.....	9
3. Defendants’ Efforts to Avoid Discovery into the Extent of the CIA’s Involvement in the Testing Programs	10
B. Defendants Did Not Even Attempt to Show “Good Cause” to Modify Case Management Order.....	11
IV. CONCLUSION	13

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
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23
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25
26
27
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TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Page(s)

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Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int’l Ins. Co.,
966 F.2d 470 (9th Cir. 1992)..... 6

Hynix Semiconductor, Inc. v. Rambus Inc.,
250 F.R.D. 452 (N.D. Cal. 2008)..... 11

Lehnert v. Ferris Faculty Ass'n--MEA-NEA,
556 F. Supp. 316 (W.D. Mich. 1983) 6

Neubronner v. Milken,
6 F.3d 666 (9th Cir. 1993)..... 6

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364 F.3d 1057 (9th Cir. 2004)..... 6

Shoen v. Shoen
5 F.3d 1289 (9th Cir. 1993)..... 6

Zivkovic v. S. Cal. Edison Co.,
302 F.3d 1080 (9th Cir. 2002)..... 11

RULES & OTHER AUTHORITIES

Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4)..... 11

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 For four decades (or more), Defendants have failed to fulfill their legal and moral
3 obligations to the military personnel deliberately exposed to toxic substances as part of
4 Defendants’ chemical and biological warfare testing programs. In January of this year, the Court
5 denied Defendants’ motion to dismiss Plaintiffs’ claims to enforce Defendants’ obligations to
6 provide notice and health care to the test subjects, and ordered Defendants to respond to
7 Plaintiffs’ pending discovery requests within thirty days. Instead of engaging in earnest
8 discovery practice, Defendants have shirked their discovery obligations and engaged in delay
9 tactics, failing to produce witnesses for key deposition topics and refusing even to agree to a
10 routine protective order to permit the production of information concerning the very victims of
11 Defendants’ testing programs. That issue — and others like it — are now properly before
12 Magistrate Judge Larson, who earlier ruled against Defendants in issuing an order compelling
13 responses to Plaintiffs’ First Set of Interrogatories.

14 In a blatant display of forum shopping, Defendants now ask this Court (rather than the
15 Discovery Magistrate) to shut down discovery completely. Relying only on conclusory
16 statements about their purported burden and the ongoing work of a private contractor to gather
17 limited information, Defendants fail to show “good cause” for such drastic relief. Indeed,
18 Defendants’ request betrays their true intent: to delay this case as much as possible, despite their
19 knowledge that the test subjects are aging, ill, and now are dying.¹ Defendants’ all-out efforts to
20 avoid participating in discovery are underscored by the fact that they now have filed a motion for
21 a protective order before Judge Larson, seeking to restrict beyond reason the scope of any
22 discovery that does go forward. The Court should reject Defendants’ efforts to avoid their legal
23 obligations by further delaying this litigation and should deny Defendants’ motion to stay
24 discovery and modify the case management order.

25
26 ¹ Plaintiffs regret to advise the Court that on August 31, 2010, plaintiff Wray Forrest, who
27 suffered from terminal cancer, passed away. Plaintiffs intend to file a Suggestion of Death
28 shortly.

II. BACKGROUND

1 **II. BACKGROUND**

2 Plaintiffs filed this action on January 7, 2009, asserting claims for injunctive and

3 declaratory relief stemming from Defendants' actions and inactions regarding, *inter alia*, top-

4 secret government programs through which chemical and biological agents were tested on

5 soldiers deemed "volunteers." Defendants have failed to care for the servicemember test subjects

6 as required by law, representing to Congress that they would do so but letting decades slip by as

7 former test subjects continued to suffer unaided — and often completely in the dark about the

8 details of what Defendants had done to them as part of the testing programs. Plaintiffs —

9 individual veterans who were subjected to Defendants' test programs and two veterans' rights

10 organizations whose members include additional test subjects — seek to force Defendants to

11 finally fulfill their obligation to locate participants in these tests and to notify them regarding

12 those exposures, to compel Defendants to provide healthcare to test participants as required by

13 Defendants' own regulations, and to release the test participants from improper "secrecy oaths"

14 that have hindered the ability of test veterans to seek counseling and appropriate medical care.

15 Defendants moved to dismiss Plaintiffs' claims on June 30, 2009. (Docket No. 29.)² In

16 moving to dismiss, Defendants recited their efforts to "continue to investigate, compile relevant

17 documents and other information and develop and implement appropriate responses and

18 remedies" (Docket No. 29 at 3) — conceding, in essence, that Defendants had not fulfilled duties

19 to provide notice and health care *decades* after those obligations arose. The Court denied

20 Defendants' motion to dismiss in part in an Order dated January 19, 2010, finding, *inter alia*, that

21 Defendants owed a duty to provide notice and healthcare under the APA. (Docket No. 59.) In

22 the January 19, 2010 Order, the Court also ordered discovery to proceed.³

23 _____

24 ² Defendants also subsequently moved to dismiss Plaintiffs' First and Second Amended

25 Complaints, making essentially the same arguments each time. (*See* Docket Nos. 34 and 57.)

26 ³ Defendants' efforts to avoid their discovery obligations were evident from the onset of

27 the litigation: at the December 3, 2009 hearing on Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, Defendants

28 asked the Court to delay the commencement of discovery pending the Court's ruling on an

 amended complaint. The Court denied Defendants' request and ordered Defendants to respond to

 outstanding discovery within thirty days. (Docket No. 59 at 20.)

1 Defendants immediately instituted a series of delay tactics, refusing to answer any of
2 Plaintiffs' interrogatories and forcing Plaintiffs to file a motion to compel responses. (Docket
3 No. 76.) The Court referred that motion, and all further oversight of discovery issues, to
4 Magistrate Judge Larson pursuant to Civil Local Rule 72-1. (Docket No. 79.) For months,
5 Defendants continued to stall and shirk their discovery obligations at every turn rather than
6 cooperate with Plaintiffs. Pursuant to the Court's referral, and after an exhaustive meet and
7 confer process, Plaintiffs brought these issues to the attention of Magistrate Judge Larson via a
8 series of motions in August. Plaintiffs will not re-argue these motions here, as they are properly
9 before the Magistrate, but will briefly summarize as follows:

- 10
11 • Motion to Compel Responses to Interrogatories (Docket No. 76): On November 16, 2009,
12 Plaintiffs served their first set of interrogatories in this action. In the subsequent meet-and-
13 confer process, Defendants agreed to serve answers to a specifically-enumerated set of
14 twenty-five interrogatories. Defendants then refused to respond at all, arguing that with
15 subparts Plaintiffs actually had served twenty-nine interrogatories. Plaintiffs moved to
16 compel responses. On the evening before the June 30, 2010 hearing on Plaintiffs' motion,
17 Defendants served responses that consisted largely of objections. During the hearing, the
18 Magistrate chastised Defendants, observing that "their late filing on the eve of a hearing on a
19 motion which, to [his] mind, look[ed] completely routine, [was] inappropriate." (Decl. of
20 Gordon P. Erspamer ¶ 2, Ex. A at 13.) On July 13, 2010, Judge Larson granted Plaintiffs'
21 Motion to Compel, noting that Defendants' responses "consisted mostly of objections," and
22 ordering Defendants to serve new responses within thirty days. (Docket No. 112 at 6.)
23 Defendants' recently-amended "answers" suffer from the same problems.⁴

24
25
26 ⁴ These amended "answers" again consist largely of objections and are woefully
27 inadequate. Plaintiffs have initiated a meet-and-confer process in an attempt to avoid having to
28 move a second time to compel appropriate responses to these interrogatories.

1 • Motion for Protective Order and to Overrule Objections (Docket No. 121): Despite
 2 negotiations spanning the better part of a year, Defendants refused to stipulate to a protective
 3 order providing for the production of information potentially subject to the Privacy Act,
 4 HIPAA, or other such protections. Defendants’ refusal to agree to an appropriate protective
 5 order has given Defendants a pretext to avoid providing critical information concerning
 6 Plaintiffs’ claims, including the identities of the participants and administrators of the testing
 7 programs at issue. Plaintiffs moved for the entry of a protective order that would allow for
 8 the production of this information, while preserving its confidentiality and appropriately
 9 limiting its use to this litigation. Judge Larson is scheduled to hear this motion on October 6,
 10 2010.

11
 12 • Motion to Overrule Objections and Compel 30(b)(6) Depositions (Docket No. 125):
 13 Defendants refused to designate 30(b)(6) witnesses for many of Plaintiffs’ noticed topics,
 14 largely on the basis of improper relevance objections. Defendants even refused to designate
 15 appropriate witnesses to testify about Defendants’ document search and production efforts in
 16 connection with this litigation. Plaintiffs moved to compel the production of these witnesses.
 17 Judge Larson is scheduled to hear this motion on October 6, 2010.

18
 19 • Motion to Overrule Objections and Compel Production of Documents (Docket No. 128): In
 20 perhaps the most blatant example of their discovery noncompliance, Defendants have
 21 objected to virtually every document request and produced fewer than 16,500 pages of
 22 documents in response to Plaintiffs’ Requests for Production, despite hundreds of test
 23 programs and tens of thousands of “volunteers,” with relevant facts stretching back over forty
 24 years. In fact, it is apparent that Defendants have yet to search some of the most basic
 25 locations for documents. Instead, Defendants stand on myriad improper objections to
 26 Plaintiffs’ First Set of Requests for Production, and have failed to respond at all to Plaintiffs’
 27 Second, Third, and Fourth Sets of Requests for Production. Plaintiffs have moved to compel
 28

1 Defendants to appropriately respond to Plaintiffs' requests and to produce relevant
2 documents. Judge Larson is scheduled to hear this motion on October 6, 2010.⁵

3
4 In the face of these motions, and the July 13, 2010 Order granting Plaintiffs' motion to
5 compel responses to interrogatories, Defendants now bring this discovery motion — seeking to
6 stay *all* discovery for one year — before this Court, under the pretext of seeking a modification of
7 the Case Management Order.⁶ In support of their request, Defendants invoke the talisman of
8 burden without making any particularized showing, and — as they did in their motions to
9 dismiss — claim that Plaintiffs should not be able to pursue their claims for notice and health care
10 because Defendants still are “working on it.” Defendants have been “working on it” for decades
11 with little to no results, leading to this litigation.

12 Defendants' concerted efforts to avoid discovery in this matter are underscored by their
13 latest tactic: in addition to asking this Court to halt *all* discovery in this matter for one year, they
14 now have filed a motion with the Magistrate seeking a protective order that would gut the scope
15 of any discovery that does go forward. (Docket Nos. 140, 141.) As just one example, Defendants
16 seek to preclude any discovery into the “operational use” of the chemical and biological agents
17 tested on servicemembers, even though this information bears directly on the potential health
18 effects arising from exposure to these agents. These potential health effects are relevant to the
19 core of Plaintiffs' claims. (*See* Docket No. 59 at 15 (noting that regulations require participants
20 to be “fully informed of the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his
21 participation in the experiment”).) It is becoming increasingly apparent that Defendants are more
22 focused on *resisting* discovery in this matter than they are in meeting their obligations in this

23 ⁵ In light of Defendants' serial noncompliance with their discovery obligations, Plaintiffs
24 also have moved for mandatory Rule 37(a) sanctions in connection with the motions to compel.
25 (Docket No. 131.) Judge Larson is scheduled to hear the motion for sanctions on October 6,
2010, along with Plaintiffs' other outstanding discovery motions.

26 ⁶ Defendants' justification rings hollow: because Plaintiffs' discovery motions are
27 pending before Judge Larson, Defendants could have sought a stay of discovery from Judge
28 Larson. Had he granted the discovery stay, Defendants could then have asked this Court to
modify the case management order.

1 litigation. Regardless, Defendants certainly have not met their burden to show that they are
2 entitled to a stay of discovery, and must not be allowed to continue their clear pattern of delay.⁷

3 III. ARGUMENT

4 A. Defendants Have Not Met Their Heavy Burden to Show That a 5 Protective Order Is Appropriate.

6 A protective order places limits on discovery that is otherwise liberally permitted under
7 Federal Rules. *See Neubronner v. Milken*, 6 F.3d 666, 672 (9th Cir. 1993); *Shoen v. Shoen*,
8 5 F.3d 1289, 1292 (9th Cir. 1993). A protective order may be granted only when the moving
9 party can show “good cause” by “demonstrating harm or prejudice that will result from the
10 discovery.” *Rivera v. NIBCO, Inc.*, 364 F.3d 1057, 1063 (9th Cir. 2004).⁸ Moreover, “[b]road
11 allegations of harm, unsubstantiated by specific examples or articulated reasoning, do not satisfy
12 the Rule 26(c) test.” *Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int’l Ins. Co.*, 966 F.2d 470, 476 (9th Cir. 1992).
13 Defendants have fallen far short of this standard.

14 Defendants’ only asserted justification for a discovery stay is that participating in
15 discovery in this lawsuit as ordered would take time and effort, and because the Department of
16 Defense’s own investigation will reveal the same evidence Plaintiffs seek in discovery. But
17 “good cause is not established merely by showing that discovery may involve inconvenience and
18 expense.” *See* 6 James W. Moore, *Moore’s Federal Practice* § 26.104[1] (3d ed. 2010); *see also*
19 *Lehnert v. Ferris Faculty Ass’n--MEA-NEA*, 556 F. Supp. 316, 318 (W.D. Mich. 1983) (extent of
20 discovery burden party must bear is measured by nature, importance, and complexity of inquiry
21 involved in case). Moreover, Defendants’ claims of burden ring hollow, as they greatly
22

23 ⁷ In light of Defendants’ efforts to improperly litigate discovery issues before this Court
24 rather than before the Magistrate in the first instance, Plaintiffs reserve the right to move for an
award of attorneys fees and costs as sanctions.

25 ⁸ *Rivera*, the only case relied on by Defendants, bears little resemblance to this case. The
26 *Rivera* court issued a protective order barring discovery into the plaintiffs’ immigration status
27 because permitting such discovery would “chill the plaintiffs’ willingness and ability to bring
civil rights claims.” *Rivera*, 364 F.3d at 1064. Defendants offer no similar justification for a
protective order here.
28

1 exaggerate by suggesting that the ongoing work of their private contractor will “provide the bulk
2 of information necessary” to resolve Plaintiffs’ claims. (Docket No. 134 at 1.)

3 **1. The Statement of Work Concerns Only a Small Portion of**
4 **Relevant Information.**

5 Contrary to Defendants’ assertion, the “large scale” Department of Defense (“DoD”)
6 investigation, governed by the Statement of Work (“SOW”) attached to the Declaration of James
7 Kirkpatrick as Exhibit 1 (Docket No. 134, attachment 1), will not provide the “bulk” of
8 information necessary to prove Plaintiffs’ claims. (Docket No. 134 at 1). Even a cursory review
9 of the project, which is being performed by a private contractor, Battelle,⁹ reveals the restricted
10 scope of the matter covered by the SOW.¹⁰

11 The bulk of DoD’s purported “large scale” investigation is not targeted at identifying test
12 subjects and other relevant information, as claimed by Defendants. Rather, its primary focus
13 appears to be preserving information relevant to the military’s ongoing chemical and biological
14 weapon capabilities and objectives. For example, the first three objectives of the SOW concern
15 providing “research, test[], and evaluation[]” information about chemical and biological warfare
16 agents, “effectively coordinat[ing] and integrat[ing] the research,” and “identifying areas for
17 international cooperative development, production and sustainment.” (SOW at 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.)
18 Only the “fourth objective” even mentions the identification of test subjects. (SOW at 2.4) (“The
19 fourth objective is to develop the consolidated reference repository of chemical and biological
20 defense information . . . and analysis that identifies personnel that were potentially exposed”).
21 Therefore, only a small fraction of Defendants’ “large scale” efforts — and related costs — are
22 directed at identifying individual test participants and the substances to which they were exposed.

23
24 ⁹ Plaintiffs issued a subpoena for documents to Battelle on June 24, 2010, but Battelle has
25 failed to respond in any manner, perhaps at Defendants’ behest.

26 ¹⁰ As a preliminary matter, the SOW is limited on its face to chemical and biological tests
27 conducted “within the Department of Defense.” (SOW at 1.0.) This appears to exclude testing
28 done by the CIA pursuant to MKULTRA, Project OFTEN, or other programs, which are relevant
to this case as alleged in the Second Amended Complaint.

1 The scope of information subject to the SOW is, without question, far narrower than the
2 relevant information sought by Plaintiffs in discovery. For example, the SOW identifies thirteen
3 specific sites at which Battelle will “analyze” documents “for information on personnel
4 potentially exposed to chemical and/or biological agents” from 1942 to the present. (SOW
5 at 3.5.) Not included among the thirteen specified search sites are key locations of Defendants’
6 testing programs, including Fort Detrick, Fort Bragg, Dugway Proving Ground, Fort Ord, and
7 Fort Benning. (*See* Decl. of Daniel J. Vecchio In Supp. of Pls.’ Mot. to Compel Produc. of Docs.,
8 Docket No. 129 ¶ 10, Ex. F.) (“Vecchio Decl.”) Moreover, even with respect to Edgewood
9 Arsenal, the SOW indicates only that “Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Technical Library
10 Laboratory Notebooks” will be included in the search, which appears to exclude large categories
11 of documents included among the over one thousand linear feet of documents in labeled and
12 catalogued cabinets and drawers at Edgewood. (*Id.* at ¶ 9, Ex. E at 2-3 of 33.)¹¹

13 Moreover, the SOW makes no reference to the collection of information regarding the
14 health effects of the test substances. Yet much of Plaintiffs’ discovery relates to the health effects
15 potentially suffered by class members as a result of being exposed during Defendants’ test
16 programs. Similarly, the SOW does not indicate that Defendants are collecting any information
17 concerning consent to the tests, nor any information related to secrecy oaths taken by the test
18 subjects — issues that are highly relevant to the claims that the Court has allowed to proceed.
19 (Docket No. 59.) Other relevant information sought by Plaintiffs, but not provided for under the
20 scope of the SOW, includes: (a) the identities of individual researchers involved in the test
21 programs, who, given Defendants’ admitted large-scale destruction of documents, may be

22 ¹¹ Defendants’ discovery failures in this litigation were hinted at last week when a
23 spokesperson for Fort Detrick was quoted as saying that he “was not aware of Fort Detrick
24 officials being involved in pulling any records for [this] lawsuit.” *See* Megan Eckstein, *Veterans*
25 *sue CIA, Army for experiments at Detrick, Edgewood*, FREDERICK NEWS POST, September 9,
26 2010, available at
27 <http://www.fredericknews.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=109671> (last visited
28 Sept. 14, 2010). This is particularly troublesome, as Fort Detrick was a key site of Defendants’
biological testing programs. (*See* Docket No. 53, Compl. ¶ 106.) Without the ability to compel
Defendants to search Fort Detrick for relevant records — as Plaintiffs are attempting to do before
the Magistrate — key records may never be discovered, notwithstanding Defendants’ “large
scale” investigation.

1 important sources of relevant facts and admissions; and (b) information concerning Defendants’
2 research into mind control testing and/or brain implants, which is relevant because at least one of
3 the named Plaintiffs received a brain implant during his time at Edgewood. (Docket No. 53,
4 Compl. ¶¶ 33-34.)

5 While there may be modest overlap of the DoD’s investigation under the SOW and
6 information necessary for this case, it is a far cry from the complete overlap Defendants contend.
7 Indeed, Defendants themselves *concede* that Battelle’s investigation “covers only a portion of”
8 the documents responsive to Plaintiffs’ discovery requests. Kilpatrick Decl. ¶ 17. Defendants
9 must not be allowed to avoid complying with their discovery obligations simply because
10 Defendants’ third-party contractor is, independent of this litigation, in the process of collecting a
11 small subset of the information relevant to Plaintiffs’ claims.

12 **2. There Is No Guarantee That the Investigation Will Be**
13 **Completed, Nor Does the Investigation Address Defendants’**
14 **Obligations to Provide Notice and Healthcare.**

15 Although Defendants claim that the work under the SOW is “consistent with
16 congressional direction and under Congress’s supervision,” neither Defendants nor their
17 declarants ever acknowledge any legal obligations to conduct or complete the work. (Docket
18 No. 134 at 3.) In fact, in their Motion to Dismiss, Defendants decried any legal obligation
19 whatsoever to identify and notify test participants or provide healthcare. (Docket No. 34 at 7-8.)
20 The SOW states that work is estimated to be completed in September, 2011, but does not provide
21 that the DoD (or any other defendant) is obligated to complete the work by that (or any other)
22 date. Forcing Plaintiffs to defer discovery pending DoD’s *voluntary* (and, according to
23 Defendants, completely unenforceable) investigation and collection of a small portion of relevant
24 information is unreasonable and unacceptable — especially in light of Defendants’ obligations to
25 provide relevant information in this litigation and Plaintiffs’ ability to enforce those obligations, if
26 necessary.

27 In addition, Defendants contend that as the investigation moves forward, they will provide
28 information about test participants on a rolling basis to the VA (a non-party) so that the VA “may

1 notify the participant.”¹² Defendants say nothing about whether the VA: (a) is required to notify
 2 participants; (b) is providing notice on a rolling basis; (c) intends to provide notice at some point
 3 in the future; or (d) plans to notify the survivors of deceased participants. Regardless, Defendants
 4 say nothing about fulfilling their *own* obligations to provide notice to the test subjects, or how
 5 Defendants would meet *their* responsibility for providing health care. Nothing, then, about the
 6 DoD’s “investigation” satisfies the relevant duties recognized by the Court’s January 19, 2010
 7 Order. (Docket No. 59.) Defendants have failed to fulfill their obligations to the test participants
 8 for *several decades*. Plaintiffs cannot — and should not be expected to — wait any longer.

9 **3. Defendants’ Efforts to Avoid Discovery into the Extent of the**
 10 **CIA’s Involvement in the Testing Programs.**

11 In their Motion, Defendants assert that staying discovery against the CIA is particularly
 12 appropriate because the nexus between the CIA and the testing conducted on military personnel is
 13 “limited.” (Docket No. 134 at 1.) Although Defendants have repeatedly advanced this
 14 contention, Defendants are simply wrong — documents already obtained through discovery and
 15 Plaintiffs’ investigation indicate that the CIA was closely involved with the testing of chemical
 16 and biological agents on servicemembers.

17 For example, a 1955 memorandum from the director of the CIA to the Secretary of
 18 Defense states that CIA and Army scientists involved in the testing program maintained a close
 19 and effective liaison and that the CIA provided financial support for psychochemical experiments
 20 conducted by the Army Chemical Corps. (Docket No. 129, Vecchio Decl. ¶ 11, Ex. G.) Other
 21 documents show that the CIA funded human experimentation of BZ (known by the code name
 22 EA-3167) at Edgewood Arsenal as a part of Project OFTEN (Vecchio Decl. ¶ 12, Ex. H), and at
 23 least eleven boxes of documents and tapes related to these experiments are still in the CIA’s
 24 possession (Vecchio Decl. ¶ 13, Ex. I).¹³

25 _____
 26 ¹² Plaintiffs’ proposed Third Amended Complaint names VA as a defendant also.
 Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend is currently pending. (*See* Docket No. 88.)

27 ¹³ Defendants’ statements regarding the CIA’s lack of involvement in the testing programs
 28 are particularly suspect in light of the CIA’s admitted destruction of documents relating to its

(Footnote continues on next page.)

1 **B. Defendants Did Not Even Attempt to Show “Good Cause” to Modify**
2 **Case Management Order.**

3 Similarly, Defendants have not shown the “good cause” required to modify the Case
4 Management Order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4); *Zivkovic v. S. Cal. Edison Co.*, 302 F.3d 1080,
5 1087-88 (9th Cir. 2002). Nothing has changed since the Order was issued except the passage of
6 time resulting from Defendants’ stalling tactics. In determining whether to grant a request to
7 modify a case management order, courts consider the moving party’s diligence to meet the
8 current case schedule and whether any prejudice will result to the opposing party as a result of the
9 requested modification. *See Zivkovic*, 302 F.3d at 1087; *Hynix Semiconductor, Inc. v. Rambus*
10 *Inc.*, 250 F.R.D. 452, 457, n.6 (N.D. Cal. 2008). Indeed, if the party seeking the modification
11 “was not diligent, the inquiry should end.” *Zivkovic*, 302 F.3d at 1087. That is precisely the case
12 here: as chronicled above and in Plaintiffs’ pending motions to compel, Defendants have shirked
13 their discovery obligations and evidenced their lack of diligence from the inception of this lawsuit
14 until today.

15 Defendants’ only asserted reason for modifying the case schedule is because DoD’s own
16 investigation covered by the SOW will not be completed until September 2011. Defendants’
17 asserted justification is flawed for at least two reasons: First, the request asks the Court to excuse
18 Defendants’ from *all* of their discovery obligations in light of the limited work done under the
19 SOW, even though the scope of information covered by the SOW admittedly is far narrower than
20 the scope of information relevant to Plaintiffs’ claims. Second, Defendants have made no
21 showing that they cannot complete the identification of test subjects more quickly — only that
22 they would prefer to rely on the results of the DoD investigation. This assertion merely
23 underscores the *lack* of diligence by Defendants in performing their discovery obligations and
24 adhering to the case schedule.

25
26 _____
(Footnote continued from previous page.)

27 testing programs. Plaintiffs are entitled to seek additional evidence of the CIA’s participation in
28 the testing programs through discovery.

1 While the Court need look no further when the lack of diligence has been established (as it
2 has been here), it is worth noting the substantial prejudice to Plaintiffs should the case
3 management order be revised. Currently, fact-discovery cutoff is May 31, 2011. Defendants now
4 seek an extension of nine months to February 29, 2012 — and a stay of all discovery in the
5 interim.¹⁴ Similarly, while trial is set for March 26, 2012, Defendants want to delay it to
6 December 27, 2012.¹⁵

7 Since Defendants know that the named Plaintiffs (and other members of the putative
8 class) are aging veterans with myriad ailments, Defendants' strategy of delay and their efforts to
9 escape their discovery obligations are particularly troubling. Because Plaintiffs initiated this
10 action in January 2009, even under the current schedule it will be more than three years from
11 filing to trial. The Court should not allow even more time to lapse unnecessarily before Plaintiffs
12 have the opportunity for the Court to hear their claims and afford them relief by holding
13 Defendants to their legal and ethical obligations.

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20 ¹⁴ The estimated completion date of the DoD SOW is September 2011. As discussed
21 above, that deadline considers the total amount of work done under the SOW, not only the
22 component of the SOW addressed to identifying test participants. In other words, if the DoD
23 were to focus on the identification of test participants, it likely could complete that task much
24 earlier than September 2011. Moreover, as alleged in the proposed Third Amended Complaint,
the scope, content, and operation of the project is fundamentally flawed. *See, e.g.* [Proposed]
Third Amended Complaint, Docket No. 88, Attachment 1, at ¶¶ 234-238) (noting that the list of
names given to the VA by the DoD “omitted the names of all veterans exposed before 1954,
which likely numbered in the tens of thousands”).

25 ¹⁵ In an apparent effort to avoid requesting that the Court delay trial until 2013,
26 Defendants cosmetically propose that trial be postponed until Thursday, December 27, 2012. As
27 a practical matter, however, Defendants are asking the Court to postpone trial until early 2013,
28 more than *four years* after this action began and many decades after Defendants should have
fulfilled their obligations to Plaintiffs.

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IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Court should deny Defendants’ motion and compel discovery to move forward according to the current Case Management Order.

Dated: September 16, 2010

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Responses and Replies

[4:09-cv-00037-CW Vietnam Veterans of America et al v. Central Intelligence Agency et al](#)

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Case Name: Vietnam Veterans of America et al v. Central Intelligence Agency et al

Case Number: [4:09-cv-00037-CW](#)

Filer: Swords to Plowshares
Veterans Rights Organization
Vietnam Veterans of America
Bruce Price
Franklin D. Rochelle
Larry Meirow
Eric P. Muth
David C. Dufrane
Wray C. Forrest

Document Number: [151](#)

Docket Text:

Memorandum in Opposition re [134] MOTION for Protective Order and Modification of Case Management Order filed by David C. Dufrane, Wray C. Forrest, Larry Meirow, Eric P. Muth, Bruce Price, Franklin D. Rochelle, Swords to Plowshares, Veterans Rights Organization, Vietnam Veterans of America.

(Erspamer, Gordon) (Filed on 9/16/2010)**4:09-cv-00037-CW Notice has been electronically mailed to:**

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