

EXHIBIT 24

Salvatore, Joe

From: Brown, Mark A (VHACO)
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 10:44 AM
To: Hyams, Kenneth Craig, Dr., MPH, MD; Salvatore, Joe; Van Diepen, Louise R; Moore, Michael A; Pringle, Karla; Wallick, Glen, VBAVACO; Abbot, David, VBAVACO
Cc: Allen, Martaineous L.; Jeter, Theriska; Pham, Katherine; Dembling, Doug; Deyton, Lawrence R., MSPH, MD
Subject: RE: EDMS 352753 - Edgewood Arsenal Notification Letter - Expedite

I think the DoD fact sheet has some significant inaccuracies -- the problem of course is that putting in a letter from VA appears to endorse its accuracy.

Unfortunately, this is the first time I've seen this fact sheet, and provide any comments about it.

Paragraph 1 DOD Fact Sheet last sentence: "The study did not detect any significant long-term health effects in Edgewood Arsenal volunteers."

This statement is not a correct representation of the relevant NRC reports. In fact, in their review of hospital admissions records for Army from 1958 to 1983, and VA from 1963 to 1981, the NRC investigators reported a "barely statistically significant increase in admissions to VA hospitals for malignant neoplasms among men exposed to anticholinesterases and a statistically significant increase in admissions to VA hospitals and Army hospitals for nervous system and sense organ disorders among men exposed to LSD" (NRC 1985).

In fairness, they did note that admission numbers were small, no dose relationships were observed, and, for subjects exposed to anticholinesterases, neoplasms occurred at various sites with no consistent pattern or correlation to a specific chemical (NRC 1985).

I think a more accurate wording for the fact sheet would be "The study detected few significant long-term health effects in Edgewood Arsenal volunteers." To say that there were no effects is clearly not correct and easily refutable.

Paragraph 2 DOD Fact Sheet last sentence: "The study objectives were to determine specific health effects associated with exposure (particularly with low dosages . . .)"

The phrase "particularly at low dosages" is not really accurate and is misleading.

The term "low dose" is a term of art that refers or implies exposure to sub clinical doses -- that is, doses causing no clinical poisoning signs and symptoms.

Review of the extensive literature on these tests clearly demonstrates that a great deal of the experiments, perhaps the majority, were actually designed to cause clinical poisoning signs and symptoms among experimental subjects, and therefore, not "low dose."

Many subjects had all sorts of immediate poisoning s&s including blistering, cholinergic poisoning, intense tearing, etc. and some subjects required medical attention.

I would suggest simply eliminated this phrase from the Fact Sheet, and also from the VBA letter, where apparently was copied.

From: Hyams, Kenneth Craig, Dr., MPH, MD
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 10:32 AM
To: Salvatore, Joe; Brown, Mark A (VHACO); Van Diepen, Louise R; Moore, Michael A; Pringle, Karla; Wallick, Glen, VBAVACO; Abbot, David, VBAVACO

6/29/2006



01446

DVA052 000113

Cc: Allen, Martaineous L.; Jeter, Theriska; Pham, Katherine; Dembling, Doug; Deyton, Lawrence R., MSPH, MD
Subject: RE: EDMS 352753 - Edgewood Arsenal Notification Letter - Expedite

The letter looks good to us in VHA Public Health. We will approve the letter portion of this package today but would prefer (not require) two things:

1. The phrase "particularly at low dosages" be taken out of the second paragraph because some veterans were exposed to high doses of chemical agents
2. Add "DoD" to this phrase in the second paragraph "Please see the enclosed [DoD] fact sheet..." because it is not clear that this is DoD's fact sheet/interpretation and not VA's.

I would still like the VHA business office to look over this letter and relayed it to them.

thanks all -- great effort, Craig

From: Salvatore, Joe

Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 9:25 AM

To: Hyams, Kenneth Craig, Dr., MPH, MD; Brown, Mark A (VHACO); Van Diepen, Louise R; Moore, Michael A; Salvatore, Joe; Pringle, Karla; Wallick, Glen, VBAVACO; Abbot, David, VBAVACO

Cc: Allen, Martaineous L.; Jeter, Theriska; Pham, Katherine

Subject: EDMS 352753 - Edgewood Arsenal Notification Letter - Expedite

Importance: High

I need your assistance in ensuring that our partners in VBA receive all business line concurrences for EDMS 352753 as soon as possible, but no later than COB today.

Your expedited assistance will afford VBA exactly one business day to generate and issue some notification letters to Edgewood Arsenal veterans by July 4, 2006. In doing so, VBA can meet a verbally-mandated request from HVAC. Additionally, your actions will prevent this office from explaining to HVAC staffers why VA and DoD could not meet the deadline.

I apologize for the tight turnaround but another federal agency delayed VA's letter roll-out. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my request. Thank you in advance.

Joe

*Joe Salvatore
Senior Policy Analyst
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness
joe.salvatore@va.gov
202-273-9512*

6/29/2006

01447

DVA052 000114