

Yu, Cathy [REDACTED]

From: Adams, Tony L. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Berner, Hannah [REDACTED]; Yu, Cathy [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Mustard Gas due-outs

Cathy/Hannah,

As I get the responses for the eleven questions I'm working for you (six are below), I will send them to you. I don't really know what time frame to expect to receive them but will forward to as soon as I get them. If you prefer I hold them for one consolidated response, I can do that as well.

Here is the response to question 5:

Request:

For those veterans who have come forward to receive benefits through the VA, have there been any efforts by the VA to do any sort of ongoing health monitoring or studies of long-term impacts of exposure to mustard gas?

Response:

At this time there are no research or surveillance studies for this group.

In response to recent military service chemical exposures in Iraq, DoD/VA Deployment Health Work Group is finalizing "Guidance for the Long-Term Follow-Up of Service Members and Veterans Exposed to Chemical Warfare Agents during Their Military Service". The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for long-term follow-up and patient education recommendations for healthcare providers caring for Service members and Veterans exposed to chemical warfare agents during their military service.

Take care,
Tony

From: Adams, Tony L.
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 2:38 PM
To: 'Berner, Hannah [REDACTED]'; 'Yu, Cathy [REDACTED]'
Subject: Mustard Gas due-outs

Cathy/Hannah,

I was hoping to stop by and say hi to you two this week but time is getting away from me. The main thing I wanted to discuss was to make sure I had all of your requests straight as I received several emails with different asks in them. Below is my consolidated list just so you know what I'm tracking.

Requests:

1. We heard that there's a VA Master File with veterans who are receiving compensation. Is there a way we can get access to it? It is my understanding that the VA response to mustard gas claims is headquartered at the Muskogee Regional Benefit Office and is primarily handled by

one VA employee. Is this correct? And if so, is it possible to set up a call with her at some point?

2. In regards to the list of testing sites on the example Mustard gas letter you sent, is this list comprehensive? We have heard from veterans who were exposed at sites other than those that are listed. For example, Camp Crowder in Missouri and Camp Claiborne in Louisiana.
3. Do veterans who have been exposed and meet the burden of proof automatically become service connected once the VA acknowledges their exposure and grants benefits? In other words, is every veteran that is acknowledged to have been exposed entitled to a certain level of service connection (or varying levels) or is it possible to be an acknowledged exposed veteran without a service connection?
4. We know that some veteran's records are missing due to the NPRC fire in St. Louis; however, are there other reasons why a veterans' records might be missing or unable to locate?
5. For those veterans who have come forward to receive benefits through the VA, have there been any efforts by the VA to do any sort of ongoing health monitoring or studies of long-term impacts of exposure to mustard gas?
6. We were wondering if there's a written set of criteria for what sorts of documents or secondary documents a veteran needs to provide to show proof that they were part of such experiments, if they're not already in the DoD database? Is this in VA rules and regs by any chance?

I hope I haven't missed anything or still show something that has been responded to. If so, just let me know.

Tony

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