

Yu, Cathy [REDACTED]

From: Bukowczyk, Jeremy MAJ USARMY OSD OASD LA (US)
[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Berner, Hannah [REDACTED]; Munchmeyer, Theodore W (Ted) Col USAF OSD OASD LA (US)
Cc: Yu, Cathy [REDACTED]; Chandrasekaran, Rekha D CIV OSD OASD LA (US)
Subject: RE: DoD Policy Use of List of Testing Sites
Attachments: Department of Defense List of Known Testing Sites.pdf

Good Morning Hannah,

As requested, below are the answers to your questions:

QUESTION 1: I'm hoping you can help clarify something for us. Does the DoD utilize the attached list of testing sites in the determination of a veteran's full-body exposure to mustard gas? Is this list relevant or a required aspect of the determination of full-body exposure to mustard gas? If you have any questions about this please feel free to reach out to me, we're hoping to get a response in the very near future.

ANSWER 1:

- 1) The list of sites has nothing to do with the determination of chemical warfare agent exposure; the type of test at a site combined with the individual's role in the testing would determine exposure
- 2) The list has no relevance to the "determination" of full-body exposure--that would, again, depend on the protocol of a test and the individual's role. Therefore, participation in testing at a location would not equate to "full-body" exposure.
- 3) DoD attempted to collect records on individuals involved in testing at all the locations on the list. However, we did not necessarily visit all these sites because records did not always remain where the testing took place. For instance Camp Siebert closed in 1945. Bushnell is closed. San Jose Island was only leased and its records sent back to its regional office in New Orleans and are now found in the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) near College Park (MD). Horn Island was a private island off the coast of Mississippi, now deserted. Huntsville Arsenal is no longer in the business. Fort McClellan Chemical School moved its Chemical School to Fort Leonard Wood (MO). However, the Department visited sites where the records supposedly were transferred and collected that information, including from NARA:

Fort McClellan, AL Records Reviewed Elsewhere
Camp Siebert, AL Records Reviewed Elsewhere
Huntsville Arsenal, AL Records Reviewed Elsewhere
Bushnell Field, FL Records Reviewed Elsewhere
Great Lakes Naval Training Center, IL Records not found for Great Lakes
Edgewood Arsenal, MD Site Visited
Fort Detrick, MD Site Visited

Naval Research Laboratory, MD Site Visited

Horn Island Installation, Miss (Gulf Port) Records Reviewed Elsewhere

Dugway Proving Ground, UT Site Visited

Toole Army Depot, UT Site Visited

Fort Clayton, San Jose Island, Panama Records Reviewed Elsewhere

4) It is VA's criterion for "full-body" exposure to determine benefits, not DoD's. The DoD will treat active duty Service members for injuries and illnesses as required. After separation from active duty, the VA would have responsibility for treatment of Service-connected injuries and illnesses.

QUESTION 2: If there are any other policies in writing that are related to the adjudication of a veteran's mustard gas exposure, we would be very interested in seeing those as well.

ANSWER: 2: The DoD doesn't adjudicate exposure, it treats injuries and illnesses of active duty Service members. However, the VA may adjudicate benefits based on exposure.

V/R,
Jeremy

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