

July 2, 2012

Dr. Paxton
Institute of Medicine

Thank you for all of your efforts facilitating the group of Vietnam disabled veterans that attended the 2012 IOM Agent Orange Update. Your support is very much appreciated by all you did for the group.

In my perceptive opinionated research conclusively I believe the greatest detriment to the loss of veterans lives exposed to herbicides in the last 35 years and 21 years of incomplete inadequate IOM research lays within two governmental policy mandated controlling unjust factors.

Congressional Law PL 102-4 The Agent Orange Act of 1991 and AFHS – Air Force Health Study “Ranch Hand.” These two primary factors alone are the Congressional Legislative mandated policy inhibitors responsible for the greatest Agent Orange Veterans population loss of life to date.

Including Vietnam Veterans suicide, homelessness and denied medical care for Agent Orange exposed Veterans. The cause of many secondary if not primary deaths among Vietnam Veterans exposed and contaminated from Agent Orange herbicides. Who unfortunately decide to give up, can't afford medical care or die from a lack of sufficient medical care as a result of VA denied medical care service and decisions. A large population of these Vietnam Veterans (Era) is veterans forced out of the VA medical care system excluded from the Agent Orange Act of 1991 PL 102-4.

Scientific research attempts to provide reasonable answers to cause and effect and repeatable profiles of such circumstantial analysis; Through scientific research conclusions, sufficient evidence of association, limited or suggestive evidence of association, inadequate or insufficient evidence to determine association.

Due to the fact of Congressional Governmental inhibitors, legislative policy mandates, PL 102-4 and the Ranch Hand study the Institute of Medicine for the last 21 years has confined its research based on these governmental inhibitors. Preventing research transparency and objective studies on excluded veterans populations exposed to herbicides outside the Republic of Vietnam while on active duty in the military. IOM scientific research and studies only mandated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, NAS National

Academy of Science and dictated only by Congressional Law PL 102-4. As a result the written language of PL 102-4 within this language lays a major problem in direct exposed veterans excluded from any research study populations and denied any sufficient evidence of association and exposure to herbicides. Preventing and excluding this veteran population since 1991 from participating in any legitimate scientific research Agent Orange exposure. Research that is now too late and will never be completed on a dying population of exposed Agent Orange veterans. Denied all medical claims by the VA and disability medical compensation and the remote possibility of any long-term health care or future IOM research. Simply denied because of the written unjust Congressional Language of PL 102-4 or they will all be dead before any completed scientific research will ever be completed or conclusive.

Deny, Delay Until They All Die.

As I presented in my testimony to the IOM PL 102-4 fails to address all Vietnam Veterans (Era Veterans) exposed and contaminated to herbicides during the Vietnam War Campaign. Vietnam Veterans exposed Stateside on U.S. military bases, Ft. McClellan, exposed as support forces on Guam, Thailand, Okinawa, Bluewater, the South China Sea, Johnston Island or any veteran who served during the Laos and Cambodia campaigns. PL 102-4 fails to address any Vietnam Veteran who served during the Vietnam Campaign that was not in Country "Boots on the Ground" in the Republic of Vietnam. Evidence I researched and acquired dating back to the periods of 1969 to 1977 and beyond to date. Research exist supporting confirmed Agent Orange VA approved medical claims and BVA approved claims for exposure at Ft. McClellan, Thailand, Guam and other stateside military bases, VA approved Agent Orange claims as well as denied VA claims.

Please know our group (Agent Orange Movement Group) AO veterans and myself will be submitting written statements - reports to recap and support their oral statements and evidence given at the IOM meeting with a more direct and clarified focus of their related illnesses, exposure and evidence for the official IOM testimonial 2012 AO updated record.

In my own presentation to the IOM and to your panel of expert scientific doctors and research staff I hope I was absolutely clear beyond a reasonable doubt with supporting evidence of AO veterans (male and

female) directly exposed to Herbicides "Stateside - Vietnam Era Veterans exposed outside the Republic of Vietnam".

Evidence provided by Vietnam Veterans Roy Foster, Ralph Stanton, (Guam) Helene VanClief and Army Captain Agnes Irish Bresnahan (Ft. McClellan) all Vietnam Veterans directly exposed to herbicides where they served during the Vietnam War - Vietnam Campaign. Classified as Vietnam Era Veterans, Stateside or outside the Republic of Vietnam Veterans. (I will be forwarding Stateside approved VA claim evidence)

Please know the DVD I presented to the IOM on the history and evidence of Army Captain Agnes Bresnahan is documented medical evidence with the VA and the BVA on record. **Captain Bresnahan is the very first known U.S. Stateside exposure case service connected in the continental U.S. 1977 for Bio-Chemical exposure.** She was exposed and contaminated at Ft. McClellan Anniston AL. Chemical Corps 1973. Died three days after her final BVA appeal hearing in Washington DC March 11, 2009 for additional progressive illnesses, she suffered and sustained 37 years of contamination.

By government classification (PL 102-4) the population of directly or secondary exposed herbicide veterans (Era Veterans – Stateside Veterans) have unjustly been removed from any Agent Orange statistical or medical research by the IOM. Removed for over 35 years as exposed veterans, removed in the last 21 years from any IOM updated inclusion of Agent Orange study populations for in service connection. Denied any Agent Orange approved presumptive or suggestive association, medical care as a direct result mandated by Congressional Legislation PL 102-4 the 1991 Agent Orange Act and the written language of the 1991 Agent Orange Act. Preventing any inclusion of non Boots on the Ground Vietnam Veterans while on active military duty during the Vietnam Campaign.

The IOM mandate "Scope of the Committee Charge) regulatory scientific research PL 102-4 dictates a deliberate exclusion of any Stateside or Vietnam Era Veteran inclusion in any IOM study to date. Especially direct exposure to herbicides on Guam, this includes Bluewater Navy and all U.S. military bases outside Vietnam, needless to say U.S. civilian populations that served in support capacities either in Vietnam or outside Vietnam have never been included or considered. Groups like VN Chemical Corps and nurses in VN studies either have all been dropped or defunded for study.

In the Institute of Medicine 2010 Update VAO First Meeting Washington DC Autoimmune conditions page 19 Introduction I quote.

“Exposure to Agent Orange during Vietnam-era service on Guam: Evaluating where herbicide exposure may have occurred is not within the scope of the committee charge”

I reiterate, again here lays the problem, the language (PL 102-4) is the inhibitor in any substantial scientific truthful research by the IOM to include and conduct a truthful transparent study by Congressional Order PL 102-4 “Not Within The Scope of The Committee Charge.”

Unequivocally meaning the IOM has no authority to conduct any studies on Agent Orange outside the scope of Congressional Order of PL 102-4 Agent Orange Act of 1991 dictating IOM AO research for only Herbicides and the Effects of Herbicides only Sprayed in Vietnam in conformity with the AFHS research, the Ranch Hand Study.

Here again lays the injustice and inhibitor (Government & the VA) of providing, allowing true honest scientific research to move forward by the IOM on all veterans exposed to Agent Orange herbicides anyplace. PL 102-4 limiting and preventing the IOM from true honest research of a directly exposed veterans population, 21 years of missed scientific research. Hundreds and thousands of Agent Orange veterans deaths, suffering and still dying in country in their country with boots on the ground in the United States because of one misguided antiquated Congressional Law preventing scientific research, preventing service connection and presumptive definitive associated and suggestive exposure to cover the Vietnam Era Veteran, Stateside, and Bluewater Navy Veterans.

True Congressional VA ignorance.

The evidence is documented, the statistical data exist, 40 years of it, submitted approved and denied VA claims, proven medical records, mortality data, recorded illnesses, birth defects all the living and dead data and evidence any scientific institution could ever require to determine the killing effects of veterans exposed to herbicides poisons any place.

I will conclude with a question, statements and recommendations within the Scope of the IOM Committee Charge and scientific mission. Exposure evidence submitted beyond a reasonable doubt with confirmed VA exposure outside of Vietnam. Including documented VA medical claims approved for direct exposure and or secondary exposure. Vietnam Veteran Roy Foster USAF Guam veteran (direct exposure) approved claim 2010 provided testimony to the IOM he sprayed AO on Guam and is living proof of such confirmed exposure, witnessed by Vietnam Veteran Ralph Stanton Guam USAF veteran served with Roy Foster. Ralph Stanton directly exposed on Guam, sprayed by Roy Foster and contaminated by Roy Foster; Guam Vietnam Veteran Ralph Stanton denied any medical disability associated exposure by the VA for his related presumptive AO illnesses VA claim. Vietnam Veterans Roy Foster and Ralph Stanton both testified at the June 28, 2012 IOM Agent Orange Update with supporting evidence of their exposure on Guam.

I strongly suggest the IOM recommend to Congress and the Secretary of the VA that after 21 years of PL 102-4 the Agent Orange Act be revisited, revoked and revised by Congressional Act to meet the current standards of research and evidence now known by the IOM to include every veteran exposed outside the Republic of Vietnam as well.

Suggest to Congress and the VA that PL 102-4 is the major veterans obstruction of justice against any veteran exposed to Agent Orange Herbicides and failure by Congress to reform PL 102-4 is a Congressional Continuing War Crime against the Vietnam Veteran, and every veteran exposed any place while on active duty.

The cover up, lies, deception, injustices against our nations Vietnam Veterans and families must stop end now. We know by evidence presented to the IOM that not only Vietnam Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange while serving during the Vietnam Campaign in the Republic of Vietnam but Veterans on active duty serving at U.S. military bases and Navy ships during the Vietnam War as well. The IOM and Congress has confirmed evidence and testimony of Agent Orange exposure out side the Republic of Vietnam from Agent Orange exposed living veterans.

Never Again, Never Forgotten the horrible tragedy and injustices against our nations Vietnam Veterans. The suffering our Vietnam Veterans have endured at the hands of an insensitive government that refuses to accept

and admit their responsibilities, obligations tell the truth and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Deceptive cover-ups the VA and a Congress continue to deny, continuing denied medical care for our wounded suffering Agent Orange Veterans. Veterans our government poisoned neglecting their health care, disgracing their service, dignity and respect to our nation.

We have a national obligation to our veterans to stand up beside them, support them, fight for their rights and medical care and be grateful and honor their service to our country. Stand up for the freedoms we enjoy and endure because they proudly and honorably served our nation for our freedoms.

Let this be their last Victory of Honor, Pride and Dignity, and not another Vietnam Veteran National Disgrace Again. Provide our Veterans with their earned medical care.

Stop the lies, cover-ups, denial of Herbicides used on all our Vietnam Veterans. We want the truth period.

Carlo Albanese.