Statement For Presentation To The Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations House Of Representatives

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of This Committee, Honorable Congressmen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to present before this Committee

The story I will be telling you today, unfortunately is one of inducement, deception, intimidation and lies for the purpose of enticing unwitting healthy males to be used as human guinea pigs, for the production of injuries under tropical conditions produced by heat and humidity, while locked in a gas chamber and exposed to lethal war agents, Crude Sulphur Mustard gas and Lewisite, containing Arsenic. In the Man Break experiments, the purpose was to produce, not to treat the injuries for study by the Committee For Medical Research (CMR). Army personnel served under field conditions with exposure to vesicant agents designed to mimic concentrations of World War 1, that produced injuries.

The men were identified as "volunteers." However, the volunteer status ceased upon their arrival at the experimental site at which time, they came under orders to participate in the experiments. Furthermore, under the threat of Court Martial and a charge of "Treason" if they ever divulged information relating to their participation in or information relating to these experiments.

Men were told they would be awarded a citation in appreciation of their extraordinary contribution to the war effort and would be made a part of their service record. When these veterans applied for service connected benefits due to vesicant injuries as the etiology of their medical condition, their claims were denied, as no such record was ever placed in their service or medical file.

This story for me, began fifty years ago. A coincidence, I prefer should never again be repeated. You have before you a copy of approval for these actions, signed by Robert Patterson., Acting Secretary of War, dated May 7, 1942, affording permission to use human "volunteers" for experiments with chemical warfare agents. You also have a copy of approval from The Department of The Navy to use humans in pursuit of scientific investigation of war gasses dated May 8, 1942 and signed by the Acting Secretary of the Navy, The Honorable James Forrestal. (Copies are made available for your convenience)

Now let me begin by telling you how "volunteers" were seduced, and used as human guinea pigs for these experiments. In a weekly report from the Navy Medical Liaison Officer, to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BuMed&Sur) Research Division, dated: 3 April 1943, From: The Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Medical Liaison Officer, Lt. Cmdr. L. E. Daily (M.C.) U.S.N. To: BuMed&Sur. Attn: R/A H. W. Smith Subj: Log of Activities 43-03-29 thru 43-04-03 (c1287) "Friday: Went with Comdr. Dole to Navy Yard to arrange for human volunteers for gas testing work. "This idea was found to be unsatisfactory and it was suggested we contact the Naval Training Station (NTS) located in Bainbridge, MD.

How to obtain humans became the question of concern. To use prisoners of war (POWs') was illegal and would be a world issue. Such treatment is addressed in the Geneva Conference Agreement. The use of humans incarcerated in the Harts Island Naval Prison was also considered, but would have to be limited in scope. However, I understand many prisoners were enticed to volunteer. The experiments were limited to patch tests and wearing of impregnated clothing, again with no record of their service.

To follow-up the suggestion of using navy personnel, a letter was formulated to the Commanding Officer, Bainbridge Naval Training Station From: Director NRL, dated: 6 April '43 (c492) which included praise for the Great Lakes Naval Training Commanding Officer for permitting his enlisted personnel be used for like type experiments that were on-going at the University Of Chicago Toxicity Laboratory; under contract to the Chemical Warfare Service, financed by the Army.

This was a project, demanding in the interest of National Defense and approved by the Department of War, Navy Bureau of Personnel (BuPers), The Bureau of Ships (BuShip) but taken under cognizance by the Navy Bureau Of Medicine and Surgery (BuMed/Sur) due to the known psychological effects of these vesicant agents.

To: C/O NTS Bainbridge, Subj: Human Volunteers for Skin Tests with vesicant gasses and anti vesicant materials. "The amount of injury resulting from these particular tests is very slight, being limited to a few small skin burns." Lt. Cmdr. Daily being sent to explain.

From: Director: NRL To: BuMed/Sur. Date: 43-04-09 (c493)
Subj: "Further Explanation of proposed Human Being Volunteer Tests"
(a) Simple skin tests. (b) Gas Chamber Tests. In these tests the individual is placed in a gas chamber containing a known concentration of gas controlled by a chemist and in the presence of a medical officer. Occasionally in these tests there is bound to be a casualty varying from mild to moderately severe skin burns.

NRL To: Res. Div. Bu Med&Sur. (c1288) Memo: To: Rear Admiral Harold W. Smith Date: 43-10-04
Subj: Log of Activities Oct. 4 through 10 1943.
Wed: Went to USNTS Bainbridge, MD to check on possibility of obtaining human volunteers from that activity.

Thus began the flow of humans at a rate of approximately 30 men each week, to be used by NRL, Anacostia; in chemical warfare experiments. The NRL maintained a Navy Unit, stationed at Edgewood Army Chemical Center, Edgewood Arsenal (E.A.) MD (from 1925 until 1975) to act as liaison between the Army and Navy.

The National Defence Research Committee (NDRC) was funding research conducted by NRL, they also directed what studies were to be carried out. Edgewood was used as the Pilot Plant by NDRC, with NRL to limit the concentration of vesicants, to which humans were to be subjected in the "Man Break" experiments. In these experiments, the subject was to be brought to the casualty level.

In late January 1944, fresh out of basic training and assigned to the "Out Going Unit" awaiting transfer for special training, the offer was made for men who would like to do something in the interim. This was for a limited number of 'volunteers" to test Navy Summer Clothing; and with added incentive, the men would be given a (3) day pass for the weekend, upon completion of their assignment. I naturally assumed if this was a Navy Summer Clothing test, warm weather would be a prerequisite. Surely, it must be in the South -Georgia or perhaps even Florida. After all, there in Bainbridge, it was a very cold winter. Put my name on that list.

The following day, I was instructed to store all issued blankets, mattress, clothing with the exception of my dress uniform, a change of under clothing and personnel items, i. e. razor, tooth brush, etc. I boarded a Navy bus, with several others, unknown to me, and assumed we may be heading for a train station. Since it appeared we were not travelling the highway, it could be we were to be flown to this summer location.

In approximately one hour or less, the bus stopped on a dead-end road, in which there was two Quonset huts and no sign of life. Two of the passengers and myself were ordered to disembark the bus. Surely there must be some mistake. It was still winter time here, and very cold. A Corpsman appeared and motioned us to follow him to one of the Quonsets. He issued us an Army Cot and two Army Khaki woolen blankets. We were told to place the cots anywhere in the Quonset we wished.

This structure had but one small light bulb hanging over a wooden picnic table. There was a "pot-bellied" coal stove in the center of the Quonset,

with a whole cut in the top of the Quonset for the stove pipe to exit. About two tons of coal was dumped on the floor near the stove. This was the heat provided to the men living in this structure, which numbered about 6 or 7 total. There was no water, for drinking, no shower, or toilet facilities. If there was a need for these luxuries, we should go to the other Quonset #2, which contained such facilities. There were even showers, a water fountain, sinks and toilet facilities and most important, heat supplied by an oil furnace.

The next morning, we reported to Quonset #2 after travelling via a small Army Bus back and forth to an Army Mess Tent in this remote location. Food was provided for the Navy men stationed here and used for this Navy Summer Clothing experiment. The cooks were also Army, as they were dressed in their woolen khaki jackets. What stood out to identify these three men as cooks, they wore white aprons and white cook's hats. The food was eatable, but a far cry from what we experienced at Bainbridge.

Upon arriving back to the Quonsets, we were ordered to remove our clothing, including under clothing, socks and shoes. We were issued khaki underwear, khaki socks, and heavy type overalls with a like type jacket, a gas mask, rubber overshoes with metal latches, and rubber long sleeve gloves. Prior to leaving this Quonset, a blood test was drawn for evaluation, to determine we were healthy. We put this Navy Summer Clothing on. We were instructed in the use of the gas mask, and ordered to put it on, in the manner to afford protection.

We were marched out the back door of this Quonset, around the structure where a small appendage was attached to the Quonset and used as the Gas

Chamber to mimic tropical conditions, i. e. heat and humidity in the presence of vesicant agents, crude sulphur mustard gas in a 50 - 50 mixture with Lewisite (contains Arsenic). Once the door closed, it was locked. There was no available exit, until the experiment concluded that day. This was 60 minutes each day in succession.

The C/T factor was determined by the known concentration of vesicant at the beginning chamber experiment and the known concentration at the completion of the experiment, and dividing these known factors by 2, to relate the findings as the average concentration; i. e. 20 mg vesicant $\partial$ (gamma, indicative as radiomimetic) per liter, per cubic meter = 20 mg. times X time (number of minutes) = 20 X 60 =1200 C/T.

However, it is interesting to note the concentration was checked every 5 minutes wherein as the concentration diminished due to the absorption into the protective clothing, and then onto the skin, where it was picked up by the blood and carried to every organ of the body within a period of 5 minutes. This amount was replenished. The effects of the agents are both cumulative and radiomimetic. It is impossible to determine the total values of the agents to which we were subjected, as the additional vesicants are not included in the Scientific Notebook (S/N) or log information.

Upon leaving the chamber, we were allowed to remove the gas mask and gloves, prior to boarding the Army Bus for the noon meal. It was mandatory we should wear the contaminated clothing an additional 4 hours. Naturally after returning from lunch, with time to spare, we would rest on the Army Cot and khaki blankets. What was happening naturally, as we were not only being exposed to vesicants in the chamber, but

continuous exposure during the time we wore this clothing, which produced percutaneous absorption, picked up and distributed by the blood; ingestion by having to eat while wearing the contaminated clothing and continuing contamination from sleeping under the contaminated blankets.

The injuries were evaluated each day, prior to returning to the gas chamber for more of the same. After 3 or 4 exposures, it was determined blood checks would no longer be mandatory, prior to entering the chamber. In truth, by this time the blood confirmed systemic intoxication was present, and served no further need.

During my 6th. exposure in the chamber, I determined something was wrong. I called to the Corpsman, via an intercom, and informed him of my condition, and what was happening and requested I be released from the chamber, now. The reply was, I will check with the "Powers to Be" and be right back. The reply was "No" as they had not completed the experiment. I became very nauseous. Again, I requested to be released from the chamber. Again, permission was denied. Within seconds after the denial, I passed out in the chamber. What happened after that, I don't know. I may only assume, when I was removed from the chamber, it was presumed I was already dead.

When I came to, I was lying on a pile of snow, at the side of the road. There was no-one in sight. I tried to either remove my mask, or pull it to the side of my face, in order to obtain a breath of air as I had thrown up in the gas mask. At this time I experienced my first heart attack. After years of repeated experiences, I diagnosed this as myocardial infarct.

As long term medical consequences, I am well acquainted with the difference between the "Infarct" and "ASHD." This, with numerous pulmonary embolus now rated as emboli has rendered me totally disabled. My myriads of medical problems are well documented and confirmed by medical authority including Alfred Gilman, Ph.D., Yale University (Co-author, Goodman and Gilman handbook on "Medical Pharmacology") relating to my exposures to the vesicants, crude sulphur mustard gas and Lewisite, containing Arsenic.

The next day, I was physically dressed by two Corpsmen, informed I would not be going back to the gas chamber again. My duty there was completed. They were going to send me home, not just for three days, but for ten days. I was to report back to Bainbridge, as they were moving and I wouldn't know where or how to find them. They furnished me with a round trip train ticket, transported me to the train station, one you would never know was a train station. There was one set of tracks, with a button block to prevent the train from travelling any further. The train consisted of the engine and three coaches. The Corpsmen had to physically carry me up the steps of the train and place me in a seat. I was weak, I was very ill. I requested they return me to Bainbridge. Request denied. Upon my arrival home, I developed pneumonia, bloody stools, rupture of the many blisters produced by vesicant burns, expelling the mucous membrane of both nostrils, I could speak, but only in a very hoarse and painful voice, my eyes and throat continued to burn. I remained in bed for nine of the ten days. On the nineth day, I sought the assistance of a physician (ENT) and requested he please do something for me. He recommended I go to a hospital. I was under the impression, if I did not return on time, I would

be charged with AWOL. This doctor treated me. I returned to Bainbridge with packing still in my nostrils, a very ill person.

I am proud to have served my country. At this time, I must point out, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has afforded me excellent medical care. However, the DVA now proposes to amend 38 Code Of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 3.316 to include findings of the Institute of Medicine, released 6 January 1993.

I find it unfortunate, the DVA fails to include documented medical findings that confirm a correlation of Heart conditions (ASHD), Bradycardia, Vascular diseases and Neurological disorders all related and documented as long term chronic effect of exposures to the vesicant agents, Sulphur Mustard in either liquid form or gas, Nitrogen Mustards and Lewisite, which contains Arsenic, a known chemical agent related to poly-neuropathy, et. al.

Gilbert W. Bebee, Ph.D. Yale University, Institute of Medicine in published his findings in 1960, in connection with the DVA, relating to long-term medical effects of exposure by mustard gas with World War 1 veterans from 1919 through 1955. His study, well documents the acute and chronic long-term medical effect in excess of 7,000 men with controls.

Findings by the Institute of Medicine in a $600,000. study, released January 6, 1993 mimic much of the same findings by, Bebee.

This is no longer a question of affording claimants the "benefit of doubt" as many favorable medical findings conclude the acute and long-term chronic probability of the known health effects related to injury by these vesicant agents. The DVA should address this issue favorably.

Seventy-five years since World War I; Fifty years of suffering for most of the living veterans of World War II. We do not have many years left to address this issue. Secretary Brown, DVA in reply to a question posed by a reporter shortly after his confirmation as Secretary For The DVA as to his knowledge about the Mustard Gas Issue, answered "I know it produces accelerated aging." He is so right. Those of us who are still here respectfully request the Secretary Brown address this issue, in a timely and favorable manner.

Thank you for permitting me to present. I am willing to answer any questions you may have.