

CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPOSURE STUDY TASK FORCE

MINUTES FOR MEETING 26 APRIL 1993

The meeting was opened at 0900 by Ms. Norma St. Claire, OASD (FM&P). A copy of the attendance roster is attached. Ms. St. Claire told the group that Ms. Pam Parker, from Congressman Sonny Montgomery's staff, has been inquiring about what we are doing in DoD to implement the requirements of the March 9 memorandum signed by Mr. Perry. Ms. St. Claire informed her that we are currently trying to estimate the magnitude of the problem and get a reasonable estimate of the costs to go through records. Ms. St. Claire asked each of the members of the group to provide a status report on their efforts to date.

LTCOL Mike Brown reported that Army workload in individual claims is rising. He said that a central focal point to accept and farm out congressionals would be helpful. Ms. St. Claire said that FM&P will take all congressionals and will check to see if Public Affairs will respond if provided a form letter. Army is also working on milestones for accomplishing tasks set forth in the March 9 memorandum. A worldwide message is being sent out to all archivists to look at their records and get information back to Headquarters about what is out there. Army will forward a copy of the memo to FM&P. Army also stated that if biological weapons are added to this effort that the tasking needs to be clarified with the Military Departments since they are currently operating under the guidance that this is chemical only.

COL Mike Browne reported that the Air Force is contacting people involved with chemical weapons matters. However, so far they have not found any one who was a test participant. They have sent out Mr. Perry's March 9 memorandum and will forward a copy of the cover letter to FM&P.

Ms. Zee Ferris, from Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), reported that they had attended the Task Force Planning Meeting held on April 19, and have added the field suggested to the strawman database report. A copy was passed out at the meeting and is included as an attachment.

Ms. MaryeJo Timmons reported that Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) is getting a copy of the Institute of Medicine Report and will have it put into their system. A subsequent phone call from Dr. Forest Frank informed FM&P that the report is in the DTIC system and can be requested by document number AD-A263272 at (703)274-7633. They have a bibliography of chemical and biological papers in their system, by Service, and provided a copy to each Service as well as FM&P. DTIC also provided a list of documents prepared by the Chemical Warfare/Chemical and Biological Defense Information Analysis Center

(CBIAC) and a set of relevant documents.

Ms. Marty Hamed, OASD (FM&P), reported that the number of congressionals was increasing, as is the number of inquiries from individuals. Information was received from the Naval Historical Institute citing Naval Surface Warfare Center and Naval Sea Systems Command as possible repositories in of Navy records on chemical weapons. Staff from FM&P and the Army Environmental Support Group are going to the National Records Center in Suitland April 29 to review the Surgeon General files from WWII.

Captain John Jemionek, OASD (HA), gave a report on the Planning Group Meeting held on April 19. A written report and recommendations were provided to Ms. St. Claire and distributed at the meeting. The VA sent two representatives to the Planning Group Meeting. There were many similarities between the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program and the tasks assigned to the CWEST. The NTPR Program lasted nine years and cost about \$49M in contract support alone. The CWEST Planning Group recommended that we pursue seven of the nine tasks assigned the NTPR and that we assign the project to an Executive Agent. It was also suggested that one of the elements we might want to add to the database if we can find it, is the reason for the individual's separation from the Service. There was discussion on the possibility of contract support. The Planning Group also suggested that DepSecDef put out direction to Military Departments and Defense Agencies to retain records pertaining to chemical weapons testing. Ms. St. Claire agreed that FM&P would prepare a memorandum on this subject.

In closing, Ms. St. Claire recapped that:

1. FM&P will prepare a preliminary report to the ASD (FM&P) on the size of this effort and recommendations on how to proceed after we receive information on test sites and locations where data are stored. The package will be coordinated with Military Departments, OASD Offices, and the appropriate Defense Agencies.
2. FM&P will draft a memo for DepSecDef signature concerning the retention of records.
3. FM&P will consider requesting an Executive Agent after a better a determination has been made on the scope of this project.
4. There will be further guidance developed concerning the declassification of information on chemical weapons testing programs after 1968.
5. The CWEST agreed with the formats for the databases that were recommended by the Planning Group.

The next meeting will be scheduled when we have some specific information to discuss on the above issues. Attendees were given the minutes from the first CWEST and asked to review them and have comments in by April 30, 1993.