



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5730
OLAC-5M
MAR 16 2001

The Honorable Lane Evans
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Evans:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2001, to the Commandant, concerning Marines being exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam Era. I am answering on behalf of General Jones.

Your concern in this matter is appreciated. We conducted an extensive review of our existing records and, regrettably, no information was found to indicate that Marines of the 3d Force Service Regiment were exposed to Agent Orange while cleaning amphibious equipment.

The only records in our possession from the 3d Force Service Regiment for the period in question are command chronologies. Those chronologies include subordinate battalions and companies and make no mention of Agent Orange. We also contacted the Marine Force Pacific's legal and medical departments, to include the environmental medicine unit. Unfortunately, those efforts also proved fruitless. Any other records that would be of assistance have been disposed of or archived according to regulations. Without more specific information, there is simply no further action we can take at this time. If you could provide me with more details, I would be glad to conduct a further inquiry.

I would also like to point out that our Marine Corps Historical Center is open to the public if anyone interested in this matter would like to view the command chronologies. The Center is located at 1254 Charles Morris Street, SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5740. The hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and an appointment is not needed. Copies of the chronologies may also be made, if desired.

Again, thank you for writing and for your concern in this matter. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Very respectfully,


T. I. CORWIN

Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Legislative Assistant to the Commandant