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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS BASE
PSC BOX 20004
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0004

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5800
BSJA4

JAN 18 1995

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road
Mailstop E-31
Atlanta, GA 30333

Gentlemen:

I am writing regarding letters sent by Ms. Nancy Sonnenfeld, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology, and Surveillance Branch, dated October 31, 1994, to the Commanding General Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, the Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, and the Director, Family Housing Division, Camp Lejeune. Ms. Sonnenfeld has requested access to and production of records to study the impact Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC) may have on pregnant women who received medical care at the Naval Hospital.

On December 12, 1994, Ms. Sonnenfeld, her supervisor, Ms. Wendy E. Kaye, and two other members of your agency, requested that this Base release approximately 250 medical records of selected deliveries that occurred at the Naval Hospital between 1968 and 1985. Further, they requested that this Base release housing records of occupants of Base housing from 1968 through 1985 to obtain the name, rank, and dates of assigned personnel to identify a study group for evaluating the likelihood of exposure to VOC.

Your representatives said they had the authority of the agency head to request the information and identified a legitimate governmental purpose for the requested information pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552. As acknowledged during the meeting, Housing, Environmental Management, and Naval Hospital personnel will provide the requested information based on the above factors and with the assurances of your representatives that your agency or its contractor, ASI, would perform much of the manual labor.

Ms. Sonnenfeld acknowledged several limitations on the Base's ability to provide the requested information (i.e., rank not on occupancy records). Ms. Kaye acknowledged that authority to release medical records must be obtained from the Bureau of Naval Medicine (BUMED). She stated during the meeting that your agency had already sent a similar request to BUMED, but were also seeking access to any locally maintained birth records. Because these limitations on providing the requested records is known to your representatives, and during the meeting the request for information was adjusted to accommodate those limitations, this response is not considered a partial denial. Should you disagree, please contact Ms. Kim George, the Base FOIA officer, or the undersigned, at (910) 451-2218.

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When Ms. Sonnenfeld's study is completed, the Base would request to be provided with an advance copy. If the study is not completed, the Base would also like to be informed for future reference.

Sincerely,



DON W. COLLINS
Assistant Chief of Staff, Manpower
By direction of
the Commanding General

Copy to:
CO, NavHosp
AC/S, EMD
Dir, Family Housing

CLW

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