



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health - Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

June 25, 1998

Kathleen Buchi
c/o USACHPPM DOD Lead Agent
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
5158 Blackhawk Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5422

Dear Dr. Buchi:

As discussed and agreed upon at the March quarterly meeting and per our conversation, ATSDR is requesting the assistance of the Department of Defense (DOD) in obtaining personnel data for a proposed ATSDR assessment of childhood leukemia at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, North Carolina. This assessment involves children born to personnel living in base housing while stationed at Camp Lejeune.

In 1982, volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination was identified in certain groundwater supply wells which supplied drinking water to housing units at Camp Lejeune. These wells potentially could have been contaminated since the 1960's. There is limited evidence that *in utero* exposure to VOCs in drinking water may be strongly associated with the incidence of childhood leukemia. ATSDR has proposed a health study to investigate the potential relationship between exposure to VOCs in drinking water and incidence of childhood leukemia at Camp Lejeune. A secondary objective of the proposed study is to investigate the potential relationship between VOCs in drinking water and birth defects in this population.

The first phase of this project involves location of military personnel and/or their children who lived on base from 1968 through 1985. ATSDR currently has a computerized file containing the names of approximately 90,000 Naval and Marine Corps personnel who lived in base housing from 1968-85. Of these, 12,493 personnel are known to have had a child born while living in base housing at Camp Lejeune. ATSDR estimates that an additional 4,000 personnel who had pregnancies while living in Camp Lejeune base housing actually delivered the child after being transferred to another duty station. The exact number and identity of these personnel is currently unknown.

* ATSDR desires to locate the approximately 16,500 personnel for eligibility screening for the planned health study; however, the current location of these personnel is unknown. As ATSDR only has the names of the military personnel, the task of tracing will be very difficult. National media advertising will be used to attempt to locate personnel; however, this tracing method has only limited effectiveness. In order to maximize the number of personnel traced, ATSDR wants to be able to use personal identifiers such as last known address and Social Security Numbers in order to locate personnel. The Agency is requesting assistance from the Navy and Marine Corps

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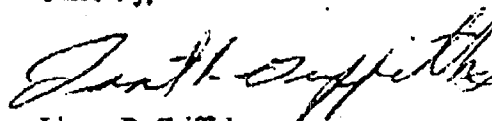
in this endeavor. The following types of information are requested for approximately 90,000 personnel:

1. Social Security Number
2. If discharged, last known address and phone number
3. If active duty, current tour of duty

ATSDR understands and will comply with the confidentiality protection procedures of the Department of Defense. If this request is feasible, please give us the name and telephone number of the person to contact. We will then work with your designee to get the needed information.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions please contact me at(404)639-0733.

Sincerely,



Linnet P. Griffiths
Senior Program Analyst

cc: OFF
DHS/OD

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