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September 27, 2007

Office of the Director

**UPDATE # 3
to
INFORMATION PAPER
Agent Orange/Agent Purple
and
Canadian Forces Base Gagetown**

1. On September 12, 2007 the Canadian Government announced that they would compensate Canadian personnel who were potentially exposed to the Agent Orange/Purple that was sprayed at CFB Gagetown in 1966 and 1967 as part of a test. In their news conference the Canadian Government stated, "compensation is limited to those exposed to the deadly defoliant for three days in 1966 and four days in 1967...recipients must have been diagnosed with one of the 12 illnesses associated with Agent Orange."
2. The decision by the Canadian Government is consistent with current US policy in that the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has statutory authority to presumptively recognize a number of diseases for veterans of the Vietnam War as connected to exposure to herbicides used in the Vietnam War. These statutorily defined presumptions do not extend to veterans who did not serve in the Vietnam War. *"Service members exposed to the herbicides used in Vietnam while on active duty outside of Vietnam must show evidence of exposure to be eligible for VA service-connected compensation. That is, a veteran diagnosed with an illness presumptively service-connected to herbicides used in Vietnam would have to show evidence that they were exposed to one of those herbicides while on active duty to support a disability claim."*
3. Individuals who trained at CFB Gagetown do not have the same presumption of exposure given to Vietnam Veterans due to the limited use of Agent Orange at CFB Gagetown. Maine National Guard personnel will have to provide credible evidence they were in CFB Gagetown during the time in 1966 and/or 1967 and near the area where Agent Orange was sprayed in order to receive compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Under the Status of Forces Agreement, the United States is responsible for the health and welfare of all US military personnel and thus all claims for exposure to Agent Orange at CFB Gagetown will be handled by the USDAV.

4. The first official use of CFB Gagetown as a training site for the Maine National Guard was in 1971. For those Guard personnel who believe they trained at CFB Gagetown in 1966 or 1967 can request their records from the Maine National Guard. (See Update #2 for the contact information and request form)

5. Where to get help in filing a claim with the Veterans Administration or information on Agent Orange and exposure to herbicides. Surviving spouses and/or children of National Guard members who trained at CFB Gagetown in 1966 or 1967 and died of one of the presumptive illness can also file a claim with the VA.

a. Maine Veterans' Services (MVS): MVS has offices in seven locations throughout the state staffed by Veterans Advocates that are familiar with Agent Orange and herbicide exposure issues and are ready to assist Maine's National Guard member's with claims assistance.

(1) Bangor	(207) 941-3005	(2) Caribou	(207) 492-1173
(3) Lewiston	(207) 783-5306	(4) Machias	(207) 255-3306
(5) Springvale	(207) 324-1839	(6) Waterville	(207) 872-7846
(7) Togus	(207) 623-5732		

b. Veteran Service Organizations: The following service organizations have service officers familiar with Agent Orange and herbicide exposure issues and are ready to assist in the claims process.

(1) American Legion	(207) 623-5726	Togus Office
(2) Disabled American Veterans	(207) 623-5725	Togus Office
(3) Veterans of Foreign Wars	(207) 623-5723	Togus Office

c. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Veterans wishing to file their own claim with the VA can do so by going to the VA website: <http://www1.va.gov/agentorange/> or calling 1-800-827-1000. The VA stands ready to assist any veteran who wishes to file a claim for service-connected injuries/illnesses.