



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

AUG/SEPT
2011

“Cutting Through the Fog of War”

AFTER ACTION REPORT
VIETNAM ERA HERBICIDES
1962-1975
Operational Goals and Mistakes
By Don Anderson

As most of you know my primary mission and goals for the past number of years (14 plus) has to been to prove these “militarized herbicides” (15 of them) used by The United States Department of Defense during the Vietnam Era were not being reported properly in their toxicity and potency of medical outcomes in both death and disability. That by furnishing data and facts we could overcome the bias and collusion of not only the entire United States Government in denying most of the medical outcomes but also the National Media that will not report the facts in mainstream.

In many cases, I put my own claim years behind those concerns for All Veterans Claims thinking that eventually I could prove the outcomes for all by once again data and facts then my claim would then take care of itself. This proved to be the wrong approach for me. While I helped in a few successes in some areas for all Veterans Claims none of it correlated with mine. The real mission came first.

I researched many long and arduous hours in medical books, Merck Manuel, and many many in-depth highly technical research papers and findings both in cancers and immune system disorders related to our issues in biological plausibility of outcomes. I educated myself in the terms, what they meant, and how that applies to biological functions. Once I began learning the common issues I then talked to doctors, specialty doctors, and even had tests run on myself with outcomes that correlated with what I was finding in dioxin studies. To say the least, my doctors were taken back as everyone of them came back correlating with the Ranch Hand Study findings and my conclusions relating to blood tests and blood tests versus actual invasive findings. That yes it did not match what they were taught in medical school.

I even had a VA doctor personally call me three times and congratulate me on my paper he used to correctly diagnose one of my Marines. His comment was I was correct in all matters and he was going to write up my work and his testing conclusions for some neurological publication. I informed him if he did that his career with the Veterans Administration would be over and that would not be a good career enhancement move on his part. I personally did not care regarding myself because quite frankly I would not put anything outside the realm of what Veterans Affairs would do to any Veteran as retribution. We have already seen that at its finest.

In my working career, as a component engineer, I did failure issues but not on living tissue. Although, many of the outcomes such as part contamination fit the scenario well with infant mortality failures as well as time to failure over life; and the wide spread type of failures depending where the contamination was located.

The more I researched the issues; a secondary goal was established to show how The Department of Veterans Affairs in concert with our Congress was nothing but an adversarial federal agency used in a yearly mandated budget control for those that can do nothing about the totally biased set aside legal system. Veterans Affairs doing nothing but stalling claims in many ways. One especially is asking differently for the exact same duplicate information. Or even if they have the information and find anything at all ask for the same information from another source you might have mentioned. All of you know the VA drill just find anything to stall any kind of decision.

I can report to all of you they tried it with me on my Ischemic Heart Disease or Coronary Heart Disease. Even though I had sent in all the paper work from the treating cardiologist including after cath reports with diagrams. What I got back from Atlanta VA Regional was I had to show the condition existed while I was in service. Now after the IOM taking decades to finally associate the issues; VA taking months to decide if they wanted to pay for the association; then getting all the paper work done taking another six months the Secretary finally declared it legal. I think that was in October of 2010. My heart attack did not take place until November of 2010. Yet, the first response

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I get even though it was officially VA law was I had to show the condition existed while I was in service from the 1960's. Of course my reply was; I sent in the technical and medical evaluation forms was not only no, but hell no I was not going to do it as it was law. If they insisted I would go straight to General Shinseki and ask him why I had to prove an automatic disorder going back to when I was in service. I wonder how many Veterans they actually did that with and forced them to try and prove what the Secretary had already declared as law in order to get points.

Actually that was my second heart attack. The first one I was not going to fight the VA and go through hell again trying to prove to some bean counter rating officer or clerk that gets points for denials that cannot be challenged in their infinite stupidity and lack of common sense; and as we have seen in the not to distant past in some regional offices a total lack of integrity.

A mistake in this mission by me was underestimating the depths of the bias and collusion of the United States Government against the United States Veteran in the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Executive Branch, and even a legal system that had turned its backs on those that served the nation in the military branches of service. In addition, I had no idea the depths the National Media would go in not reporting the real facts. Yes, we did find some minor newspapers with some reporters with integrity that actually reported some issues but with the National Media in both print and broadcast it seems they have "a hands off attitude" in this "Massive National Tragedy Issue" for the American Veteran, Widow, and Damaged Offspring.

The second mistake made by me was understating the power of the chemical companies in influence peddling of our elected officials in our public policy. This concern is not for just Vietnam Era Herbicide Veterans but our entire population as well; yes that means all of us. In other words, I was once again duped in my thinking that our government could be trusted outside of their campaign coffer funds.

This is not the government I was taught in the history books. Maybe it was at one time but it is no longer.

Operations

As discussed above I spent long hours doing the research and collecting data. Also conferring with a few Veterans like myself who were doing the same thing and their findings.

I attended and presented at several of the Disability Commission Meetings both in Washington as well as satellite meetings here in Atlanta. In some cases, our Veteran Service Organizations were MIA and even when there; could not present a united front. Which I

am sure just pleased the Department of Veterans Affairs to no end.

I challenged the IOM methodology of how they were our medical jury and we had no idea of how we were being judged or even if the mandated association criteria could even be reached with the state of the science (unknowns) as it is presently or as it is developing.

I wrote several articles with factual referenced data and submitted them to the IOM to no avail and not even a response on the facts reported versus their denials.

I challenged Veterans Affairs in papers written demonstrating the actual findings and not the redacted or unreported facts in the Ranch Hand Study. These idiots up there then sent me a letter saying they would send it back to Atlanta and put in my file.

I went before then House Chairman Buyer's staff and challenged them.

I presented to the then House Chairman Filner himself and his staff along with Congressman Kagen's staff. This became the catalyst of the additional cancer bill which as we all know, dying Veterans and our Widows alike, went no where and was nothing but a reelection ploy.

I made several recommendations on how to reduce the back log of claims using legal already decided cases that would guarantee that no Veteran or Widow would get anything they did not deserve; unlike our present entitlement or welfare system given out like candy with no justification and certainly not to the level of verification required for the nation's finest.

I challenged the Korean DMZ dioxin inclusive dates with the facts. While that has finally been changed recently to agree with the facts it is still not correct in the ending dates with the environmental half life of dioxins. As well as the starting date seems to be in question by many Korean Veterans.

I challenged the fact that our USO entertainers who tramped all over the toxic chemical environment that was South Vietnam are not covered and they should be. Given the choice, had the government told them the truth, they just might have opted out of developing cancers and immune system issues and deformed children.

I challenged the Veteran Service Organizations as not being aggressive enough and forcing the issues with the known facts with Congress; as well as the Media. The answer I got back in general was we did not want to alienate our friends in Congress. I would suggest that after greater than 40 years of nothing but collusion: **WE HAVE NO FRIENDS IN CONGRESS!**

We that have done the work uncovered many many just out and out government lies. Including documents that clearly demonstrate that while they were denying the facts and issues for years their

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own formerly SECRET reports clearly demonstrated they knew the facts while they, our government, were perpetrating the lies.

Enemy Actions

The actions of our enemy, The United States Government and its elected and appointed officials and contractors such as the Institute of Medicine, have been nothing but cowardly and will not stand and fight. Since they do not have to engage or explain anything or do they have any honor; they can just sit back and wait until the death rate reaches the point of cost versus guilt admittance where they will admit guilt and then service connection for those left alive. This seems to be the operational mode for our Government in all Veteran Era Issues encompassing many different issues as well as different era generations of Veterans and their family.

While the Government lies and denials commenced at the first hint of a connection between the toxic chemicals and the Veterans Issues as our men and women came home from war; the Reagan/Bush White House was the first to actually come out with a policy of denial to all federal agencies based on cost of supporting the Veterans for previous administration mistakes as well as the costs that would be incurred by the chemical companies themselves. Product liability protection directly proportional to the amount of campaign dollars seems to be the name of this deadly game.

The United States Government at the highest levels has interfered with studies that were meant to determine health care and compensation decisions.

The Center for Disease Control study of four years and 63 million dollars was more about why they could not do any study rather than actually doing anything. What they did which was very little was nonsensical and politically motivated - not science.

From the first scientific draft of Ranch Hand findings to the first redacted report that was released it was obvious this was not just an interpretation of the found facts but the perpetration of fraudulent government conclusions.

As the study was originally formatted it was to encompass the Vietnam Herbicide Experience. As more and more issues were being found and having to be covered up interference from the highest levels of government took place. As the ability to hone in on a single compound developed the study was reduced to dioxin, TCDD study only. This of course totally misrepresented the facts.

The protocols of this study after the interference meant the study was doomed to failure and became a major government exoneration and stalling tool. So called fatal flaws were finally admitted but 25 years too late for many. Intentional flaws that cannot be justified if one looks at what the study was supposed to prove or disprove. Even this admitted to fact of total fraud against the United States Veteran is still not recognized by "your elected officials" in Congress that are supposed to protect its citizens from

United States Government Tyranny.

This is characteristic of all government studies in interference and lack of justification of protocols. Even when the study finds something that cannot be denied or covered up it never makes it to Veterans Affairs and becomes associated; even if VA science did the study itself. The highest found associations are still not found associated; to include issues that were found to "Service in Vietnam" only.

A minimum of 223 million dollars were spent on "government exoneration studies." Contrast that with those scientist who did government grants and uncovered the issues and their grants were cut short with no additional grants to be awarded to them.

Lessons Learned

In a set aside legal system for Veterans and Widows the United States Government in its entirety is not to be trusted.

Chemical company money influence has a tremendous effect with legislators and presidents in public policy; regardless of the nations safety factors. Generating money for party affiliations and reelection campaigns both for our congress and our so-called Commander in Chief means more in Washington than honesty and integrity as well as public safety. Money buys good science creating bad science and the absence of a scientific soul; or in many cases the fraud of an entire scientific government agency.

While the brunt of the studies, for whatever reasons, (of course we know why in our issues) has been on cancers; of which all site cancers should be associated there are some other issues that the government information void has masked.

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Next VFP56 meeting will be held
on Thursday, Sept. 1 at
7:00 PM.
Meeting will be held in the
Commons Room at 550 Union
Street in Arcata.
Veterans and non-veterans are
more than welcome to come and
help us dialogue about what we to-
gether can do to bring about peace
in this complex world.



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Not enough information on the immune system outcomes in various connective tissue diseases or even a new connective tissue disorder with multi-immune system dysfunctions to include an association to MS and other far reaching impacts in sensory damages.

Not enough information on the autonomic nervous system impacts - you cannot have this much peripheral nerve damage done and expect the autonomic nervous system to go unscathed. Including this may be the root cause level of many issues already associated to include the absorption of blood fat acids, lung and heart muscle, even timing of the autonomic nervous system functions can cause problems, etc.

Not enough information on the neuro-psychological /neuro-psychiatric issues created by dioxins and/or other simultaneous exposures. If we have known impacts on the developing brain when does dioxin have no impact on the developed brain - even if somehow by more government medical magic that date and time can be established. If needed, I can assure you some government scientists that cannot be challenged could tell you exactly when that takes place for everyone and our Congress would swear to it. The data for much of these issues to include personality changes and suicide is there; it is just ignored.

Not enough information on the found increase in thyroid issues (Graves) greater than 3x in Vietnam Veterans still not found associated by VA; linked to many other issues that can be created including ICD coded medical issues.

How can dioxins be classified by the finest scientific minds in the world as tumorigenesis and not create benign tumors in accordance with our Veterans Affairs?

And there is plenty more medical issues that should be addressed.

All of this is based on the direct "medical information void created" and perpetrated misconceptions directly attributed to the United States Government with the assistance of our Congress not doing its job in oversight of the federal government.

Last but not least in the lessons I have learned is;

Veterans and their family will not unite under one single banner to demand something be done. Not even a single 44 cent letter writing campaign or e-mail campaign or fax campaign to various Senators or House Representatives; or to the national media. Ten

or twenty of us cannot do the work of millions. Since our Congress it seems has no integrity in these issues...numbers is the only thing our Congress fears before they will actually do something that does not only reward them.

Of course the government wants to keep it that way. Otherwise half of them in Congress now would be employed elsewhere duping someone else. Considering that the United States Government killed or disabled more Veterans than the North Vietnamese Army along with the Viet Cong in total this is a sad statement indeed. These men and women were wounded on the battlefield the same as a physical bullet wound. The difference being the bullet wound may be fully recoverable but the dioxin issue over life is like being put in a random matrix of medical outcomes in death or some disability over life are not recoverable.

Mission Failure

Goals were not achievable primarily due to the set aside system where the Judge (Secretary of Veterans Affairs) and Medical Jury (IOM) are not answerable nor challengeable to any stakeholder or any known constitutional legal system or order of precedence; and indeed violate the separation of powers mandated by our constitution by having an Executive Branch Appointee sole master of "all legal decisions" in those that have served the nation. That deviation from the constitution demands the highest level of integrity and as we have seen there is very little and consists of mainly budget control not justice. Where is the constitutional protection of Executive Branch abuse of an entire segment of society?

Our elected Congress, our only hope of a challenge in oversight, has turned their collective blind eyes and deaf ears for the sake of budget control and chemical company influence - there is no justice!

Energy ... all but expended ... Until the rules of engagement are changed to reflect our constitution and our real legal system MISSION IS OVER on my part...and FAILED.

I did challenge and make sound common sense recommendations at every turn that I could find some crack in the legal armor plates of this Kangaroo Legal System but alas the old saying is more true than you think. He who makes the rules does indeed rule. Does not matter how or so it seems how unconstitutional the rule with the Executive Branch forming their own court system.



ORGANIZED LABOR'S ANNUAL PICNIC!!



***Come join us in a celebration of
American Workers!***

*Bring your family for hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQ tri-tip, salad, beans
and soft drinks!!!*

**Sequoia Park Group Picnic Area, Eureka
Labor Day, September 5th, 2011
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Admission is a canned food donation

Contact your Local Union for questions

**Sponsored by Central Labor Council of Humboldt & Del Norte
Counties, AFL/CIO**

Building Trades Council of Humboldt & Del Norte Counties



DO UNTO OTHERS, AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU THE GOLDEN RULE

By Peter Aronson

As most readers know, the famous sailing ketch, The Golden Rule, is being restored on our own Humboldt Bay. Thanks to Leroy Zerlang for discovering the historical significance of this iconic first anti-nuke boat, as well as his generosity for giving a temporary home in his shipyard in Fairhaven for the 30' wooden ketch. Chuck Dewitt, Project Coordinator, is central to the entire process, as are many core workers. Fredy Champagne from VFP Chapter 22 has been central to the project's promotion and fundraising. He spoke at the 2011 VFP Nat'l Conf in Portland and garnered another \$1000 in donations. Many other VFP and non-VFP volunteers have since joined in.

"Do unto others...", this Golden Rule, was in the hearts of Albert Bigelow, Wm. Huntington, Orion Sherwood, and George Willoughby when they sailed their Golden Rule into the restricted nuclear weapons testing site in the Marshall Islands in 1958 to protest atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.

For the full story and photographic records of the GR restoration on Humboldt Bay check here: www.vfpgolden-ruleproject.org.

These brave and dedicated men were motivated by their non-violent (Quaker) context, and the horror of not only U.S. testing, but of actually using atomic bombs on the (our) people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The crew of the GR, and others inspired by them, chose direct action after a legacy of protesting

with the White House (and the UK & Russian equivalents, who were also testing A & H-bombs).

Bigelow and his family hosted 2 young "Hiroshima Maidens" in their home for a year while they were in the U.S. to receive reconstructive surgery for their disfiguring effects of the nuclear blast. Bigelow felt he had to go.

In his book, "The Voyage of the Golden Rule", Bigelow says it all, and says it for many ~

"I'm going because..."

I'm going because, as Shakespeare said, "Action is eloquence." Without some such direct action, ordinary citizens lack the power any longer to be seen or heard by their government.

I'm going because it is time to do something about peace, not just



Peter Aronson manning a booth which tells about the history and brave crew of this amazing sailboat

talk about peace.

I'm going because, like all men, in my heart I know that all nuclear explosions are monstrous, evil, unworthy of human beings.

I'm going because war is no longer a feudal jousting match, it is

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an unthinkable catastrophe for all men.

I'm going because it is now the little children, and, most of all, the as yet unborn who are the front line troops. It is my duty to stand between them and this horrible danger.

I'm going because it is cowardly and degrading for me to stand by any longer, to consent, and thus to collaborate in atrocities.

I'm going because I cannot say the end justifies the means. A Quaker, William Penn, said, "A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it." A Communist, Milovan Djilas, says, "As soon as means which would ensure an end are shown to be evil, the end will show itself as unrealizable."

I'm going because, as Gandhi said, "God sits in the man opposite me; therefore to injure him is to injure God himself."

I'm going to witness to the deep inward truth we all know, "Force can subdue, but love gains."

I'm going because however mistaken, unrighteous, and unrepentant governments may seem, I will still believe all men are really good at heart, and that my act will speak to them.

I'm going in the hope of helping change the hearts and minds of men in government. If necessary I am willing to give my life to help change a policy of fear, force, and destruction to one of trust, kindness, and help.

I'm going in order to say, "Quit this waste, this arms race. Turn instead to a disarmament race. Stop competing for evil, compete for good."

I'm going because I have to - if I am to call myself a human being.

When you see something horrible happening, your instinct is to do something about it. You can freeze in fearful apathy or you can even talk yourself into saying that it isn't horrible. I can't do that. I have to act. This is too horrible. We know it. Let's all act."

This ketch, the Golden Rule, received international support for its brave and timely voyages. Those enabling the restoration project, feel it will be recognized globally again. The news of it's intended re-birth is both spreading quickly and is being very well received by those who learn of it.

One such example was at the Aug 7, 2011 largest ever assembly of organizations working toward a non-nuclear future, The "No Nukes" concert at Shoreline Amphitheater in Mt. View. Not only was this anti-nuclear, but PRO-Alternative energy policies. Shoreline Amphitheaters, the greenest venue in the country, was completely powered by bio-diesel generators and solar. The event, sponsored by Mucicians United for Safe Energy, supported

Japan's Fukushima disaster relief efforts.

Many well known artists created this event to bear focus on the folly of using the worst possible choice to boil water / to turn turbines, and to showcase many of the alternative energy choices now available. {OMIT THIS: , and improving}. Major media failed to inform us that this last year was the first year in history that the global sum of energy produced by renewable, safe resources exceeded the sum of energy produce by nuclear reactors. It is happening.

Like the original crew of the Golden Rule, the new incarnation must show it's conviction against the derangement of nuclear energy and weapons, and encourage the clean alternatives now available.

VFP and the Golden Rule project was very fortunate to be invited to participate in the Shoreline event. Seth Rick, Joan Merriman, and Peter Aronson from the GR project, and Dennis Kyne (Gulf War Vet and DU expert) all worked the table pictured. Dennis and Peter are active with the Depleted Uranium weapons fiasco, and shared comments and handouts. This experience is a hint of the tremendous potential to engage people and groups very well rooted in the no nuke/ green energy global movement.

Submitted by Peter Aronson

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PORTLAND OREGON AUGUST 4TH/7TH *By Jim Sorter*

Four of local chapter VFP 056 attended the National Convention held in Portland in August. Members attending were Richard Gilchrist, Carl Stancil, John McAlinn and Jim Sorter.

It was a tremendous honor to be among our heros who cross the line every day to educate people on the atrocities being committed in our name. I am sure that many stories will arise at our meeting on the 1sr of September detailing what we learned and some of the shocking things we saw while witnessing victims retelling of their stories. Carl, John and Richard will be adding more as we assimilate those three days.

A stastic which really sticks with me which I heard in a sexual assult session was 1 in three women and 1 in 5 males can expect to be raped by their "buddies" while serving in the military. Hearing more stastics like this leads me to the conclusion we may want to revise our Resource Guide to reflect the military which is being more and more brutal to its own brothers and sisters in arms.

Too much was shared for just an article. We need to talk as a group about what we must do to help stop it!!





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**EDITOR OF FOGHORN
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**DU/WMD: Peter Aronson, Rich Gilchrist
General Store: Ernie Behm
FEM: Mashaw McGuinnis
VEOP: Carl Stancil, Jon Reisdorf
VSC: Ernie Behm, John Mulloy**

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to turtldncer@aol.com, in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

4th Annual Yard Sale for Glimmer of Hope Afghan School Project

Judi Rose

September 17&18, 2011 will be the 4th annual yard sale for Glimmer of Hope Afghan School Project. All funds raised will be sent to teachers in Afghanistan for the purchase of school supplies for students in elementary through high school. Donations of gently used reusable items will be greatly appreciated.

Equinox Center for Education generously allows us to hold the sale on their Arcata campus. We'll have some help from USCS parents and are counting on help from Vets for Peace Chapter 56 members. We'll need people to help set up, sell items and assist with clean up. Let me know if you can donate an hour or two of your time to this volunteer effort.

This sale is one of the things I do to promote peace in the world. The cause serves to thank the Afghan interpreter and his family for the sacrifice he made keeping my son alive and unharmed during his deployment to Afghanistan. The more I learn about Sunny's deployment the more grateful I am for that protection and the friendship.

Please contact me if you have items to donate to the sale or can contribute a few hours of your time. rosebuds@humboldt1.com 822-2142

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