

The Next Step

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Agent Orange

The Associated Press, "Study Links Agent Orange, Spina Bifida," *The Washington Post*, March 15, 1996, p. A16.

Children born to Vietnam veterans may be at increased risk of spina bifida, a serious birth defect, according to the latest scientific review of health problems linked to Agent Orange. The study, released yesterday by the Institute of Medicine, found "limited or suggestive" link between the herbicide and an above-average rate of spina bifida among children born to Vietnam veterans.

Biskupic, Joan, "Agent Orange Producers Lose Court Appeal Firms Sought Federal Reimbursement After Settling," *The Washington Post*, March 5, 1996, p. A05.

The federal government need not reimburse manufacturers of Agent Orange for their costs of settling a class-action lawsuit brought by soldiers exposed to the defoliant in Vietnam, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled yesterday. Although the government forced contractors to make the chemical in the 1960s under the Defense Production Act, the court ruled in a 6 to 2 vote that the government did not promise to reimburse the companies for claims paid to veterans alleging personal injuries.

Dyhouse, Tim, "Agent Orange diseases confirmed," *VFW, Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine*, April, 1999, p. 11.

A report from the Institute of Medicine confirmed four diseases as being positively caused by exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange — soft-tissue carcinoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and chloracne.

Harris, John F.; McAllister, Bill, "President Adds VA Benefits After Agent Orange Study Prostate Cancer, Nerve Disorder Covered," *The Washington Post*, May 29, 1996, p. A01.

President Clinton announced that he has directed the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer compensation to all Vietnam veterans who had prostate cancer or a rare nerve disease, citing a study that showed a possible but inconclusive link between the diseases and exposure to Agent Orange. Clinton also said he would ask Congress to pass legislation providing benefits to children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, a defect that also has been tentatively linked with a parent's exposure to the toxic defoliant used to destroy jungles in Vietnam between 1965 and 1970. If Clinton's proposal is approved, it would be the first time government has paid benefits to children for an affliction related to military service by a parent.

Larimer, Tim, "U.S. Commander in Vietnam War Targets an Old Ally: Agent Orange," *The Washington Post*, Sept. 13, 1994, p. A17.

The two sisters, 8 and 10 years old but barely three feet tall, smiled shyly on their contorted legs, bent out of shape since birth. "It's tragic," retired U.S. Adm. Elmo Zumwalt Jr. said softly. The girls, according to the director of a clinic, are children of a North Vietnamese soldier who was exposed to Agent in South Vietnamese jungles.

Reuter, "Vietnam to Allow Agent Orange Study Ex-Navy Head Zumwalt Estimates Cost at \$50 Million a Year," *The Washington Post*, Sept. 24, 1994, p. A28.

Vietnamese officials have agreed to allow American researchers to study on Agent Orange in areas where U.S. planes sprayed during the Vietnam War, retired Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt announced yesterday. But he said at a news conference that the study and related research in the United States would cost about \$50 million a year, which would have to be approved by Congress.

Vogel, Steve, "Saluting the Admiral Who Steered the Navy Zumwalt Remembered as Reformer," *The Washington Post*, Jan. 11, 2000, p. B01.

In an ornate chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, just above the crypt bearing the remains of John Paul Jones, Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. was remembered during a memorial service yesterday afternoon as the conscience of the Navy. Zumwalt, the former chief of naval operations who led a revolution in the way the Navy treats its sailors, died Jan. 2 at age 79.

Warwick, Hugh, "Agent orange: The poisoning of Vietnam," *Ecologist*, September, 1998, pp. 264-265.

Monsanto was heavily involved in supplying the herbicide used in Vietnam and the subsequent tragedy that resulted from the dioxin contamination of Agent Orange. Some estimates put the number of children born in Vietnam with dioxin-related deformities since the 1960s at 500,000.

The Legacy of Vietnam

Bird, Kai, "Vietnam Syndrome Continues," *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 13, 1998, p. M2.

Historical truths are always ambiguous, never more so than those that deal with a failed war. Most American long ago concluded that President Lyndon B. Johnson and his key aides — Robert S. McNamara, McGeorge Bundy, William P. Bundy and other bright lights of the establishment — stumbled into that quagmire out of hubris and ignorance.