

LFL/KK213

8 Sep 98

POINT PAPER

Subj: PROPOSED HEALTH STUDY OF CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA AT MCB CAMP LEJEUNE

1. In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), section 104, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) initiated a Public Health Assessment (PHA) at MCB Camp Lejeune in 1995. The purpose of the PHA is to evaluate data and information on the release of hazardous substances into the environment in order to assess any current or future impact on public health, develop health advisories or other recommendations, and identify studies or actions needed to evaluate and mitigate or prevent human health effects. The PHA was finalized in August 1997 and found evidence of long term cleaning solvent (TCE/PCE) contamination in Camp Lejeune's drinking water prior to 1985. The contaminated well was shut off in 1985.

2. Because the PHA was limited in scope and the findings were inconclusive, ATSDR proposed a \$1.8M follow-on health study to investigate the potential relationship between exposure to cleaning solvents in drinking water and incidence of childhood leukemia at Camp Lejeune. This follow-on study should be funded by EPA since it confirmed the contamination came from an off-base dry cleaning facility being cleaned up by EPA using the Superfund.

3. To support this study, ATSDR has requested the Social Security Numbers and last known addresses or current tours of duty for personnel who lived on base at Camp Lejeune from 1968-1985 (approx 90,000 people). Prior to providing this information, the Marine Corps should determine if any privacy act restrictions exist, if the information is available, and if personnel are available to collect the requested data.

4. Although there is concern about the technical merit of the proposal, EPA, as the financially responsible party, is in a better position to provide feedback on how to improve the usefulness of this study. [In Aug 97, The Navy Environmental Health Center and the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board reviewed ATSDR's \$1.8M proposal and found insufficient evidence to warrant a full-scale epidemiological study. However, since we are not funding the study we don't have the authority to change the proposal.]

5. Because the proposed study group is part of the Marine Corps community, we should work in collaboration with ATSDR and EPA on resolving this issue.

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