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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8050

November 9, 2000

The Honorable Richard Danzig
Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Danzig:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Thomas Townsend, Major USMC (retired), to request your review of the drinking water contamination issues at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I have received numerous letters from Mr. Townsend in which he asserts that he, his family, and other Marines and their dependents were exposed to health risks while stationed at MCB Camp Lejeune due to volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination in the drinking water supply. [REDACTED]

I have enclosed a copy of Mr. Townsend's most recent letter, dated October 28, 2000. Hopefully the letter will assist you in responding to my inquiries on his behalf. As you can see from his letter, Mr. Townsend expressed the view that the Navy's action plan on environmental and health issues at MCB Camp Lejeune has been to "defend, deny, and delay." As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I take such assertions very seriously and trust that you will assist me in providing a prompt and complete response to Mr. Townsend's most recent inquiry.

I request that you provide me with a detailed explanation of the nature and extent of the water contamination at MCB Camp Lejeune; a summary of related health assessments, surveys, and studies conducted by the Department of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); the status and action taken for all related claims that have been filed; an overview of the information requested by and the responses provided to Mr. Townsend; and a chronology of the events related to the water contamination and a chronology of the inquiries made by Mr. Townsend along with the Department of Navy or Marine Corps responses.

I am particularly interested in the status of the ongoing ATSDR health survey and your efforts to ensure that there is a viable action plan to identify the necessary segments of the

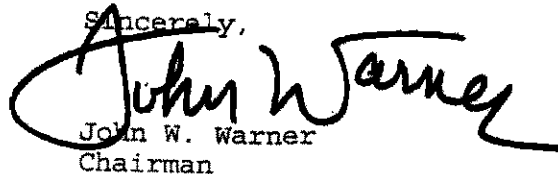
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survey population. Moreover, I am concerned about the possibility that, as Mr. Townsend indicated in his letter, the ATSDR funding will be expended before the health survey is completed. Please explain how you intend to address the funding issue to ensure continuation and completion of the ATSDR health survey.

I am sure that you and I agree that the men and women who have served our country honorably in the Navy and Marine Corps shall not be forgotten -- they are an essential part of the "Extended Navy Family." Consistent with that belief, I trust that you will work vigorously to assist me in responding quickly and comprehensively to Mr. Townsend's concerns. After receiving your initial response, I expect that you will continue to keep me apprised of the status of groundwater cleanup, related surveys and studies, and relevant pending claims at MCB Camp Lejeune.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


John W. Warner
Chairman

Enclosure

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