



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090  
LFL/KK277  
17 AUG 2000

Major Thomas A. Townsend, USMC (Ret.)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Major Townsend:

This letter responds to your letter dated July 26, 2000 to Lieutenant General McKissock and the two letters you wrote to me dated July 15, 2000 and July 6, 2000. By letter dated July 26, 2000, I responded to your June 30, 2000 letter. I apologize for the delay in getting back with you. Hopefully, I can address the issues you have raised.

On August 4, 2000, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune mailed you a voluminous package containing several enclosures responsive to information you requested from the Base and other agencies. I trust this information will answer your many questions.

In several letters to this Headquarters and other agencies you raise concerns with the difficulty in obtaining medical records. I believe that every effort is being made to address your document request as expeditiously as possible. Please understand that the search for and the review of records that are over 30 years old is a time-consuming process. I recognize your concerns with the time this takes, but sincerely and respectfully ask for your patience.

In response to your request for a Navy Bureau of Medicine (BUMED) point of contact, I understand that Petty Officer Byrne contacted you by telephone on August 1, 2000. My staff will provide this point of contact to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) as a resource for contacting additional personnel who are part of their survey.

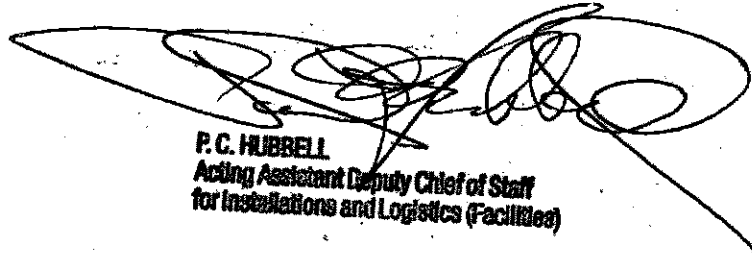
We are working diligently to assist the ATSDR in collecting the data that will enable it to conduct its study. Moreover, we continue to seek additional ways to inform former residents of Camp Lejeune during the period in question about this survey. For example, on August 15, 2000 we sent a Marine Corps Administrative message to help try and reach all Marines, sailors, and their families who lived aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985. In addition, we are coordinating with the Marine Corps Public Affairs Office to identify potential survey participants through Marine Corps publications.

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Finally, let me close by stating unequivocally that the Marine Corps is very concerned about the welfare of all Marines, sailors and their families. We are working hard to get the word out about the ATSDR survey so that we may enhance our understanding about whether these substances may have had any effects on children when exposed before birth.

Sincerely,



**P. C. HUBBELL**  
Acting Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff  
for Installations and Logistics (Facilities)

Copy to:  
MCB Camp Lejeune  
NEHC

**CLW**

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