

STAN SPANGLE SR.: Concerns about Camp Lejeune drinking water still haunt Marines

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I have written about the Camp Lejeune water study before, but once again the reminder is out there.

I encourage all former Marines, family members and civilian employees, who resided or worked aboard the Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune at Jacksonville between 1957 and 1987 to register with the Marine Corps for information regarding past water quality. Call (877) 261-9782 (Monday-Friday) 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. EST. You may go online via e-mail clwater@usmc.mil. Be certain to get your name and family members names on the list.

My family and I were there several times from 1957 to 1987. Thousands upon thousands drank this contaminated water and bathed in it, many have filed lawsuits claiming forms of cancer and all sorts of illnesses.

Under the topic of Agent Orange Equity: Recently, House Veterans' Affairs Chairman Bob Filner (D-Calif.) announced the introduction of HR 6562, The Agent Orange Equity Act of 2008, for all Vietnam veterans that were exposed to Agent Orange from 1991 to 2002. The Veterans Affairs Department has granted thousands of disability claims filed. If you are a veteran needing to file a claim for benefits, the veterans representative in High Point is Brenda Spach. Her telephone number is 845-7929.

Each county has a representative to help you. Veterans Affairs has made some progress with claims but there still is a tremendous backlog and growing faster every day. Unfortunately, our global war on terror is adding to the number of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The number of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans diagnosed with PTSD increased also 40 percent from 2006 to 2007, according to the Veterans Affairs data.

Dr. James B. Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs, sends the following press release: Many homeowners have found it difficult recently to pay their mortgages, but quick intervention by loan counselors of the Veterans Affairs has actually reduced the number of veterans defaulting on their home loans.

To obtain help from a Veterans Affairs financial counselor call toll-free 1-877-827-3702 or visit online at www.homeloans.va.gov. I am happy to say Peake is working diligently to help veterans since he became secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department. We needed his help desperately.

God Bless America, and Semper Fi!

Stan Spangle Sr. is a 21-year veteran of the Marine Corps, serving in Korea and Vietnam. He's a member of numerous veterans organizations.

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