



Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333
October 5, 2006

Headquarters Marine Corps
Attn: Major General James F. Flock
2 Navy Annex, Room 1134
Washington DC 20380-1775

Dear Major General Flock:

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is requesting access to information from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC), and the Department of Defense (DoD) Education Activity (EA) in order to complete an assessment of the feasibility of conducting future studies at U.S. Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune (MCB Camp Lejeune). The task of the assessment is to determine whether several cohorts who were at the base during the period when drinking water was contaminated with solvents can be identified using data from the DMDC and the DoD EA.

ATSDR provided DMDC with a file containing the names of active duty marines who resided in base family housing at Camp Lejeune for the purpose of determining how many could be matched to the DMDC master personnel database. We requested that DMDC conduct the matching and report the success rate. We are also requesting that DMDC give us the full database layouts for the personnel master files for active duty, reserve duty, and civilians over the period 1971 through 1985. This would include changes to the layouts over this period.


From the DoD EA, we are requesting a sample of the Camp Lejeune high school grade transcripts to determine what information they contain. We also are requesting information on how far back in time these transcripts are available, the location of the transcripts, and procedures for obtaining them. We would also like to know if there are other sources of information, e.g., yearbooks, for the elementary and middle schools on base.

The only personal data that we are requesting at this time are samples of high school grade transcripts. We have also requested that the NHRC in San Diego provide us with the frequencies of occurrence from their Career History Archival Medical and Personnel System (CHAMPS) of several diseases known or suspected to be related to solvent exposure. This information will be useful to determine how rare these specific diseases are in their database. If the frequencies are low, then it may not be feasible to study them. The NHRC has notified us that they need to get approval from their Institutional Review Board before they conduct this analysis for us.

We will follow standard Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) research procedures to protect the confidentiality and privacy of the high school transcripts which we receive from DoD EA.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Dr. Frank Bove or Ms. Perri Ruckart at 404-498-0102. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Sinks".

Thomas Sinks
Deputy Director
National Center for Environmental Health /
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention