



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

August 12, 2021

Commander John B. Wells (USN, Retired)
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.
Post Office Box 5235
Slidell, LA 70469-5235

Dear Commander Wells:

Thank you for your June 18, 2021, letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) petitioning for a VA rulemaking that would extend a presumption of Agent Orange exposure to Veterans who served on Okinawa from January 9, 1962, through May 7, 1975; to Veterans who served at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma through August 1981; and to Veterans who served at Kadena Air Force Base through June 2013. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Department.

Your petition is granted to the extent that VA will open a rulemaking to consider extending the presumption of herbicide exposure beyond the categories of Veterans currently listed in 38 C.F.R. § 3.307(a)(6). VA has been working with the Department of Defense (DoD) to determine the locations where tactical herbicides were used, stored, tested, or transported, and will be sending your June 18, 2021, letter and its attachments to DoD's Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) for consideration.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. § 553), VA is required to publish a notice of any proposed regulatory amendment to 38 C.F.R. § 3.307(a)(6), and to solicit and consider comments regarding any proposed change, prior to issuing a final regulation. Please provide your comments on VA's forthcoming proposal to amend 38 C.F.R. § 3.307(a)(6) when appropriate.

Thank you for your continuing efforts in support of the Nation's Veterans and their dependents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Diaz".

Chris Diaz
Deputy Chief of Staff and
White House Liaison