

VA |



U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs

Office of the General Counsel
Washington DC 20420

FEB 04 2020

Commander John B. Wells (USN-Ret.)
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.
PO Box 5235
Slidell, LA 70469-5235

Dear Commander Wells:

This is in response to your letters dated December 2 and 23, 2019. You requested that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) promulgate regulations extending the presumption of herbicide exposure to Veterans who served on Guam from January 9, 1962, through December 31, 1980; Johnston Island from January 1, 1972, until September 30, 1977; and American Samoa.

VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) have completed their review of a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concerning the use, testing, storage, and transportation of Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides outside of Vietnam and Korea. DoD has also completed its own extensive review of its entire inventory of documentation concerning these sites involving Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides outside of Vietnam and Korea. Based on VA's review of the GAO report and DoD's own findings, on January 27, 2020, VA revised the list of locations outside of Vietnam and Korea where Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides were used, stored, tested, or transported. The list can be found at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/tests-storage/index.asp>.

Now that the revised list has been released, we hope to provide you with a determination concerning your rulemaking request in the next few weeks. If you or your colleagues have any questions, please contact Mr. Jonathan Krisch of the Office of General Counsel at (202) 461-7798.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William A. Hudson, Jr." followed by a flourish.

William A. Hudson, Jr.
Acting General Counsel