

From:

JOHN R. WINTERS
9301 N.E. FERNINGROVE ST.
VANCOUVER, WA 98664-3151

VIET NAME

7668



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office
One Veterans Plaza
701 Clay Avenue
Waco, TX 76799

Stephen G. Eamison

VA File Number

Represented by:
AMVETS

Rating Decision
April 23, 2003

INTRODUCTION

Our records show you are a Vietnam and Peacetime veteran who served in the Navy from April 17, 1968, to May 31, 1988. On February 13, 2003, we received information from the U.S. Armed Services Center which verified the ship you were on, the USS White Plains, docked in Vietnam; therefore, service in Vietnam is conceded and your claim has been re-opened. We grant service connection for a disease or disability that began in military service or was caused by some event or experience in service, resulted from a service connected disability, or was aggravated thereby. The following decisions have been made based on a review of all the evidence listed.

Under the authority granted by the Agent Orange Act of 1991, VA has determined that presumption of service connection based on exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam is not warranted for any conditions other than those for which VA has found a positive association between the condition and such exposure. VA has determined that a positive

association exists between exposure to herbicides and the subsequent development of the following ten conditions: chloracne, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT), multiple myeloma, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, prostate cancer, cancers of the lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea, and Type II (adult-onset) diabetes mellitus. PCT, chloracne, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy are required to become manifest to a compensable degree within one year from last exposure.

DECISION

1. Service connection for prostate cancer, status post brady implant is granted with an evaluation of 100 percent effective November 5, 2001. An evaluation of 20 percent is assigned from March 1, 2002.
2. The previous denial of service connection for skin rash is confirmed and continued.
3. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on aid and attendance/housebound is denied.
4. Eligibility to Dependents' Educational Assistance is not established.

EVIDENCE

- Service medical records
- Records received from the U.S. Armed Services Center which verified the ship you were on, the USS White Plains, docked in Vietnam.
- Treatment reports, Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, from 1999 to 2001
- VA examination, West Texas Health Care System (VA Medical Center Big Spring), dated April 1, 2003

Dr. David Samuel Hunsicker
3030 Henshawfield Road #302
Spring, Texas 77373

June 12, 2005

Mr. John Winters
9301 NE Ferngrove St.
Vancouver, Washington 98664

Dear John:

Thanks for the "reminder" phone call. We had a fantastic time in Charleston with the White Plains gang. It was especially good to see Captain Brenner and share with he and Jean. Captain Dan Kohl could not make it as a result of the death of his wife Jean. He will come to the next one in Las Vegas ("Lost Wages" according to the troops).

Now regarding the matter of the spill of Agent Orange during our first cruise, first "fine swing" in August of 1969. At that time I was the Assistant Safety Officer working for the ship's boatswain. My job was to visit around the ship and especially the main and weather decks to check on the physical safety of the crew. During the long UNREPS (underway replenishment evolutions) we could spend many hour moving cargo to the larger ships such as the aircraft carriers on Yankee Station in the North China Sea to the Dixie Station in the South China Sea. On this particular occasion, early August, 1969, the spill of the substance later identified as "Agent Orange", we were on our first "fine swing" replenishing ships in what was called "Operation Market Time." On this occasion I was called to the forward part of the cargo handling deck near the "reefer hold" (refrigerated) where an accident had occurred. When I arrived I saw a pallet stacked with black, 55 gallon barrels that were identified with orange tags with the words printed on large orange signs that simply indicated, "Special Handling Procedures." This usually meant that the men who moved the material by fork lift would move more intentionally than with the usually hurried motions. In most cases the fork lift operations moved the cargo from the various elevators to the underway replenishment stations which could be on the main cargo deck or to the helo deck area which was aft. At the sight of the spill I observed that one barrel had been grazed by a sharp instrument and was leaking a dark liquid substance that looked a lot like cranberry juice. It was sticky and a very pungent aroma. I remember this instance quite vividly because the Supply Officer, Cdr. Dan Kohl and the 1st. Lieutenant, Lt. Sherman Salisbury were engaged in a heated discussion about the matter. In time fire hoses were used to wash down the area to preclude any more tracking of the sticky substance. It did not take too long for the substance to be tracked all over the cargo handling deck. It made for a very unsafe situation and the ship's boatswain, the Safety Officer, and myself set some rules for the speed of the forklift trucks and the limiting of the tracking. In time it was cleaned up and the normal routine was followed. Years later I was informed that these barrels contained the substance, "Agent Orange." We, the USS White Plains (AFS 4) was the primary supplier of the substance from our main supply source in Subic Bay to multiple points along the Vietnam coast in Operation Market Time. In discussion with our Captain, Capt. Thomas Brenner, USN he disclosed that even he did not know of the actual identity of the substance as also was the case with Commander Kohl.

In 1992 I was identified as having Type 2 Diabetes when there was little diabetic history in my family. Since then I have been treated for diabetes with various medications. Along the way, I did know that a number of our shipmates had come down with cancer which, again, appeared unexplainable. These are the facts of the matter as I have experienced them.

Respectfully,
David S. Hunsicker
Captain David S. Hunsicker, ChC, USN (Ret.)
Ship's Chaplain, USS White Plains (AFS 4)
1968-1970

Captain, Chaplain Corps, United States Navy, Retired
Minister with standing, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

TO : The department of Veterans Affairs Disability

FROM : John Robert Winters 100% VA Combat Disable
9301 NE. Ferringrove St.
Vancouver, Washington
98664-3151

SUBJECT : AGENT ORANGE CONTAMINATION WHILE SERVING
ABOARD THE "USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4" 1969-1970

To Whom It May Concern;

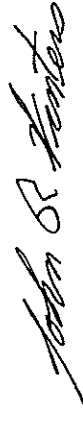
Today I am writing this letter to state: in 1969 while I was aboard USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4 we were transporting the defoliant known as AGENT ORANGE from Subic Bay. PI. To be unloaded in Vietnam. In 1969 there was a MAJOR CONTAMINATION SPILL of the Defoliant known as AGENT ORANGE in 1969, aboard the USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4. Due to the spill I and the rest of the crew were CONTAMINATED with the Defoliant know as AGENT ORANGE. The barrels had an orange sticker and the liquid gue was purple/red color on the deck.

I was part of the ship's Damage Control and the Fire Fighter Team. We were called to hose down the gue over board with our fire hoses which was done. The gue turned into a liquid form when mixed with the water went all over the decks. We later found it to be Agent Orange. I also was with the Store Keeping Division that was handling the supplies.

I am also stating that in 1969 that the USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4 WE were in Yankee Station and we ENTERED THE HARBOR of DA NANG, DOCKED and dropped anchor, TWO MOTOR WHALE BOAT ARMED AND IN THE WATER 0935. From being Docked in the Harbor of Da Nang the ship went to VUNG TAU and us once again ENTERED the Harbor and Docked set anchor. Armed Boats in water.

The letter enclosed from Retired Captain Chaplain Hunsicker and the Disability Decision of Stephen G. Edmison does confirm we are and were contaminated with Non Diluted Agent Orange. I am also enclosing the USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4 copy of the Ship's Deck Log 09/27/69, 09/29/69 and 10/01/69 where the ship was in the Harbor and docked in Da Nang and VANG TAU Harbors, where once again came into contact with the Agent Orange Spray.

Respectfully:



John R. Winters

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

S/N 0105-904-1020

USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) ZONE DESCRIPTION - 841 DATE SATURDAY 27 (Date) 19 69 (Month)
AT/PASSAGE FROM YANKEE STATION TO LA NANG

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
0800		
L	BY	
λ	BY	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
1200		
L	BY	
λ	BY	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
2000		
L	BY	
λ	BY	

LEGEND: 1-CELESTIAL 2-ELECTRONIC 3-VISUAL 4-D.R.

REMARKS

08-04 STREAMING INDEPENDENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CINCPACFLT FIRST QUARTER
ORDERED F4-70. OPERATING AT SEA IN THE TOMKIN GULF ON BASE COURSE 220° BASE
SPEED 10 KTS. SOPA IS COMMANDING OFFICER. BOILERS ONE AND TWO AND GEN-
ERATORS ONE AND TWO ARE ON THE LINE. MATERIAL CONDITION GOOD AND CONDITION
OF READINESS FOUR ARE SET SHIP IS DARKENED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RUNNING
LIGHTS. 2359 ALL LINES CLEAR OF THE WILTSIE (200-716). 0440 SECURED FROM CONDITION
RED ONE 0010 C/L TO 220° C/L TO 10 KTS.

SE Watson
SE Watson
CWO2 USN

04-08 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE 0618 C/L 14 KTS 0624 C/L 250°
0637 C/L 12 KTS 0630 C/L 17 KTS 0631 C/L 220 0642 C/L 130°
0646 C/L 128 0651 C/L 125 0657 C/L 11 KTS 0651 COMMENCED
APPROACH ON USS MOUNT RAINIER (AE-5) PORTSIDE. MANEUVERING
AT VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS TO MAKE PORT SIDE OF USS MOUNT
RAINIER (AE-5) 0659 ALONG SIDE USS MOUNT RAINIER (AE-5) FIRST
LINE OVER COMMENCED COVERED OPERATIONS MANEUVERING AT
VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS TO MAINTAIN STATION ON
USS MOUNT RAINIER. AE-5 BASE COURSE 107 BASE SPEED 12.
0723 EXERCISED AT EMERGENCY BREAKAWAY 0724 ALL LINES
CLEAR C/L 125 C/L 13 KTS 0728 C/L 120 C/L 15 KTS 0725 C/L 282
0730 C/L 18 KTS 0743 C/L 19 KTS

R. L. HILL
LCDR USN

08-12 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE 0758 C/L 290° 0817 C/L 285° 0827
C/L 280° 0830 SET CONDITION BLUE 0850 COMMENCED VERTREP
WITH USS DEPOSE - 0816 0813 C/L 15 KTS. 0815 C/L 280° 0816 C/L 10 KTS.
0815 C/L 36 KTS. 0816 C/L 225° T. 0830 C/L 260° 0835 C/L 275° 0838 C/L
2 KTS. 0847 C/L 310° T. 1011 SECURED FROM VERTREP WITH USS DEPOSE.
1016 CAPTAIN ASSUMED THE CON. 1018 C/L 10 KTS. 1019 C/L 5 KTS. 1020 C/L 10 KTS.
C/L 5 KTS. 1021 C/L 10 KTS. 1022 C/L 5 KTS. 1023 C/L 10 KTS. 1024 C/L 10 KTS.
1027 C/L 2 KTS. 1028 C/L 115° T. 1030 C/L 10 KTS. 1031 C/L 18 KTS. 1035 C/L
17 KTS. 1043 SECURED FROM CONDITION BLUE. 1128 C/L 105° T. 1139 C/L
115° T 0900 MADE DAILY INSPECTION OF MAGAZINES ALL SECURE

J. W. WATTS
LCDR USN

12-16 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. 1251 C/L TO 140° 1300 SET CONDITION BLUE. 1320 14510
04 DEPARTED SHIP 1329 C/L 130° 1331 C/L TO 127° 1348 C/L TO 110° 1341 C/L TO 13 KTS.
1402 C/L TO 215° 1406 HELD ON DECK. 1407 C/L TO 220° 1412 C/L TO 10 KTS 1416 C/L
TO 12 KTS 1423 ENTERED MA NANG HARBOR. BAN DHO TIEN IN RADIO TOWER REFERRING

EXAMINED

C. Taylor
C. Taylor
U. S. N. NAVIGATOR

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

S/N 0105-904-1020

USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4 ZONE DESCRIPTION -84 DATE Mon 29 Sept 1969
AT/PASSAGE FROM YAWKEE STATION TO DA NANG

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
0800		
L		BY
λ		BY

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
1200		
L		BY
λ		BY

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
2000		
L	<u>150063N</u>	BY <u>3</u>
λ	<u>109° 07.8E</u>	BY <u>3</u>

LEGEND: 1-CELESTIAL 2-ELECTRONIC 3-VISUAL 4-D. R.
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REMARKS

06-04 STEAMING INDEPENDANTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CINCPACFLT FIRST QUARTER
ORDICE FY-70. OPERATING AT SEA IN THE TONKIN GULF ON BASE COURSE 248° BASE
SPEED 10 KTS. SOPA IS COMMAND OFFICER. BOILERS ONE AND TWO AND GENERATORS
ONE AND TWO ON THE LINE. MATERIAL CONDITION YOKO AND ~~CONDITION~~ OF READINESS FOUR
ARE SET.

C. P. MoodyC. P. PoppyLTJG USN

09-07 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. 0504 1/2 000T. 0530 STEERED
VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS FOR ENTERING DANANG HARBOR
ENROUTE TO ANCHORAGE 0601 SET CONDITION BLUE 0649 COMMENCED
VERTREP WITH VESTREBELLE COUNTY LST-830 AND USS ECKHORN A06-7.
0653 SECURED FROM VERTREP WITH USS IRRELL COUNTY. 0711 LET GO
ANCHOR. 0719 SECURED FROM VERTREP WITH USS ECKHORN. 0716 SOPA IS
COMDESRON 12 - USS HULL DD-945. 0717 SHIP IS ANCHORED IN
ANCHORAGE BRAVO MUD BOTTOM. THE ANCHOR BEARING ARE 0730
HONSON CHA 017 LIGHT HOUSE 101.4 LT MAINLAND 0953

James W. WattsLTJG USN

07-10 ANCHORED AS BEFORE 0750 COMMENCED VERTREP WITH USS NEW ORLEANS
0808 RECEIVED DAILY MUSTER REPORT. NO ABSENTEES 0855 RECEIVED MAGAZINE TEMPER-
ATURE REPORT. ALL CONDITIONS NORMAL. 0932 H2 MOTOR WHALE BOAT ARMED AND IN
WATER. 0935 SECURED FROM CONDITION BLUE 0941 WHILE HANDLING AN OIL RIG
MEANS, ARTHUR EE 7363 23, EN SMASHED HIS RING FINGER BETWEEN 12 INCH
FLANGES AND RAILING. INJURY NOT DUE TO HIS OWN MISMANAGEMENT TREATED BY
COSSMAN AND PLACED ON LIGHT DUTY. 1022 SET CONDITION BLUE. 1033 LIT FIRES
#2 BOILER. 1039 BOILERS 1 AND 2 ON THE LINE.

A. C. SalasburyS. C. SALLSBURYLT USN

12-16 ANCHORED AS BEFORE 1105 SECURED FROM CONDITION
BLUE 1106 RECEIVED FOLLOWING PASSENGERS ON BOARD FROM
UDT-5 BOUND FOR USS THOMASTON LSD-28: ETR3 O'LEARY
1380-11-73 USN, SN ALEXANDER B 4455-28 USN, SN CIECKO
B 500-31-05 SA WEED B 86-16-28 USN. 1315 SET ANCHOR
DETAIL 1236 ALL BACK 1/3. 1227 ALL STOP 1231 UNDERWAY
FROM ANCHORAGE BRAVO DANANG HARBOR. 1232 ALL AHEAD
1/3 5 KTS 1232 1/2 0635 1236 1/2 045 1236 1/2 10 KTS 1240 1/2 035
1240 1/2 12 KTS 1247 1/2 038 1248 1/2 15 KTS 1259 1/2 090
1302 1/2 050 1311 1/2 12 KTS 1321 1/2 080 1329 1/2 125 1331 SET
CONDITION BLUE FOR VERTREP OPERATIONS WITH USS

EXAMINED

C. Taylor h/c U. S. NAVIGATOR
C. F. HAN

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

S/N 0105-904-1020

USS WHITE PLAINS AFS-4DATE SATURDAY 27 SEP. 1967
(Day) (Date) (Month)

REMARKS—CONTINUED

1810 1445 SET FORECASTLE ANCHOR DETAIL. 1452 C/L TO 217° 1455 C/L TO 4 KTS. 1455 C/L TO 216° 1456 C/L TO 12 KTS. 1457 HELD BY DEPARTED SHIP. 1458 C/L TO 5 KTS. 1501 C/L TO 2 KTS. 1502 C/L TO 228° 1502 C/L TO AEBACK 1/2. 1504 C/L TO AEBACK 3/4. 1505 LET GO ANCHOR. 1506 ANCHORED IN DA NANG HARBOR, ANCHORAGE "A", HEAD IN 020°. HARBOR ENTRANCE LT. 109.9°, 010.5° TANGENT, 070° RADIAL TRADER, MUR BOTTOM, 45 PM. OF CHAIN IN DECK. 1509 C/L TO AEBACK 1/2. 1509 C/L TO AEBACK 1512 HELD 03 DEEP DECK.

T. C. WaggonerT. C. WAGGONERLTJG. USNR

16-18 ANCHORED AS BEFORE 1715 COMPLETED VERTREP OPERATIONS SECURED FROM CONDITION BLUE

C. P. RoddyC. P. RoddyLTJG. USN

18-20 ANCHORED AS BEFORE. 1945 SET THE ANCHOR DETAIL. 1957 1/2 2 KTS C/L 045° T. 1957 UNDERWAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CINCOPACFLT OP SKD 1ST QTR FY/70. 1926 1/2 18 KTS. 1830 1/2 15 KTS. 1835 C/L 030° T. 1836 1/2 020° T. 1840 DEPARTED DA NANG HARBOR SET COURSE FOR YANKEE STATION. 1851 1/2 060° T. 1852 1/2 10 KTS. 1901 1/2 020° T. 1908 C/L 330° T. 1921 1/2 300° T. 1935 C/L 330° T.

J. W. WattsJ. W. WATTSLTJG. USN

20-24 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. 2017 C/L TO 340°. 2040 C/L TO 000°.

T. C. WaggonerT. C. WAGGONERLTJG. USNR

EXAMINED:

C. TylerLTJG. U. S. NAVY

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

C. TYLER

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

S/N 0105-904-1020

USS WHITE PLAINS DES-4 ZONE DESCRIPTION —8H— DATE 1 OCT 19 64
(Day) (Month)
AT/PASSAGE FROM DANANG TO VUNG TAU

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
0800		
L <u>10° 23.0'N</u>	BY <u>3</u>	
λ <u>107-55.0'E</u>	BY <u>3</u>	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
1200		
L _____	BY _____	
λ _____	BY _____	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
2000		
L <u>10 03.25E</u>	BY <u>2</u>	
λ <u>107 06.5 N</u>	BY _____	

LEGEND: 1-CELESTIAL 2-ELECTRONIC 3-VISUAL 4-D.R.

REMARKS

00-04 STEERING INDEPENDENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CINCPACFLT
FIRST QUARTER 54/70 OPSKED OPERATING AT SEA IN THE SOUTH CHINA
SEA ON COURSE 240°T SPEED 10 KTS. SOPA IS COMMANDING OFFICER
MATE RIBBLE CONDITION YOKK AND CONDITION OF READING FOUR SET.
0000 C/L 243°T. 0119 C/L 240°T. 0324 C/L 242°T

J.W. Watts
J.W. WATTS

LEDR USN

04-07 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. 0352 SECURED FIRES #1 BOILER. 0500 LIT FIRES #1
BOILER. 0519 BOILER #1 ON THE LINE. 0600 SET VERTREP CONDITION BLUE. 0623 HELD 03
IN THE AIR. 0637 C/L TO 12 KTS. 0641 COMMENCED VERTREP WITH USS PARACUTIN (AE18)
0644 COMMENCED VERTREP WITH USS O'BANNON (DD-450).

T.C. Waggoner
T.C. WAGGONER

LTJG USNR

07-12 ~~Leave~~ Underway as before. 0713 COMPLETED VERTREP USS PARACUTIN
14E-18 AND USS O'BANNON DD-450. 0727 COMMENCED VERTREP USS KIAMATH
CINCPAC-66. 0745 RECEIVED WARNING MISSILE REPORT NO ABSENTOGOS. 0748
RECEIVED REPORT TOOK ON 60 ROUNDS OF VT FLAG AMMUNITION FROM USS
PARACUTIN AE-18. 0756 COMPLETED VERTREP KIAMATH. 0800 C/L 16 KTS.
0800 C/L 14 KTS. 0836 ~~RECEIVED~~ COMMENCED VERTREP USS CHARON KICK 0907
C/L 18 KTS. 0925 SECURED VERTREP USS CLAYTON RIVER APR-9. 0943
RECEIVED DAILY MAGAZINE REPORT ALL NORMAL. 0946 C/L 270. 0947
SECURED FROM CONDITION BLUE. 1000 C/L ANCHORED 15. 1016 C/L 25.
1100 C/L ALL AHEAD STANDARD. 1103 C/L ALL AHEAD FULL. 1209 C/L 283.

C.P. Paddy
C.P. PADDY

LTJG USN

12-16 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. STEERING VARIOUS COURSES AT
VARIOUS SPEEDS WHILE STANDING INTO VUNG TAU
HARBOR. 1231 LET GO ANCHOR ANCHORED IN VUNG TAU
ANCHORAGE A-1 IN ^{FATHOMS} 23 ~~FEET~~ OF WATER MUD BOTTOM WITH
AT 45 FEET OF CHAIN AT THE WATER'S EDGE TO THE STAR-
BOARD ANCHOR. VUNG TAU LIGHT HOUSE BEARING 011.9°

1321 RECEIVED USS WILBURN COUNTY (LS-902) TO PORT

J.W. Watts
J.W. WATTS

LEDR USN

1620 ANCHORED AS BEFORE. 1357 SECURED VERTREP WITH ARS-7. 1610 HELD 03 ON DECK
1629 SECURED FROM UNDERWAY WITH WILBURN COUNTY (LS-902). 1700 WILBURN COUNTY
UNDERWAY. 1725 SET THE ANCHOR DETAIL. ARMED BOAT REMOVED FROM WATER. 1740
LIT #2 BOILER ON THE LINE. 1835 C/L TO 5 KTS. UNDERWAY. 1840 C/L TO 153. 1843 C/L

EXAMINED

C. Taylor *J.W. Watts*
C. TAYLOR J.W. WATTS
TO BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH
U. S. NAVIGATOR