

# **EXHIBIT 3**

From: **Cephas, Tracy** <[Tracy.Cephas@va.gov](mailto:Tracy.Cephas@va.gov)>  
Date: Tue, May 19, 2015 at 4:01 PM  
Subject: VHA FOIA Request: Control #15-05014-F  
To: "[mike.hixenbaugh@pilotonline.com](mailto:mike.hixenbaugh@pilotonline.com)" <[mike.hixenbaugh@pilotonline.com](mailto:mike.hixenbaugh@pilotonline.com)>  
Cc: VHA FOIA <[vhafwia2@va.gov](mailto:vhafwia2@va.gov)>

Good Afternoon Mr. Hixenbaugh,

Attached to this message is VHA's acknowledgment of your FOIA Request. Ms. Barbara Swailes will be processing your request and her contact information is listed on the attached letter. Please let me know if you should have any questions.

I would kindly appreciate your confirmation of receipt of this email. A hard copy of the attached letter will not follow in postal mail unless specifically requested by you.

V/R,

Mrs. Tracy R. Cephas, Staff Assistant

VHA Central Office FOIA Office (10P2C1)

810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20420

Office: [202-461-5879](tel:202-461-5879)

Fax: [202-273-9387](tel:202-273-9387)

Email: [Tracy.Cephas@va.gov](mailto:Tracy.Cephas@va.gov)



"I am a Disabled Army Veteran, Navy Spouse and former Army Civilian and **I CARE!**"

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Washington DC 20420

In Reply Refer To:

May 19, 2015

**FOIA Request: VHA-15-05014-F**

Mike Hixenbaugh  
The Virginian-Pilot  
150 W. Brambleton Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mr. Hixenbaugh:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your May 12, 2015 request, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) FOIA Service requesting the following information, from January 1, 2009 to the date this request is complete, regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on Veterans and/or their offspring:

1. All correspondence to and from Han K. Kang, former Director of VA's War Related Illness and Injury Studies Center.
2. All correspondence to and from Michael Peterson, former Chief Consultant, Post-Deployment Health, Public Health.
3. All congressional correspondence to and from VA staff.

Your request was referred to the Veteran Health Administration (VHA) Central Office FOIA Office. Your FOIA request was received in my office on May 19, 2015. Your FOIA request was assigned the tracking number at the top of this letter. Please include the tracking number in all future communications concerning this FOIA request. In addition, we have placed your request in the complex processing category.

We will search for records responsive to your FOIA request that were gathered or created by the VHA Central Office on or before May 19, 2015. When we have completed our search for records responsive to your FOIA request, we will send you another letter telling you the results of that search and our next step in processing your request.

Your request has been assigned to Barbara Swailes of my staff. If you have any questions about your request, you may contact Ms. Swailes at 319-383-2609.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy H. Graham".

Timothy H. Graham, J.D., LL.M., CIPP/G  
Director, VHA FOIA Office