

EXHIBIT 17

From: Cephas, Tracy
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 3:01 PM
To: 'mike.hixenbaugh@pilotonline.com'
Cc: VHA FOIA
Subject: VHA FOIA Request: 15-07638-F

Good Afternoon Mr. Hixenbaugh,

Attached to this message is VHA's acknowledgment of your FOIA Request. Ms. Deana Marakowski 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
Fax: 202-273-9387
Email: Tracy.Cephas@va.gov



"I am a Disabled Army Veteran and former Army Civilian and I CARE!"



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

In Reply Refer To:

September 3, 2015

FOIA Request: VHA-15-07638-F

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

Dear Mr. Hixenbaugh:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your September 1, 2015 request, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), FOIA Service requesting:

1. All correspondence (including emails and letters) as well as any memos and reports between Jan. 1, 2009 and the date this request is completed to and from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (including previous and interim office holders, and the current office holder), regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on veterans and/or their offspring.
2. All correspondence (including emails and letters) as well as any memos and reports between Jan. 1, 2009 and the date this request is completed to and from the Under Secretary for Health (including previous and interim office holders, and the current office holder), regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on veterans and/or their offspring.
3. All correspondence (including emails and letters) as well as any memos and reports between Jan. 1, 2009 and the date this request is completed to and from the Under Secretary for Benefits (including previous and interim office holders, and the current office holder), regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on veterans and/or their offspring.
4. All correspondence (including emails and letters) as well as any memos and reports between Jan. 1, 2009 and the date this request is completed to and from the Deputy Inspector General (including previous and interim office holders, and the current office holder), regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on veterans and/or their offspring.
5. All correspondence (including emails and letters) as well as any memos and reports between Jan. 1, 2009 and the date this request is completed to and from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs (including previous and interim office holders, and the current office holder), regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on veterans and/or their offspring.

FOIA Request: VHA-15-07638-F

6. All correspondence (including emails and letters) as well as any memos and reports between Jan. 1, 2009 and the date this request is completed to and from the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning (including previous and interim office holders, and the current office holder), regarding Agent Orange and dioxin, and its effects on veterans and/or their offspring.

Your request was referred to the Veteran Health Administration (VHA) Central Office FOIA Office. Your FOIA request was received in my office on September 3, 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 September 3, 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 Deana Marakowski of my staff. If you have any questions about your request, you may contact Ms. Marakowski at 717-450-4662.

Sincerely,



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