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Report/Article Title Memorandum: from HQ USAF to AIC, with subject
Herbicide Orange Exposure, July 1979

Journal/Book Title

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Description Notes Memo provides a summary of herbicide use in Vietnam for physicians who may be treating patients with health complaints they believe are related to agent orange exposure.

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 NEEDED BY HYPERSENSITIZATION. AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIATED
 EVIDENCE OF CARCINOGENICITY, TERATOGENICITY, EFFICACY OR MUTAGENICITY
 IN HUMANS DUE TO DIOXIN EXPOSURE. NOTWITHSTANDING, THE ENVIRON-
 MENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS RECENTLY SUSPENDED THE USE OF 2,4,5-T
 FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. D. A COMPREHENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGIC
 STUDY INVOLVING FORMER OPERATION RANCH HAND PERSONNEL IS BEING
 DEVELOPED. RANCH HAND WAS THE OPERATION THAT CONDUCTED THE AERIAL
 SPRAYING OF THE HERBICIDES. IF THESE INDIVIDUALS PRESENT THEMSELVES
 AT YOUR MEDICAL FACILITY, PLEASE FORWARD THEIR NAMES AND CURRENT
 ADDRESSES TO THE EPIDEMIOLOGY DIVISION AT USAF SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE
 MEDICINE, BROOKS AFB TX 78235. TO FACILITATE COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION
 OF FORMER RANCH HAND PERSONNEL. ALL PATIENTS CONCERNED ABOUT PREVI-
 OUS HERBICIDE EXPOSURES SHOULD BE REASSURED THAT EXTENSIVE EFFORTS
 WILL BE MADE TO FULLY EVALUATE ALL POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS ARISING
 FROM THE AF USE OF HERBICIDES. ANY PATIENTS REPORTING SYMPTOMS
 SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY EVALUATED BY THEIR PHYSICIANS TO IDENTIFY
 ETIOLOGIES FOR THEIR SYMPTOMS, AND APPROPRIATE THERAPY SHOULD BE
 ADMINISTERED. SOUND MEDICAL JUDGMENT SHOULD BE USED WHEN DISCUSSING
 PROBLEMS WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS TO AVOID INSERTING BIAS INTO THE PRO-
 POSSED EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDY. IN ADDITION, DISCUSSIONS WITH PATIENTS

PAGE 4 RUEBPUJAB21 UNCLAS
 SHOULD BE SYMPATHETIC BUT NEUTRAL ON WHETHER THEIR SYMPTOMS HAVE BEEN
 CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO HC. SUCH A CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP
 REMAINS SCIENTIFICALLY UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. 3. FURTHER INFO. IF
 NEEDED, MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING CAPT MICHAEL SUPI, USAF, MC
 OR LT COL WILLIAM H. WOLFE, USAF, MC, AT THE USAF SCHOOL OF AERO-
 SPACE MEDICINE, EPIDEMIOLOGY DIV, BROOKS AFB TX 78235. AUTOVON
 440-3471, COMMERCIAL AC 512 536-3471.

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