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Description Notes List of three questions with answers regarding the Ranch Hand II study.

DRAFT - QUESTIONS - ANSWERS

QUESTION: How will this study affect the flying members of the study population?

ANSWER: During the drafting process of the Air Force Scientific protocol, we were convinced that the required comprehensive physical examination might diminish the participation of flyers because of their fear of grounding actions in the event a disqualifying defect was discovered. Discussions with the FAA and the USAF Surgeon General have resolved this potential problem area. For the duration of the AF study, all active duty pilots and commercial pilots will be scheduled for the study physical examination immediately following their regularly scheduled annual flying physical examination. This sequence will assure that grounding actions will be initiated as a result of routine regulatory policy by the FAA and the Air Force, and not as a result of the Ranch Hand Study examination. Thus, we believe that our national safety procedures can be fully maintained without detriment to the flyer, or to his participation in the study.

QUESTION: Have we coordinate protocol modifications with earlier Peer Review Groups?

ANSWER: Yes. Four Peer Review Groups have reviewed the Air Force Scientific Protocol. The first three have responded with helpful conservation which has largely been incorporated into the protocol. Each peer review group is aware of other peer comments and the appropriate protocol modifications.

QUESTION: What is the estimated cost (and other factors) of contracting out the Air Force Study?

ANSWER: The current Air Force estimates for an in-house study, liberally supported by specific area contracts, is \$2.5 million for the six year effort. This estimate is subject to escalation depending upon the exact number of study participants and upon study stipend contingencies. Based upon the entire study scope . . . questionnaires, physical examinations, comprehensive record searches, data management and overhead, we project that a civilian contract would be minimally set for \$10 million for the six year period. This estimate incorporates High Costs of specialized physical examination procedures. Exact contract costs would specifically be dependent upon on the detailed procurement requirement of the Air Force - i.e., work statements, open bids, and an exhaustive impartial evaluation of the bids. We estimate that the entire study effort would be delayed at least 18 months by this contract process and would ultimately be initiated at considerably higher exposure to the tax payers.