



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
BUILDING 5158
8252 BLACKHAWK ROAD
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MARYLAND 21010-5403

May 22, 2018

Dear Veteran:

The Department of the Army has received inquiries in relation to the application packet you received that was sent to veterans ("class member") who may be eligible for medical care as a result of their participation in Army chemical or biological substance testing programs. That packet provides the details of who may be eligible for medical care and how to apply in accordance with the terms of the medical care injunction entered by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on April 4, 2017. In this letter, the Army seeks to respond to the inquiries it has received.

First, class members may request to be provided information about the substance(s) to which they were exposed as a participant in the Chemical-Biological research testing program. To request a copy of this information, please complete, sign and return the attached Department of Defense (DD) Form 2870 authorizing Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) to release any records related to your testing participation. Return the DD Form 2870 to U.S. Army Public Health Center, ATTN: Benefits Application Panel, 8252 Blackhawk Road Building 5158, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD 21010-5403. Upon receiving your DD Form 2870, we will search known databases and provide you with any information that is found that is related to your testing participation.

Next, the medical care provided by the Army under the medical injunction is in addition to any medical care you may already be receiving or entitled to receive under the Department of the Veterans Affairs (VA). Nothing in this injunction or your application for medical care will affect your VA benefits. If you wish to continue to receive medical care at a VA facility under this injunction, the Army will facilitate the process on your behalf.

Next, if you are unable to afford a screening examination and would like to receive a no cost screening examination at a Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) or the VA, we can help make the necessary arrangements with the MTF or the VA for an examination. In addition, if your application is approved to receive medical care at a MTF, but it is logistically difficult for you to receive care at a MTF, the Army can help you apply for care at the VA or assist you with finding an appropriate private service provider and any available payment-assistance programs. If you have any questions on how to apply for medical care, the eligibility requirements, or how to schedule an examination you may

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call the MEDCOM Medical Assistance Group (MMAG) hotline at 1-800-984-8523 for assistance.

Moreover, class members may apply for medical care at an MTF regardless of their discharge status. However, class members who have a bad conduct discharge (or other bad paper discharge) may not be eligible for medical care through the VA, pursuant to federal laws and regulations. If you have a bad conduct discharge and wish to receive medical care at a VA facility, rather than a MTF, you can apply to the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records to get your discharge upgraded. As part of the application process, you will be required to provide a copy of a DD Form 214 or War Department discharge/separation form or a functional equivalent. These forms need not contain any information about your participation in the Army's chemical or biological substance testing programs.

Finally, no secrecy oath or non-disclosure agreement signed (or voiced) as a result of participation in the Army's chemical or biological substance testing programs will preclude class members from discussing their participation in these programs for the purpose of seeking medical care or applying for benefits. For example, you may share your test records with doctors.

Once again, thank you for your service to our Nation. If you have additional questions or concerns about your eligibility, the application packet, or how to request information, please do not hesitate to contact the MMAG hotline at 1-800-984-8523, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samuel S. Jang
Colonel, U.S. Army
Division Chief, Environmental Medicine

Enclosures