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Report of Robert P. Tsinigine concerning Agent Orange and Possible Prostate Cancer

I entered the military 17 Jan 1967. I was stationed at Fort Ord California for my basic training and then I was sent to Fort Polk Louisiana for advanced training for light and heavy duty weapons. Then I was assigned to an infantry unit.

Then I was deployed to South Vietnam on 25 June 1967. I landed in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. I was there for four to five days until I was assigned to my new unit. Then I got my assignment to 196th light infantry brigade. When I got to the 196th, I spent two weeks in retraining before joining my new company. It was A company 431st infantry. They were located just south of the Chu Lai Peninsula. I left Vietnam on 25 June 1968.

We were aware of some chemical in the air, especially in the morning. The smell was especially bad on rainy days. They told us it was a defoliant. We were stationed in a valley, so when they sprayed the hillside the chemical came right down on us and the smell would get very strong. Lots of us had headaches and some of us threw up from it. The smell was very bad in the valley but once we moved out into open areas it didn't smell as bad. Eventually they told us the stuff we were smelling was herbicide but I didn't know just what it was until someone told us it was Agent Orange they were spraying.

When I got back I talked to another Vietnam veteran that told me the exposure to Agent Orange was responsible for his son being disabled. For this reason I never got married, fearing I would bring a handicapped child into the world.

About two and a half years ago I started to have urinary difficulties. I had trouble urinating and there was blood in the urine sometimes. My family physician in Page, Arizona, told me he thought it was prostate trouble. I told him about Vietnam and my Agent Orange exposure and he thought it was that and told me to have it checked. He recommended I see a urologist, Dr. William Badger in Flagstaff, who comes up to Page from Flagstaff to see patients. He gave me a physical and then he prescribed Finasteride 5 gms. I didn't really work. My physician in Page prescribed Uroxatrol and even taking both I still had difficulty urinating and occasional pain.

I saw Dr. Badger about two weeks ago (mid January) and he prescribed Rapaflo. I am starting to take that and it seems to help me not get up so much at night to urinate. He wants me to try this for a month and then I will have another appointment.

My paperwork has been transferred to Page from Prescott and Phoenix and Monday I have an appointment to have blood drawn at the VA facility in Page for lab work.

This is all the information I can give you right now. After the lab work and other tests are done I will inform you of the results. Thank you very much

for the help.