



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

March 15, 2016

DANIEL L SIMPSON  
216 WILLIAMSBURG CIR  
BRENTWOOD TN 37027

In reply, refer to:  
320/T1/CMK  
File Number:  
DANIEL SIMPSON

Dear Mr. SIMPSON:

We are working on your claim.

### What Do We Still Need From You?

We need additional evidence from you. ***Please put your VA file number on the first page of every document you send us.***

- If you served aboard a US Navy or Coast Guard ship on the offshore "blue waters" of Vietnam, VA will presume Agent Orange exposure if your service included duty or visitation within the country of Vietnam itself, or on its inland waterways, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. We need evidence that your ship entered Vietnam's inland waterways while you were aboard or that you went ashore while the ship was docked or at anchorage. Please provide us with the name of your ship and the approximate dates, to the best of your recollection, when your ship entered the inland waterways, docked, or otherwise sent you ashore. If your ship docked, you must state whether or not you went ashore. If you went ashore from a ship at anchorage, you must explain the circumstances. Agent Orange exposure will not be presumed if your ship just anchored temporarily in an open deep-water harbor such as Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay, or Vung Tau, and you remained on the ship.

Some Veterans served on smaller, shallow draft vessels operating primarily on the inland waterways or "brown waters" of Vietnam's rivers, canals, estuaries, and delta areas, where herbicide exposure is presumed to have occurred. Please tell us if you are one of these Veterans and provide the name of your vessel and dates of service in Vietnam.

- In order for VA to acknowledge that you were exposed to Agent Orange, please send evidence that: (1) you physically served within or visited the country of Vietnam, or its inland waterways, between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. If you were stationed aboard

File Number:

SIMPSON, DANIEL L

a ship, we need the ship's name and evidence that it entered Vietnam's inland waterways or that you went ashore; (2) you served in a unit stationed along the Korean demilitarized zone between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971; or (3) you were exposed to Agent Orange in some other manner, with an explanation of when, where, and how you were exposed. You may include statements of persons who know of your exposure. Any person making a statement should provide as much description of the exposure as possible, and include his or her name, service number (or social security number), unit assignment, and dates of service.

- We need to know how your military duties exposed you to herbicides. There are two possibilities:
  - you served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era (January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975). Service in the Republic of Vietnam includes service in the waters offshore and service in other locations if the conditions of service involved duty or visitation in the Republic of Vietnam.
  - your job in service (other than in Vietnam) exposed you to herbicides.

If you served in Vietnam, please send us evidence of this service. If you did not serve in Vietnam, we need to know when, where, and how you were exposed. You may include statements of persons who know of your exposure. Any person making a statement should provide as much description of the exposure as possible, and include his or her name, service number, unit assignment, and dates of service.

### **How Should You Submit What We Need?**

Please note that the quickest, easiest, and most secure way to submit any documents to us is via the eBenefits website. Just visit [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov) to register. Please also refer to the 'What is eBenefits?' section of this letter for more information.

You can also send what we need to the appropriate address listed on the attached *Where to Send Your Written Correspondence* chart.

### **How Soon Should You Send What We Need?**

We strongly encourage you to send any information or evidence as soon as you can. **If we do not hear from you, we may make a decision on your claim after 30 days.**

### **If You Have Questions or Need Assistance**

If you have any questions or need assistance with this claim, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.