

CFB Gagetown & Agents Orange/Purple

Information Paper as of 28JUN05

The Canadian Department of National Defense (DND) announced that for three days in June 1966 (14-16) and four days in June 1967 (21-24), small-scale testing of various defoliants and desiccants, including Agent Orange and Agent Purple, took place over a small portion of the Canadian Forces Base (CFB), Gagetown, New Brunswick.

Based on current information, Canadian officials stated that the U.S. supplied only two barrels of the Agent Orange and Agent Purple defoliants for testing purposes. The testing did not involve wide-spread spraying. Controlled testing occurred under strict conditions, ensuring minimal drift, in an area difficult to access. The testing area was comprised of two small areas covering approximately 83 acres of the 180,000 plus acres of CFB Gagetown.

The DND stated last week they will be initiating a soil, vegetation, and water sampling program this summer in the areas where Agents Orange and Purple were tested. Upon completion of the testing the results will be made available to the public **and the U.S. government**. The DND will also be working with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to research the relevant files concerning Agent Orange and the 1966/1967 testing to better understand and evaluate any issues of concerns.

Once the U.S. government has received the soil testing results; DOD and other agencies such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine will **review** the results. This process and the results may take several months to finalize.

In the mean time, the Maine National Guard remains determined to look after our soldiers, both current and former guardsmen and women. The Maine National Guard began training at CFB Gagetown in 1971, four years after the completion of Agents Orange and Purple testing and have trained there regularly since. Upon completion of the testing and validation process the Maine National Guard will make a determination of our future use of CFB Gagetown training site. The next scheduled training is in June 2006, although this is subject to change. We will ensure all precautionary measures are taken while our soldiers train for war.

The Maine National Guard and the Department of Veteran's Services understand the concerns of both present soldiers and veterans. In that regard, a link will be established on the Maine National Guard internet website (<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/Default.htm>) **to provide update regarding this issue as information becomes available**. In addition, **current and former soldiers** will be afforded the opportunity to be **added to a contact list of soldiers who trained** at CFB Gagetown. Should the need arise; these personnel will be contacted. For those without internet access, you can call the Department of

Veteran's Services in Augusta, Maine at 207-626-4464 to obtain updates and be added to the contact list.

Since the initial use of Agent Orange, significant studies and validation of effects on personnel have resulted in various national programs and assistance for affected veterans. The Veteran's Affairs (VA) currently maintains an active VA Agent Orange Registry and provides medical treatment or disability compensation to Vietnam veterans. In 2001, the program expanded to examinations of Korean veterans who served in Korea in 1968 and 1969 and may have been exposed to dioxin or other toxic substances used for military purposes. Additional information, fact sheets, and newsletters are available online at www.va.gov/agentorange or call the toll-free helpline at 1-800-749-8387.