

DRDC Suffield

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June 2005

Dear Mr

This is further to your 17 May 2005 letter and addresses the specific information that you have requested.

Please note that, under Access to Information Request A2004-00992, DRDC Suffield recently released all documents in our possession involving the planning, preparation, execution and after action reports for Exercise Vacuum. Generally, documents released under Access to Information requests are accessible; for information on how to access the actual records the Department released in response to this request, please contact the Access to Information Office at 613-992-9560. Further contact information is available at: http://www.admfincs.forces.gc.ca/ati/intro_e.asp.

However, the documents for this particular request are still with an analyst and the documents are not yet ready for dissemination. You may verify the status of the release by calling Mr Peter Holtby at 1-888-272-8207 (Holtby.ph@forces.gc.ca). Normally, there can be a nominal fee for the documents but you can certainly ask that it be waived. Mr Holtby has indicated that he is willing to discuss this with you.

You made five specific requests for information:

1. *"... who authorized the use of TA 66/1(Y) as a training agent and where it is recorded in Canadian Forces Medical Orders?"*

Training Agent 66/1 (TA 66/1) was developed at the Defence Research Establishment Suffield within Project Adobe; our records show that its development was authorized by the Surgeon General. Its use in Exercise Vacuum is included in the CFHQ Trial Directive. I do not have access to Canadian Forces Medical Orders from that period.

2. *Your request for "A copy of the Post Exercise Report, together with a complete listing of all the chemicals used in Operation Vacuum as well as any reports that deal with the issue of how the chemicals used in Operation VACUUM were expected to, or how they did, react with the contaminated soils within the training area."*

As stated above, all documents in our possession are / will be accessible from the Access to Information Office.

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3. Your request for: *"Any records that show that the soil and surface water in the training area was tested either immediately prior to Operation VACUUM or after the last Chemical or Biological Field Test that preceded it."*

Please see answer to question #2. However, do note that such records would be administrative and as such would no longer be included in our document library.

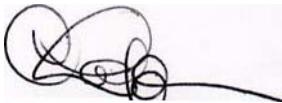
4. "Your request for: *"Copies of the reports prepared by the Field Superintendent, Field Experiment Officer and the Chief Superintendent who were assigned to Operation VACUUM."*

Please see answer to question #2.

5. Your request for: *"A list of all other Chemical or Biological Field Tests or Exercises conducted at Suffield from January 1, 1960 to September 15th, 1968 together with a list of all chemical or biological agents utilized."*

Such a list does not exist and its drafting would require a very significant resource investment; furthermore, not all pertinent records reside at DRDC Suffield. I would note here that during this period biological warfare agents were not used in the field and strict access control to contaminated areas were in effect.

Sincerely yours,



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