

USS INGERSOLL (DD 652) - AGENT ORANGE & PTSD APPROVAL !!!
HERBICIDE EXPOSURE PRESUMPTION EXTENDED TO 1965 CREW-MEMBERS
1966-70 - CREW-MEMBER AGENT ORANGE STATUS PENDING

Updated 6/14/2008

After a 31 month struggle, the Executive Officer (surviving senior officer), Commander Thomas D. Hamrick, U.S. Navy (Retired), confirmed that the proposed legislation for the "USS Ingersoll (DD 652) Combat Disability Act of 2007" has been replaced by an Addendum Compensation & Pension Service Bulletin, Volume 1, Issue 7 of July 31, 2007. The Bulletin authorized "Herbicide Exposure Presumption Extended to USS Ingersoll Crewmembers", as set forth below.

The VA Bulletin of July 31, 2007, also provides coverage for Stressor Verification for Service Connection for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for a direct hit on the bridge from North Vietnamese Shore Battery on December 5, 1966.

"The USS Ingersoll (DD 652) operated as a Navy destroyer gunship providing fire support for military ground operations along the Vietnam coast during 1965. In addition to coastal duty, the USS Ingersoll traveled up the Saigon River on October 24th and 25th of 1965 to fire on enemy bases. C&P Service has reviewed the ship's deck logs, located at the National Archives and records Administration, and confirmed this service in the "inland waterways" of Vietnam. As a result, the presumption of herbicide exposure, as described in 38 CFR 3.307(a)(6)(i), should be extended to any crewmember who served aboard ship during October of 1965. This presumption is authorized by M21-1MR section IV, ii.2.C.10b. Regional offices should reevaluate any disability claim based on herbicide exposure from one of these veterans that has been denied."

Close comradeship, developed by the 1965/66 deployments to Vietnam, has continued with the contact of ninety-eight (98) Officers and Crew-members of USS Ingersoll to date. Seventy-seven (77) from 1965 have been contacted, with nine (9) reported deceased from Agent Orange Conditions, while six (6) report no Agent Orange Condition, and the remaining sixty-two (62) suffer from seven of the eleven VA Approved List of Agent Orange Conditions. Four reporting no presence of any of the Agent Orange Conditions in January 2007, now, have tested positive for Prostate Cancer and Type II Diabetes. Of the sixty-two (62) affected with Agent Orange Conditions, twenty-three (23) have received VA Disability Ratings, twenty-eight (28) VA Disability Claims are pending, and fifteen (16) Claims await preparation.

Of the twenty-five replacement crewmembers for 1966 – 70, twenty-six have been contacted, four (4) are reported deceased, one (1) not affected, and twenty (20) are affected with Agent Orange. Efforts will continue for to provide the same presumption of herbicide exposure from the physical contamination of the ship, which was never de-contaminated. **Four (4) cases of PTSD have been approved and two (2) are pending per the July 31, 2007 Notice.**

On May 5, 2008, the Appeals Court of the Federal Circuit overturned the Haas "Blue Water" case, leaving Ingersoll as the only destroyer approved under the presumptive clause of the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

It is extremely important that we continue to contact all available shipmates, following the 1965 deployment and those serving in later years. Your efforts to continue contacting shipmates is encouraged and will be appreciated. **Ready Now!!!**

The XO can be reached at: XO-DD652@earnware.net or Phone: (619) 435-0338
Updates will continue to be provided at the USS Ingersoll Web-site - <http://www.uss-ingersoll-vets.com>

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