

AGENT ORANGE ALERT FOR USS INGERSOLL (DD 652) 1965-70 CREW-MEMBERS

Updated 6/1/2007

After assisting five (5) crew-members with VA Disability Claims in January 2005, four (4) received 100% VA Disabilities from exposure to *Agent Orange* and one (1) is still pending. Some VA Regional Offices are not accepting the facts that Ingersoll was; the only Gun Ship Da Nang, one of the first destroyers assigned to the Naval Gunfire Support Group, and conducted missions in all four Corps Areas of Vietnam. Following the conduct of three extensive Naval Gunfire Support Missions, seven miles up the Saigon River in October 1965, Ingersoll returned to San Diego, with apparent Agent Orange Contamination to her water and ventilation systems. This crew did not have to set foot ashore in Vietnam, as the contamination from exposure to Agent Orange Herbicides was never de-contaminated.

The Executive Officer (surviving senior officer), Commander Thomas D. Hamrick, U.S. Navy (Retired), confirmed the status of the sixty-nine (69) Ingersoll Veterans. Details are set forth in the USS Ingersoll (DD 652) Combat Disability Study and draft legislation for the "USS Ingersoll (DD 652) Combat Disability Act of 2007". Copies were submitted on April 10, 2007, to the Offices of Senator Feinstein for coordination, with a request to Sponsor legislation due to 24 active and 4 deceased crew-members from California. Copies have been provided to the offices of Senators Ken Salazar and Wayne Allard of Colorado from 3 crew-members; Senator Patty Murray of Washington from 7 crew-members, Senator John Warner of Virginia from 3 crew-members & 1 deceased, and Senator John Thune of South Dakota from 3 crew-members. Copies have also been provided to Representatives Bob Filner and Duncan Hunter of California and Representative Goode of Virginia.

The proposed legislation for the "USS Ingersoll (DD 652) Combat Disability Act of 2007" is essential to officially establish the ship's contamination from Agent Orange and to provide compensation for delayed Hearing Loss from Combat Naval Gunfire Support apparently not covered by current VA Regulations.

Close comradeship, developed by the 1965/66 deployments to Vietnam, have continued with the contact of ninety-five (95) Officers and Crew-members of USS Ingersoll by the end of May 2007. Unfortunately, twelve (12) shipmates are now reported deceased from Agent Orange Conditions, with nine of ten, of the remaining eighty-three (83) suffering from seven of the eleven VA Approved List of Agent Orange Conditions. Two that reported no presence of any of the Agent Orange Conditions in January 2007, now, have tested positive for Prostate Cancer and Type II Diabetes in May. Of the remaining seventy-five (75) affected with Agent Orange Conditions, twenty-eight (28) have received VA Disability Ratings, thirty-two (32) VA Disability Claims are pending, and fifteen (15) Claims await preparation.

We are requesting this legislative action for equitable disability recognition and compensation for eligible veterans of USS Ingersoll. Copies of the study and draft proposed legislation are available by email.

It is extremely important that we continue to contact all available shipmates, from the 1965 deployment and those serving in later years, to assist with current VA Disability Claims now or to provide a record source for future VA Disability Claims. We currently have four shipmates to add to our active list and are contacting other shipmates for which we have received addresses. Your efforts to contact us will be appreciated and your efforts in contacting others are encouraged. *Ready Now!!!*

The XO can be reached at: XO-DD652@earnware.net or Phone: (619) 435-5249

Updates will continue to be provided at the USS Ingersoll Web-site - <http://www.uss-ingersoll-vets.com>

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