



Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2010

Media Contact:
Anna Lewicki Long
(651) 757-1536
(651) 263-2640 cell
anna.long@state.mn.us

Agent Orange Information Available for Minnesota Veterans

WHAT: The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs invites the media the first statewide Agent Orange Forum. This community event will allow Veterans and service providers to ask questions and explore issues surrounding Vietnam service, Agent Orange exposure and the programs, benefits and financial compensations available.

Agent Orange was a herbicide used before and during the Vietnam War to remove foliage in the dense jungle terrain of Vietnam. Over the years, research has revealed that Agent Orange contains TCDD or dioxin, a chemical associated with many cancers and other health problems. Some of these conditions include type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease and more. There are an estimated 147,000 Vietnam era Veterans in Minnesota.

"The VA has made many changes in how it is compensating Veterans for Agent Orange exposure. Our goal is to educate the community so Veterans and their families can feel empowered about their health and understand how their service may have affected them," said Aundrey Sanchez, MDVA outreach supervisor and forum coordinator.

For more information visit www.mdva.state.mn.us or call 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838).

WHEN: Wednesday, April 21
Sessions will occur on the hour at 2, 4 and 6 p.m.

WHERE: Center for Changing Lives Auditorium
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
2400 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is a cabinet level state agency dedicated to serving Minnesota veterans and their families. In addition to overseeing the five State Veterans Homes, MDVA helps eligible veterans and families secure state and federal benefits and provides programs and services relating to higher education, benefits, burial, claims, outreach and veterans preference. For more information visit www.mdva.state.mn.us or call 1-(888)-LinkVet.

###