Submission No 69

Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal/Reseal Workers and their Families

Name:

Mr Van Gent

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Defence Sub-Committee From:Image: Sent:Sent:Thursday, 26 June 2008 3:15 PMTo:Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)Subject:f1-11

F1-11 deseal/reseal,

Dear Sir Madam,

In 1978 I was posted to 3 AD and worked in F1-11 modification. when we had finished our modification on the aircraft we were sent to different parts of 3 AD. I was sent to the rag hanger to remove the tank covers after the deseal and sponge the tanks to remove the fluid left after draining the tanks. We then had to pick around the rivets etc. where the goop had not been removed properly by the SR-51. I also spent some time on resealing the tanks.

I now suffer from headaches, nausea, skin disorders, amplification of my Post Traumatic Disorder, stomach disorder, high blood pressure, Diabetes, incontinence and other ailments sent to the F1-11 health Department.

I never received the ex-gratia payment nor have I received any compensation from any one related to my ailments. As the Defense Department has accepted responsibility for exposing us to toxic chemicals I feel very strongly that we should be compensated as well as our wives and children for the damage caused, that is life long lasting without reprieve to be normal again. I ask that the government take a fresh look into this matter.

Sincerely, van gent

