

Don Gillispie

From: John Childers [j.childers@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 11:20 AM
To: webmaster@surfbird383.org
Cc: e-williams@att.net
Subject: Agent Orange Ship List

Hi Don:

We sure had fun in San Diego, enjoyed meeting everyone and looking forward to San Antonio.

I just found out that the VA recently released an updated list (July 2013) of ships presumed to be exposed to agent orange. The Surfbird did not make the list, again. Here's the link:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp#S>

In discussing this topic in San Diego I recall several people saying that the Surfbird was in line to be placed on the list. With the Deck Logs and Command History documents that the Association has, along with the advocacy of Jane Babcock, I would think that would be sufficient evidence to place her on the list. Do you know if these documents have been submitted to the VA along with a request to be included. If so, was it Jane Babcock that made the request?

The VA has already approved my claim for disability benefits due to exposure to agent orange while serving onboard the Surfbird. To not include the Surfbird on the list of ships presumed to be exposed just makes it more difficult for other shipmates with agent orange related disabilities to gain the benefits they rightly deserve. It's an injustice and plainly wrong! Does the Association have the capacity to pursue this with the VA? Is there anything I can do to help? Thanks for all your efforts,
John