



Submission 109

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

Name: Mr Andrew Morris

Quintus-Bosz, Donna (REPS)

From: Ali, Muzammil (REPS)
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2008 3:56 PM
To: Jeanroy, Paul (REPS)
Cc: Quintus-Bosz, Donna (REPS)
Subject: FW: DRS submissions?

-----Original Message-----

From: Blinky Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2008 3:53 PM
To: Ali, Muzammil (REPS)
Subject: DRS submissions?

Hi, I did send you or someone listed an email of my submission as I was until this last Monday employed in Saudi Arabia. I as mentioned returned this week & have just looked at the website showing submissions & see I am not there. Looking at the "name withheld" listings mine is not one of them either.

Quickly, I too was a RAAF apprentice (40 Intake Airframes) & my first posting was to 3AD where I was sent off to Deseal Reseal Section for the mandatory 2 year tour.

The wing program was in full swing but we soon got into the saddle tanks then the fuselage tanks started to roll back in.

I must say right now that I am extremely grateful to have missed using the SR51!

My work is the same story as everyone else, open up the tanks, depuddle, deplumb, purge & depuddle again. Begin the desealing using water laser, seed blasting & hand cleaning using MEK, MilSpec (made up mainly of MEK). All while this is ongoing the screws needed cleaning in the baths (MEK agitators), sealants preparing for other sections usage/storage etc

The reseal we used barrier, primer, sealant, primer & so on.. The primer for the barrier used on the "voids" was particularly nasty as I recall. It also was the only chemical to list warnings saying that exposure/contact would give respiratory problems & birth defects, nice! It was a 2 part mix green paint.

Q4 & PR1750 had their own particular primers which were nasty themselves. Q4 was mixed for ease of use with MEK as it did not come in A or B types, the PR 1750 (& later PR1422 for the water tanks) has horrible smells which one later seemed to excrete out of our skin pores/sweat etc & this happened anywhere anytime. Thus the usual nagging from family & friends that "you smell", bed sheets, clothes etc all permeated!

Me & my health;

I used to get a buzz from working in the hanger but by the time I left I was getting head aches & feeling like crap (nausia), I did consider the PPE at the time barely sufficient, the respirators seemed to keep out the smell but you could not wear the 24/7 so to speak. We (fitters) were to find out later after my time that the gloves were insufficient protection, that in fact we needed a combination of the pink, black & blue gloves to protect against different chemicals, too late for most I guess?

While at Deseal I used to get a summer cough that made me cough until I vomitted! I was given an x-ray & told there is a cloud there but it is nothing to worry about, now it appears in my medical docs that I had mild pneumonia though I was not told this at the time nor given anytreatment!

24/07/2008

Yes I drank, not as much as some & I would have to consider myself a binge drinker. I do not like to drink consistently, so do/would go for several months without a drop, yes I have been up there with the best at parties but this all slowed down buy early 20's as my body started not being able to cope with it.

I found I have consistently elevated liver functions in 1997 when I tried for a job with then British Aerospace (Now BAe) & I was knocked back for a period of 12 months while I abstained from a single drop of alcohol, dieted, pushed the exercise & even went vegetarian. Nothing worked & to this day I still have elevated liver functions.

I also suffer anxiety which has lead to IBS, I had a small win on the anxiety & an eye condition. Funny how you can have a small win with DVA one one claim then anything related to it is knocked back & you are made to feel guilty, I am also amazed that they agreed the fumed dried my eyes leading to the problem though breathing the fumes according to them does not effect your liver, lungs etc

Anyhow my main concern is my liver & yet again another claim denied recently. I am again grateful I am not a wreck like some of the other Deseal guys, I am glad not to have skin conditions etc though I do feel I have been affected in small ways & the long term effects are of particular concern espically seeing as they are starting to rear their ugly heads (my last knock back the Doc claimed that as I was not affected whilst there or shortly after, there cannot be any links etc)

Regards,

Andrew Morris.