



# CAMP LEJEUNE 09.07-05/11/90-0043

Serving the II Marine Expeditionary Force, 2nd Marine Division,  
2nd Force Service Support Group, 6th Marine Expeditionary Brigade,  
2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Naval Hospital

Public Affairs Office  
P. O. Box 8438  
Camp Lejeune, N.C. 28542-5000

For more information call  
(919) 451-5655 / 5782 / 1607  
FAX (919) 451-5882

Release Number 70-05-09

Attribute to Maj. Stuart Wagner

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (May 11, 1990) -- During the evening of 26 April until approximately 5:00 am on the 27th of April 1990, 37 Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines were participating in a night training exercise in the rifle-range area of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

While on foot moving from one position to another, the platoon commander, to avoid the known location of a hazardous waste site in the vicinity east of his position, moved the platoon west toward a creek marked on his map. The platoon followed the creek for approximately 200 meters, at times waist and chest deep, until they could go no further and had to turn around. The platoon returned to the point where they entered the creek and then proceeded northwest until they found a road which eventually led them out and they were picked up by their unit. At the pick up point, one Marine complained of having fever like symptoms, headache, and general malaise. The Marine was brought in from the field and examined by the battalion surgeon who determined that the Marine was dehydrated and suffering from an upper respiratory infection not related to any chemical contamination.

Because all the Marines in the platoon were fully aware of the chemical site, and one of the Marines was subsequently ill, many in the platoon erroneously assumed they had walked through the site. At no time was the platoon in the site and the closest they came was approximately 700 meters. Because of an increased anxiety by the Marines in the platoon, all the Marines have since been examined by Naval doctors. Exams consisted of a full physical and blood samples. Results of the physicals are all normal and the results of the blood tests will be available soon. Once all results are known follow up treatment, if necessary will be conducted. At a minimum, blood samples will be retaken in thirty days.

No Marine has indicated any sign of illness attributable to chemical contamination, nor has any Marine reported that blood has been observed in his stool.