U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

July 9, 2012

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your June 6, 2012, letter to Dr. Portier regarding Maine veterans possibly being exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals while training at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Gagetown.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) share your concerns about the health of our military veterans and this situation in particular. Dr. Portier has asked his ATSDR scientific staff in to investigate the situation at CFB Gagetown and address your concerns.

As part of this process, ATSDR staff have contacted the Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health to obtain documents and reports that are essential to a thorough investigation. When ATSDR has reviewed these documents and completed their overall investigation of the possible exposures, we will promptly inform you of the results.

Thank you again for your letter and please be assured that ATSDR will conduct a thorough investigation of the situation at (CFB) Gagetown.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, CDC, and
Administrator, ATSDR