FILE NAME: Asbestos Textile Product Use (ATPU)

DATE: 1980 Dec 12

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from the Dept of the Air Force RE Fire Protective Clothing, No Information Available on Former Vendors

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

December 12, 1980

Elizabeth Ann Rowland, Esquire
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Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

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Dear Ms. Rowland:

As I noted in my initial response of November 26, 1980 to your November 13, 1980 inquiry addressed to Lt General Kelly H. Burke, the information you sought was quite old. I have now received the result of an Air Staff-directed review based on your inquiry and have received the following response:

> Fire protective clothing used throughout the Air Force including the United Kingdom in the 1950s and early 60s was the standard used by fire fighters throughout the U.S. Armed Forces and worldwide by modern fire services. This clothing was the current state-of-the-art with several ensembles for various fire situations, each manufactured by a number of vendors. Unfortunately, records of vendors of specific ensembles used during the time period specified by Mr. Sheldon cannot be readily found. From direct discussion with the Item Manager for fire protective clothing, Air Force Clothing and Textile Office (AFC&TO) in Philadelphia, it is doubtful that the records exist or that they can be reconstructed. We have also discussed this with several senior fire officers at base level who confirm this conclusion.

Following that I contacted the action officer responsible for preparing that summarization of the situation, and he informed me that he had exhausted all sources of information on the matter and could not give a more definitive response, even if given additional time to work on it.

I regret that our scant records from that era do not provide us a means to supply more precise information in that matter.

Sincerely

Byron D. Baur

Byron D. Baur
Office of the General Counsel