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About Hazardous

Exposures

Resources & Materials

About Environmental

Health Strategic

Contact Us

Health Care Group

Benefits

EAQs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Useful Links

Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home

Health Information

Hazardous Exposures

Clinical and Research Information

Women Veterans Health Care

Employee Health and Safety

Emergencies and Disasters

Publications and Products by Topic

About Us

Hazardous Exposures

Information on chemical, radiation, physical and environmental hazards during military service, possible health problems and related VA programs

Announcements

New Diseases Associated with Agent Orange: October 13, 2009 Secretary Shinseki decided to establish service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease. This is based on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine showing an association with exposure to Agent Orange. Vietnam Veterans with these diseases may be eligible for <u>disability compensation</u> and <u>health care benefits</u>.

Gulf War Newsletter: Read the <u>August 2009 Gulf War newsletter</u> to learn about new and current programs for Gulf War veterans and more.

Some U.S. veterans may have been exposed to various environmental and occupational hazards during military service. This Web site provides information on:

- What those hazardous exposures may be
- How exposure may have occurred during military service
- Known and possible health problems associated with each type of exposure
- VA health care and other benefits for health problems associated with hazardous exposures during military service

Types of Exposures



Agent Orange

Learn about Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam and Korea, diseases associated with herbicide exposure, and more.



Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

Learn about potential exposures for veterans who served Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, Gulf War veterans' illnesses, and more.



Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Hazardous Exposures

Learn about hazardous exposures during military service in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, possible health problems, and more.



<u>Radiation</u>

Learn about ionizing and non-ionizing radiation exposure, possible health problems, and more.



Toxic Embedded Fragments

Learn about toxic embedded fragments, health problems of injuries with retained fragments, and more.



Cold and Heat Injuries (Thermal Injuries)

Learn about cold and heat injuries, possible health problems, and more.

Project 112/Project SHAD

Learn about military tests in the 1960s and early 1970s involving biological and chemical warfare materials, possible health problems, and more.



JSRRC

Vietnam Veterans Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Agent Orange, and Unit Record Research Information

The U.S. Army & Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRRC), formerly the U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Records Research (CURR), and before that Research of Unit Records, Environmental Support Group (ESG), provides research in support of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) claims, Agent Orange exposure and provides information for veterans to obtain unit records. The JSRRC will research records concerning PTSD claims for specific stress incidents without charging the veteran or the requestor.

You will find mention of JSRRC and PTSD claim procedures in an Inspector General report: VAOIG-05-01229-71.pdf (opens new window).

If you feel you have been exposed to Agent Orange, please provide the dates you were assigned to your units in Vietnam, unit designations and base camp locations.

If you desire to file a claim for disability, please contact your local Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO). Also, call or write your local VA office to receive information concerning PTSD or how to file a claim. A local service officer from one of the major veterans organizations can also provide information and assistance.

If you need information about casualties from the Vietnam War, please provide as close to the date as possible, the individual's full name, unit designation and a brief description of the incident. If this information is not available, please provide as much information on the casualty as you can recall.

In order to provide information concerning attacks, please provide as much of the following information as you can: date of the incident (as close as you can remember), type and location of the attack, numbers and full names of casualties, unit designations to the company level, and other units involved. The more detailed the information, the better chance of successful research.

Requests for research should include a copy of your DA Form 20. This form is maintained in your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF). You may request a copy of your OMPF by writing to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), ATTN: U.S. Army Liaison, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132. The OMPF will also provide medical records, unit and duty assignments, and orders of personnel actions such as promotions, awards and commendations.

Please send all requests to:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army & Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRRC)
7701 Telegraph Road
Kingman Building, Suite 2C08
Alexandria, Virginia 22315-3802
Telephone number: 703-428-6801

For Information on what JSRRC does and does not do, click <u>HERE</u>, and good luck. -- Al Colombo

Additional Information Available:

- Agent Orange: How to Get Help
- Agent Orange History and General Information
- Send a Comment or Question to Al Colombo
- Main Menu

	MAIN MENU		MISSION		GETTING HELP		AGENT ORANGE	
	GULF WAR		PTSD		MESSAGE CENTER			
	SEND E-MAIL		VET LINKS					
	DISCLAIMER		FAQ					

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http://www.usvetinfo.com/esg_us.htm

After Action report Morning reports

2/9/2010



Additional Information on Depleted Uranium

The issue of munitions re-enforced with depleted uranium (DU) has caused quite a stir among detractors of the practice. USVI works to sort out myth from fact, thus we are working to provide the more inquisitive with a host or resources that they can study. On this page you will find links to a variety of articles and studies, some written by those who advocate the use of DU and others written by DU's many detractors.

DU as well as agent orange, Gulf War, Operations Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF), ionizing radiation, and Project 112 (includes SHAD) falls under the control of the Environmental Agents Service (EAS), which is under the Occupational and Environmental Health Strategic Health Care Group of the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards (that's a mouth full). According to Veterans Affairs (VA), EAS also oversees the War-Related Illness and Injury Study Centers (WRIISC).

- o Operations OIF/OEF
- o Gulf War
- o Veterans and Agent Orange
- o Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program
- Ionizing Radiation
- o Project 112 (includes SHAD)
- o War-Related Illness & Injury Study Centers

For an expanded listing of information sources, visit the VA website at: http://www1.va.gov/environagents/

- DU Description by USVI
- o <u>DU Information on USVI BBS</u> (opens new window)
- o <u>DU Index</u>

Allan B. Colombo



Veterans' Compensation Persian Gulf Undiagnosed Illness Claims

By Al Colombo Copyright 1998

In times of war and armed conflict, many of our men and women in the armed services have suffered physical, emotional and mental problems as either a direct or indirect consequence of their military tenure. Approximately 700,000 men and women served in the Persian Gulf War.

By February, 1996, there were more than 14,500 undiagnosed claims of Gulf War illnesses reported to the VA; and 7,845 had already been processed by VA when the GAO launched its investigation. John D. Rockerfeller IV, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. Senate, requested information on the status of Gulf War Illness claim requests.

The GAO (General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C.) discovered that of the 7,845 undiagnosed claims made by Gulf War vets, only 5%, or 392, had actually been approved--95% were denied. Some of these claimants, the GAO said, were subsequently approved for compensation and/or medial help, via the VA medical system, because of other conditions acquired during their Persian Gulf War experience (i.e. knee problems).

Of the cases that [the GAO] reviewed, where the claimed undiagnosed illness(es) had been denied, about 60% of the veterans had been granted compensation for at least one service-connected diagnosable condition, such as hypertension, hearing loss, or knee disorders. About one-half of these veterans were granted a disability payment; the remainder, with minor impairments, are eligible for free care for their conditions through

the VA medical system. --General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C., Report: GAO/HEHS-96-112 Persian Gulf Undiagnosed Illness Claims

Additionally, according to the GAO, it was determined that denials were, in part, due to VA's lack of adequate direction as well as lack of varifiable information from veteran claimants. Where veterans had indicated evidence existed, such as a private physician or someone close to the claimant who had seen first hand their difficulties upon returning from the Gulf War, the VA many times did not follow up. In addition, the VA many times did not inform their veteran claimants as to what they could and should submit

While veterans are ultimately responsible for proving their claims, VA is required by statute to assist the veteran in developing facts to prove the claim. The U.S. Court of Veterans' Appeals has also held in its decisions that VA has a duty to assist veterans with proving their claims and is required to obtain relevant facts from sources identified by claimants. --GAO/HEHS-96-112

How To Get Help

The procedure used when submitting an undiagnosed Gulf War illness claim begins with your regional VARO. You must submit a fully-complete form to your regional VARO to get the process started. The VARO will then obtain your medical records from the military and set up a physical examination. You must also provide other sources of information that will help collaborate your condition. This can be from private health care providers that you've previously gone to, to lay people who have witnessed your problems and are willing to swear to it. According to law, VA must actively pursue these "other" sources of information that will help collaborate your undiagnosed claim because all of these things help point to a possible problem, supporting your claim.

According to the GAO's study of <u>Public Law 103-446</u>, Persian Gulf War Veterans' Benefits Act, Title I of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1994, compensation can only occur when the symptoms that you have began while you were serving in the Gulf region, or during the period of two (2) years after said service. In addition, you must be found at least 10% disabled and your condition must be considered chronic, which means you must have had it for a minimum of 6 months.

If you would like to have a copy of the GAO report cited in this article, call, fax, or write the General Accounting Office at P.O. Box 37050, Washington, D.C. 37050, Call 202-512-6000, fax them at 202-512-6061, or via E-mail at info@www.gao.gov. Ask for report GAO/HEHS-96-112, entitled "Persian Gulf Undiagnosed Illness Claims".

BACK



Gulf War Report

From: Colonel Dan

Here is a "small" part of a gulf war report from last fall, send a note to your senator and ask them what legislation they are proposing or supporting to correct the things listed in the CONCLUSIONS. The senate members from last fall is at: http://www.senate.gov/~svac/member.htm. The site is not up todate.

Here are a few key members of committee:

- o <u>senator_specter@specter.senate.gov</u>
- o Senator@thurmond.senate.gov
- o senator@rockefeller.senate.gov

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Sen. Arlen Specter, Chairman Charlie Battaglia, Majority Staff Director James R. Gottlieb, Minority Staff Director

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT ON GULF WAR ILLNESSES — EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONCLUSION

The men and women who have served in our nation's military deserve better than what ill Gulf War veterans have experienced. They deserve to get answers from the government when they ask legitimate questions about what has happened to them during their deployment. They deserve to have the government promptly and fully

investigate if the answer to those questions is not known. They deserve to have access to appropriate medical care in a timely and effective way and they deserve to be confident that their reports of health problems will be treated seriously and without contempt. They deserve to have funding of scientific research awarded in a scientifically sound and impartial way. When applying for service-connected disability compensation, Gulf War veterans deserve to have their claims reviewed and resolved promptly and with a minimum of bureaucratic hurdles for them to clear.

The government failed to meet these reasonable expectations in the past and, as a result, lost credibility with many Gulf War veterans, members of Congress, and the public. The lingering effects of that lost credibility make it much more difficult for the DOD and VA to be seen as fully responsive now to the needs of Gulf War veterans in implementing effective programs. Those agencies now must work even harder to demonstrate their empathy with and responsiveness to Gulf War veterans' health problems. To ensure that Gulf War veterans in the future receive quality and timely service from the DOD and particularly from VA, the DOD and VA should report back to the appropriate committees of Congress one year after the release of this report to describe the status of their efforts to implement the recommendations made here and to correct any other deficiencies identified in this report.

Some questions Gulf War veterans have about their health may never be answered. Scientific experts likely will debate for years the causes of these veterans' unexplained illnesses. But the search for answers should not supplant the primary responsibility of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to ensure that these veterans receive timely and effective health care and appropriate compensation benefits. This is an opportunity to learn the lessons from the Gulf War so that during or after a future conflict the mistakes of the past will not be repeated. America's Gulf War veterans, who may never know the origin of their illnesses but who nevertheless put themselves in harm's way when their country called, deserve no less.

The men and women who have served in our nation's military deserve better than what ill Gulf War veterans have experienced. They deserve to get answers from the government when they ask legitimate questions about what has happened to them during their deployment. They deserve to have the government promptly and fully investigate if the answer to those questions is not known. They deserve to have access to appropriate medical care in a timely and effective way and they deserve to be confident that their reports of health problems will be treated seriously and without contempt. They deserve to have funding of scientific research awarded in a scientifically sound and impartial way. When applying for service-connected disability compensation, Gulf War veterans deserve to have their claims reviewed and resolved promptly and with a minimum of bureaucratic hurdles for them to clear.

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"Keep on, Keepin' on", Support Veterans & Thanks......Colonel Dan See Colonel Dan's web site at: http://hometown.aol.com/dancolonel/VetsIssue.html Forward to a veteran or Sign up a Veteran to this list at: http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/VeteranIssues

BACK

	MAIN MENU		MISSION		GETTING HELP		AGENT ORANGE	
	GULF WAR		PTSD		MESSAGE CENTER			
	SEND E-MAIL		VET LINKS					
	DISCLAIMER		FAQ					





Gulf War Syndrome, Language, and Labels

From:
Date: Wed, 3 Jun 1998 02:28:07 EDT
To: APFN@netbox.com
American Patriot Friends Network (APFN)
Subject: Gulf War Syndrome, Language, and Labels

In the Burlington Free Press on Monday, June 1, 1998, an article appears courtesy of the Associated Press entitled "Net addicts show signs of other trouble." The first paragraph proclaims that net addicts demonstrate "a bumper crop of psychiatric disorders." Nathan Shapira, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, is slated to present findings to the annual meeting of American Psychiatric Association in Toronto based on a study of only 14 individuals. Evidence of manic depression, alcohol or substance abuse, and anxiety disorders were present in seven or more of the 14 subjects studied. All demonstrated levels of addiction to the internet which resulted in the predictable consequences of any other addiction: "broken relationships, job loss and dropping out of school."

"Half had an anxiety disorder such as 'social phobia' which is a persisting and unreasonable fear of being embarrassed in public . . ."

Not a word is mentioned about the effects of behavioral science and research, nor how it can create such symptoms of anxiety using modern techniques of surveillance, observation, and neural linguistics. Such public assessments are contrary to the accepted ideology.

Not a word is mentioned about Gulf War Syndrome, and how quickly the medical establishment labeled the effects of chemical toxicity to "stress." Not a word is mentioned about the tendency to label chemical sensitivity among the general population in the same manner.

Gulf War Syndrome still meets tremendous amounts of denial in spite of House Report 105 - 388, of the 105th Congress; Second Report by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, which blasts the VA and DOD for their handling of Gulf War Syndrome and their treatment of our veterans who are slowly dyeing due to their exposure to a wide variety of chemicals including pyridostigmine bromide, which was administered in pill form.

From House Report 105 - 388, of the 105th Congress; Second Report by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight page 4: 17) Institutional and methodological constraints make it unlikely the current research structure will find the causes and effective treatments for Gulf War veterans illnesses in the short term. 18) The FDA was passive in granting and failing to enforce the conditions of a waiver to permit use of PB by DOD.

What is the fundamental difference between these two areas of research?

The internet represents an unregulated forum for mass communication. The ability to discredit views in opposition to accepted standards and policies is completely unfettered, using the standard labels of mental illness.

The use of the PB pill and a new anthrax vaccine was itself, experimental. To question the source of Gulf War syndrome is dangerously close to questioning policies of human experimentation and methods of implementation.

Given that the use of the PB pill and the anthrax vaccine was experimental, it seems unreasonable to presume that the denial, in theater, of chemical exposure, was anything other than deliberate. The effectiveness of the pb pill and the anthrax vaccine could not be determined without such exposures.

In this view, there is only one conclusion: THOSE MEN WERE DELIBERATELY LEFT OUT THERE IN THE SAND, UNDER CHEMICAL ASSAULT - EITHER BY SADDAM HUSSEIN OR BY OUR OWN DOD RESEARCH TEAMS.

Now they are slowly dying.

It has been over seven years since the end of the gulf war, and these human beings still labor under lies in labels. It is not new. The human wreckage and waste grow daily behind a wall of lies. Using the above mentioned tools of surveillance, observation, and neural linguistics, we can create symptoms completely consistent with schizophrenia, to say nothing of problems of anxiety, or "stress."

We engage in a wide variety of human scientific experimentation and behavioral research. We do not question the sociological results. We do not stop in the face of human tragedy. We simply stone wall, and tell more lies, create more labels, and attempt to regulate the free flow of ideas which are contrary to ideological policy.

William Safire laments the use of redundancy in modern English, and parrots Hamlet in apparent condemnation of both a president and the department of justice as follows:

"Hamlet, having denounced 'the proud man's contumely,' went on to complain in what now seems to be an evenhanded way about 'the law's delay,/The insolence of office.' " NYT 5/31/98

Not a word does he speak about Gulf War Syndrome, human experimentation, nor about neural linguistics, the most outrageous misuse of language ever conceived.

Sig Heil, Herr Doktor, Sig Heil.

D. Winter

Please feel free to add your name below mine, and email to the below addresses. Forward to all of your friends, and encourage them to do likewise. Let our elected officials see we want action.

POLITICIANS EMAIL LIST

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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION:
http://www.va.gov
WHITE HOUSE:
http://www.whitehouse.gov

"Woe to those who decree unjust statutes and to those who continually record unjust decisions, to deprive the needy of justice, and to rob the poor of MY people of their rights." Isaiah 10:1.2

BACK

|| MAIN MENU || MISSION || GETTING HELP || AGENT ORANGE || || GULF WAR || PTSD || MESSAGE CENTER || || SEND E-MAIL || YET LINKS || || DISCLAIMER || FAQ ||



