



**Presidential Special Oversight Board  
for Department of Defense Investigations  
of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents**

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**Chairman**

September 3, 1998

Hon. Warren B. Rudman

Ms. Angela M. Lee

**Vice Chairman**

Hon. Jesse Brown

Dear Ms. Lee:

Admiral Zumwalt has asked me to reply to your letter of August 27, 1998.

**Board Members**

The sera repository you mention is a joint program of the Department of Defense (DoD), with all the military services participating. There are over 22 million specimens in the collection, including those of a large number of Gulf War Veterans.

Dr. Vinh Cam

LTG (Ret.) Marc A. Cisneros

CSM (Ret.) David W. Moore

RADM (Ret.) Alan M. Steinman

ADM (Ret.) Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

The Department of Defense administers a program called the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP), which provides a systematic, in-depth medical evaluation for DoD beneficiaries who are experiencing illnesses that may be related to their service in the Persian Gulf. The CCEP has access to and uses the DoD Sera Repository as required to evaluate the health of those participating in the CCEP. As of early 1998, more than 35,000 individuals had enrolled in the program, of which 33,948 had completed the evaluation process. Although there is an assortment of individual veterans with medical conditions that were not manifested until after their service in the Gulf War, to date there is no clinical evidence that suggests a "syndrome" among Persian Gulf veterans participating in the CCEP.

**Executive Director**

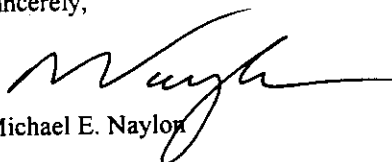
COL (Ret.) Michael E. Naylor

The DoD hotline for more information on the CCEP is 1-800-796-9699.

I am providing a copy of your letter to LTC Mark Rubertone, the administrator of the DoD Sera Program, and to LTC Chuck Engel, the administrator of the CCEP.

I thank you for your concern. Positive suggestions from interested citizens like yourself are always welcome as we continue to struggle with this issue that is so important to the government, our veterans, and the general public.

Sincerely,

  
Michael E. Naylor

cc: LTC Mark Rubertone  
LTC Chuck Engel  
Admiral (Ret) Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.