

**INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**
2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418

Committee on Health Effects Associated with
Exposures During the Gulf War
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September 30, 1999

Dear Dr. Zumwalt,

Thank you for making a presentation at the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) public meeting on September 16th. We appreciate that you may have traveled a long distance and braved the poor weather conditions. The committee learned a great deal from your presentation and from the material that you provided.

As you know, the IOM constituted the Committee on Health Effects Associated with Exposures During the Gulf War, at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), to conduct a study of the peer-reviewed literature to determine potential associations between health effects and exposure to a variety of biologic and chemical agents. The committee, after meeting with representatives of veterans organization, chose to review compounds that appeared to be of most concern to the veterans. Thus, during the first phase of the study, the committee is reviewing the literature on depleted uranium (and uranium), pyridostigmine bromide, sarin (and cyclosarin), and vaccines (anthrax and botulinum toxoid). The committee will report on all health outcomes which may result from exposure to those selected compounds at various doses (as reported in the literature).

You should be aware, that the committee has not been constituted to determine an etiology (cause) for Gulf War Illnesses or to determine whether or not there is a unique Gulf War Syndrome. The DVA requested this specific study, as they contemplate a compensation program for the veterans. The Secretary of the DVA will make a determination for compensation to the veterans which will be informed by the findings of the committee.

We appreciate your interest in the committee's work, and we will send you a copy of the report, upon completion of the study.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Fulco
Cathy Liverman
IOM Staff