



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

August 13, 1999

**FAX COVER SHEET**

**Chairman**

Hon. Warren B. Rudman

**TO: ALL BOARD MEMBERS**

**Vice Chairman**

Hon. Jesse Brown

**FROM: Michael E. Naylor**

**Board Members**

Dr. Vinh Cam

LTC (Ret.) Marc A. Cisneros

CSM (Ret.) David W. Moore

RADM (Ret.) Alan M. Stinzman

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

**SUBJECT: Letter from Bernard Rostker to  
Senator Rudman**

**Executive Director**

COL (Ret.) Michael E. Naylor

The attached fax was received in our office Thursday,  
August 12, 1999.

Staff will monitor this situation. We may wish to have  
ARDEC and CHPPM address this issue, with  
OSAGWI, at an upcoming monthly meeting.

The impact of the debate on the Level I risk assessment  
dose estimates is yet to be determined.



SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
FOR  
GULF WAR ILLNESSES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

Honorable Warren B. Rudman, Chairman  
Presidential Special Oversight Board  
1401 Wilson Blvd, Suite 401  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Senator Rudman:

Information came to light on Friday, August 6, 1999, that the GAO is concerned about the reliability of the Level I depleted uranium (DU) dose assessment completed by the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM). As a part of the on-going GAO review of issues relating to the use of DU during the Gulf War, GAO investigators have met with scientists from the US Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Command (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal as well as CHPPM in Aberdeen, MD to learn the details of the dose assessment methodology. During this process, ARDEC scientists expressed dissatisfaction over CHPPM's treatment of certain research data reported in a 1989 ARDEC report. CHPPM based its Gulf War Level I risk assessment on dose estimates from ARDEC's 1989 report of a 1987 test where a DU round penetrated DU armor. ARDEC contends that CHPPM has erroneously interpreted some of its data in making their dose assessment. They believe that the inhaled dose of DU could be much higher than CHPPM has estimated. While we were aware of ARDEC's concerns, we were assured by CHPPM that "we will cover Rich's concerns in our (CHPPM's) report. We have made adjustments that Rich can live with."

ARDEC and CHPPM scientists are meeting to resolve the issues. This may be difficult because the ARDEC lead scientist is leaving for a scheduled surgery. If a revised Level I assessment is called for, it will be incorporated into the next revision of our DU Environmental Exposure Report.

I will keep you informed of the status of this issue.

Sincerely,

Bernard Rostker

