



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 1999**

**Contact: Roger Kaplan
703-696-9470**

**SPECIAL OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INVESTIGATIONS OF GULF WAR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS
RELEASES INTERIM REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT**

Washington, DC – The Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents (Special Oversight Board) released its Interim Report to the President today.

The report details the results of the Board's first nine months of overseeing DoD investigations and reviewing the recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Committee's (PAC) Special Report. The Board consulted with veterans groups, conducted public hearings, and conferred with subject matter experts in addition to meeting regularly with and reviewing the efforts of DoD agencies responsible for investigating Gulf War illnesses.

The Board made 12 specific recommendations regarding DoD's investigations and its implementation of the PAC Special Report. In addition, the seven-member panel advised the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses (OSAGWI) to finalize four of its case narratives. The report also outlines Board activities, OSAGWI operations, and 10 case narrative and environmental exposure report analyses.

"DoD has conducted a credible investigation into the causes Gulf War illnesses, but the Board has not been shy about pointing out areas needing further improvement. We will continue to assess the Department's efforts over the next nine months to ensure that our veterans and the American public benefit from the most thorough, accurate, and expeditious analysis possible into this important health issue," stated former Senator Warren B. Rudman, chairman of the Special Oversight Board and a Korean War veteran.

Leading the effort with Senator Rudman is former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown, vice chairman and a Vietnam veteran. Board members also include Dr. Vinh Cam, an immuno-toxicologist; Lieutenant General (Ret) Marc A. Cisneros, president of Texas A&M-Kingsville and a veteran of Vietnam and Panama; Command Sergeant Major (Ret) David W. Moore, a county coroner and veteran of Vietnam and Desert Storm; Rear Admiral (Ret) Alan M. Steinman, former Surgeon General of the US Coast Guard; and Admiral (Ret) Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., former Chief of Naval Operations and a veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

President Clinton created the Special Oversight Board by Executive Order 13075 to "provide advice and recommendations based on [the Board's] review of DoD investigations into possible detections of, and exposures to, chemical or biological weapons agents and environmental and other factors that may have contributed to Gulf War Illnesses." Although the Special Oversight Board may not conduct any scientific research, the Board does utilize all available investigations, both Federal and non-Federal, throughout its review process.

-30-

For more information about the Special Oversight Board contact:

Roger Kaplan
Special Oversight Board
1401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 401
Arlington, VA 22209

or call: 703-696-9470

The interim report may be electronically accessed from:

www.oversight.ncr.gov

and

www.gulflink.osd.mil