



Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

2004 Report and Recommendations

Key Findings of the Report

- 1. A substantial proportion of Gulf War veterans are ill with multisymptom conditions not explained by wartime stress or psychiatric illness.**
- 2. Treatments that improve the health of veterans with Gulf War illnesses are urgently needed.**
- 3. A growing body of research indicates that an important component of Gulf War veterans' illnesses is neurological in character.**
- 4. Evidence supports a probable link between exposure to neurotoxins and the development of Gulf War veterans' illnesses.**
- 5. Other wartime exposures may also have contributed to Gulf War veterans' illnesses.**
- 6. The health of Gulf War veterans must be carefully monitored to determine if Gulf War service is associated with excess rates of specific diseases, disease-specific deaths, or overall mortality.**
- 7. Important questions concerning the health of children and other family members of Gulf War veterans remain unanswered.**
- 8. Progress in understanding Gulf War veterans' illnesses has been hindered by lack of coordination and availability of data resources maintained by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.**
- 9. Research on Gulf War veterans' illnesses has important implications for current and future military deployments and for homeland security.**
- 10. Further progress in understanding and treating Gulf War veterans' illnesses requires federal research programs that are properly focused, well-managed, and adequately funded.**