Public Comments to the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses Research
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I want to welcome all the New members of the Committee. It is important for you to release you are here today because Gulf War Veterans fought to have this committee thru Congress and in Law. Our voices got you here and therefore you must really hear our voices and communications.

As you sit here I want you to think of the ill gulf war veterans, many have died already. Many of them have spouses that have become ill with similar symptoms and question every day if it is caused by exposures in the Gulf War that there spouses brought home to them and transmitted to them. Many children have been born to our soldiers and veterans since the war they have an array of illnesses and again the question is raised is it due to the exposed veteran. None of those questions have been researched at all. Not even a morbidity study of these groups. I highly recommend VA conduct at least a paper survey research study.

Many of our veterans have died. WE do not even get quarterly reports like the GWVIS data or even Pre 911 veteran data from the VA on number of claims submitted, number of claims granted, type of claims (GWI presumptive and other rated conditions) , or number of deaths by cause, age, location or unit in theater, or total living veterans 24 yrs after the fact!

We have lost our brother and sister veterans. Many like Paul Lyons gave up and lost hope and died. I saved him 15yrs ago and was involved this time trying desperately trying to save him. I have lost others I now consider part of my family. This is a tragic situation with each and every veteran of the Gulf War 90-91. They are tooo young and have family members that needed them. They feel a deep betrayal by their own government. They feel anger, hurt, pain, and a moral injury.

We fought to get VA research directed in the right direction and not stress related research and misspending our funds! That is why we now have DOD

CDMRP GWIRP. What does it take?

Well it takes the President, the DOD, and the VA first to acknowledge and tell the world of our exposures. It takes a public apology to this group of veterans and their families.

It takes VA to share data openly and completely to the veterans, their families, the VA and DOD doctors, Private doctors, and every medical researcher on this earth. When you do that then the resources will open up at speed of light. Researchers can get answers faster. You must accept smaller scale studies! Or else more veterans will die!

You must respond and put out the call to doctors and our researchers that time is critical. You must immediately find the resources of all the brain diagnostic tests and get those available to every veteran now. You must coordinate the massive collection of blood work to show our cytokine abnormalities and genetic alterations for each veteran. We must identify each veteran by these diagnostic tests and blood biomarkers, these veterans have a right to this testing in each clinical location or at least in each state, or withn a five state area.

WE must have intergrated research into the clinical area now! It is a crime of omission of care to do any .less. Contracted with each major medical university in this country to do this now!

It has been 24 years veterans are dying now. Do not let more die feeling betrayed and without hope! WE did nothing wrong, we answered the call as did our coalition forces.

Veterans can not pay their own way to participate in research when there travel is not cover, they have been denied their claims and compensation. WE can not wait for another ten years or even five years to get the brain studies done clinically or to get our biomarkers of chromosome aberation blood work done.

WE can hope that the small treatment studies being started thru CDMRP are fast tracked so we might benefit and have at least some relief or better quality of life thru treatment. These trials need to be given the resources needed and the help to serve each veteran we can!

The doctors at the VA and in the civilian world are not being made aware of breaking research on the gulf war illness. They are in the dark and therefore give blank looks to our veterans and a dismissal attitude that destroys any doctor patient relationship or trust! WE must ask you to take a lead as our VA RAC GWIR to report to VA the steps needed now in education, diagnostic testing, and blood work to be done clinically now, immediately, no further delay.

When we go to war we do not expect to left on the battlefield with surgical or medical wounds incurred because we were there!

WE must have a rapid education of clinical doctors and a rapid research findings application to the clinical area no matter where he veteran resides.

This has been called the LARGEST FRIENDLY FIRE INCIDENT IN HISTORY. OUR veterans of the gulf war 90-91 and those that followed us are not able to hold on in some cases not even 6 months or a month.

You could have the researchers conduct training on the reading of the brain diagnostic tests and get it out on video for the ones that do the diagnostic interpretations to learn. You could have the images sent to the experts to be interpreted at several locations.

You could do the same with blood sent for biomarker determinations or the Chromosome aberations or genetic abnormalities to the experts and get results now.

This is what I call intergrated research to the clinical practice site! WE need to change our way of doing typical research if we are going to truly fulfill the duty owed to each of our veterans. A system that saw battlefield advances of quick rapid helicopter and air transport from the battlefield to advance treatment didn't take years of research. The civilian medical community used those advances. A system that saw rapid assessment and treatment of battlefield injuries and stabilization did not take years of research. Look at how we saved so many lives from OIF and OEF! WE need real time action.