

3



SPECIAL ASSISTANT
FOR
GULF WAR ILLNESSES

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

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR GULF WAR ILLNESSES

THROUGH: Executive Assistant
Project Manager, Gulf War Illnesses Support
Chief Action Management

FROM: Public Affairs (b)(6)

SUBJECT: Joint Civilian Orientation Conference

PURPOSE: To reply to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

DISCUSSION: In a September 1997, memorandum Secretary Cohen asked for nominations for the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC), scheduled for June 20-28, 1997. The JCOC is a week long orientation program for 60 public opinion leaders who have little knowledge of DoD activities. This memorandum was asking for nominations of individuals to attend the conference.

The proposed response informs the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) that the JCOC attendees would benefit from the Special Assistant speaking on Gulf War illnesses issues. We are offering to have Dr. Rostker speak at the conference, and if desired the OSAGWI display can be provided.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the proposed response to the ASD(PA) at Tab A.

APPROVED: _____
DISAPPROVED: _____
OTHER: _____

104



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APR 16 1998

MEMORADUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Joint Civilian Orientation Conference

Last fall, Secretary Cohen invited me to nominate an attendee for the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference scheduled for June 20-28, 1998. While reading about the type of distinguished citizen who is commonly invited to participate in this annual event, it occurred to me that this audience would benefit from learning about the Department of Defense's efforts to care for those who fought in the Gulf War, and use this information to protect future forces.

According to the fact sheet your office provided, the purpose of this conference is to increase public understanding of national defense issues and facilitate a candid exchange of information on defense matters. In my opinion, one of the most important issues to the American public today is taking care of the sons and daughters they entrust to the care of the military services.

As you know, since November 1996, we have made every effort to follow the President's direction in "leaving no stone unturned" in finding out what happened during the Gulf War. Important as that is, I've also remained fully aware of my equally important mission of ensuring the DoD learns from our experiences in the Gulf.

Our expanded outreach program to our active duty forces is part of our effort to inform the American public. I believe that speaking to the JCOC would be another important outreach effort.

Please give this request your serious consideration. I am available to speak at your convenience and can provide a comprehensive display for the date of my presentation or the entire week.

Bernard Rostker

