

Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments



Transition Book

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GULF WAR ILLNESSES, MEDICAL READINESS, AND MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

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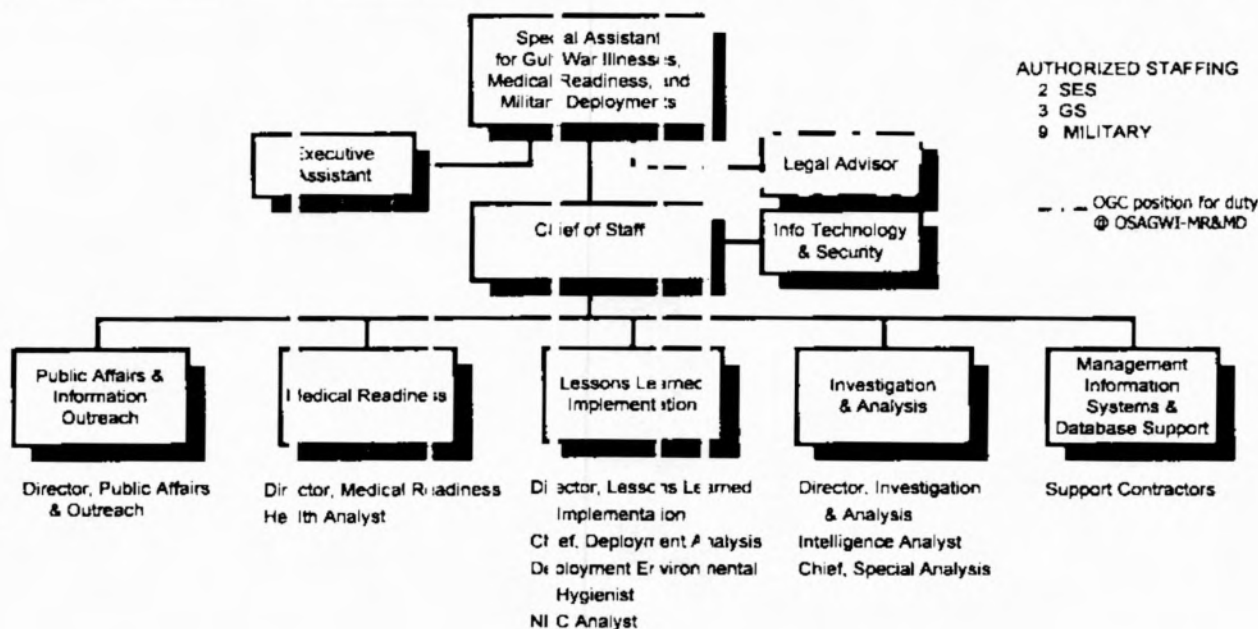


MISSION STATEMENT

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments is responsible for advising the Secretary on deployment matters as they pertain to force health in the Department of Defense (i.e., the physical and mental well being of deployed service members and civilian personnel). The Special Assistant is responsible for accounting to the Secretary, and, as appropriate, to the Congress, the Executive Branch, veterans, and the American people for force health issues within his cognizance that arise during deployments and on the battlefield. The Special Assistant will proactively develop, as appropriate, and work with cognizant offices on the implementation of lessons learned. As directed by the Secretary, the Special Assistant will conduct outreach to the Total Force, Veterans and Military Service Organizations, veterans, and the public concerning military deployments.

Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments



GOALS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

Goals:

1. Establish coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding concerning deployment matters as they relate to force-health and medical readiness activities and issues within the Department of Defense, other Executive Departments and Agencies, the Congress, veterans and Military Service organizations, and the public.
2. Re-establish confidence in DoD by Service members, civilian personnel, veterans and Military Service organizations, veterans, their families, and the public through outreach aimed at responding to their concerns about, and assuring and preserving their trust in, the force health-related information and activities associated with past and potential military deployments.
3. Contribute to the development of a leadership culture, which is responsive to the real and perceived deployment health-related concerns of personnel.

FUNCTIONS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

The Special Assistant shall serve as the principal staff advisor to the Secretary of Defense on deployment matters as they pertain to force health in the Department of Defense, including aspects of doctrine, policy, readiness, and medical research. In the execution of his advisory responsibilities, and as determined by the Secretary of Defense, the Special Assistant shall:

Review the findings of investigations, inspections, and exercises related to the force health aspects of military deployment activities conducted by the DoD Components. Where appropriate, address the concerns and issues from their findings and submit recommendations for corrective actions to the Secretary of Defense.

Collect, analyze, and assess information concerning the force health of military deployments from servicemembers, veterans, and the DoD Components. Publish, as appropriate, case narratives, information papers, and environmental exposure reports related to the same.

Develop and maintain an automated information system and database that supports the investigation, information exchange, reporting, and archiving of pertinent force health-related information on past, present, or potential military deployments.

Maintain the capability to respond rapidly to, and estimate and report the impact of, urgent deployment related issues tasked by the Secretary, and/or raised by the Military and Veterans Health Coordinating Board (MVHCB) and its working groups.

Establish, conduct, and maintain ongoing liaison and dialogue with the deployment-related and lessons learned staffs of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Intelligence Community, and the Military Departments, consistent with the deployment activities prescribed within his area of cognizance.

Review and monitor implementation of OSD and Joint Staff health-related deployment and readiness plans, policies, and programs, such as Joint Medical Surveillance and Force Health Protection, to identify opportunities to improve force health protection of servicemembers and civilian personnel in order to report to the Secretary of Defense on potential force-health issues.

Sponsor DoD advisory groups, studies, and analysis to examine, evaluate, and report to the Secretary on selected deployment force-health issues.

In coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), the MVHCB, and other Agencies, conduct risk communication initiatives to respond individually and collectively to servicemembers, veterans, and the public on concerns regarding potential deployment force health-related issues. Initiatives shall be coordinated with the DoD Components, as appropriate, and may include, but are not limited to:

- Proactively representing DoD positions on behalf of servicemembers and veterans.
- Conducting outreach visits to servicemembers, veterans, and other groups to respond to force-health deployment issues.
- Establishing and maintaining interactive communication technologies to ensure the free flow of information and concerns between servicemembers and veterans and the Department's senior leadership.

Serve as the Secretary of Defense representative to the MVHCB and communicate with veterans and Military Service organizations on force health-related deployment issues.

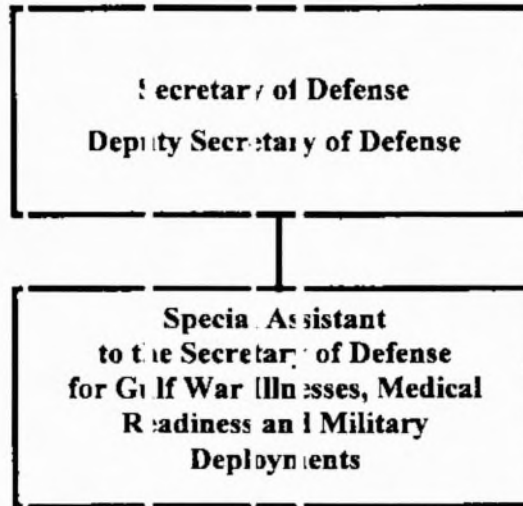
Perform other duties as assigned by the Secretary of Defense.



CHAIN OF COMMAND

**Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments**

Chain of Command



REGULATORY AUTHORITY

**Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments**

Regulatory Authority:

DoD Directive 5107.2, November 9, 2000, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments

MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

Management Studies:

No formal studies, however, the Office of the Special Assistant was established July 26, 2000 by the Deputy Secretary of Defense after fully staffing a action memorandum for the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Additionally, the charter for the Office of the Special Assistant (DoD Directive 5107.2) was approved on November 9, 2000 after full coordination of the draft directive on the OSD staff.

The Presidential Special Oversight Board (PSOB) for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents examined the proposal for a permanent follow-on organization in DoD to expand the scope of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses to include all military deployments. The PSOB supported the proposed follow-on organization in its *Special Report*, November 16, 1999, and in its *Final Report*, December 20, 2000.



EXECUTIVE – KEY INTERAGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

- a) Department of Veterans Affairs - Cooperative efforts to provide relevant information to assist in treatment of and providing benefits to veterans.
- b) Department of Health and Human Services – Ongoing epidemiological research and assessments of particular exposures.
- c) Environmental Protection Agency – Exposure assessments.
- d) National Security Council – coordinate interagency efforts to ensure all necessary resources are being applied and that Presidential priorities are addressed. Review Force Health Protection status prior to major deployments.
- e) Intelligence Community – Assist in providing all necessary information to fully investigate events and assess the actual extent of exposures.
- f) Military Veterans Health Coordination Board – Co-chaired by the Secretaries of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Health & Human Services to ensure coordinated research, risk communication and deployment assessment efforts while reducing duplication.

CONGRESSIONAL

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

a) Key Committees:

- Senate Armed Services Committee
- Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
- House Veterans Affairs Committee
- House Armed Services Committee

b) Critical Reports to Congress

- Institute of Medicine: Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed US Forces
- DoD component of MVHCB Research Working Group annual report
- Annual Report on Chemical-Biological Defense Program
- Annual Report of the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

c) Pending Legislative Issues

- DoM Review of 33 specified potential causes of GWI for VA Secretarial determination of presumptive service connection.
- Congressional interest in Project SHAD



- A. Budget Overview
- B. Budget Detail
- C. Budget Trends
- D. Budget Issues



BUDGET OVERVIEW

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

The budget for the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments (OSAGWI-MRMD) is centrally managed by the Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) Budget & Finance Directorate. Per Department of Defense Program Budget Decision (PBD) 071, outyear funding for OSAGWI-MRMD through FY2005 is projected as follows.

Fiscal Year	OSD	WHS	Total
FY-97			\$ 36,500,000.00
FY-98			\$ 29,400,000.00
FY-99			\$ 35,000,000.00
FY-00	\$ 19,800,000.00	\$ 9,700,000.00	\$ 29,500,000.00
FY-01	\$ 15,300,000.00	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 21,181,800.00
FY-02*	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ 4,800,000.00	\$ 14,800,000.00
FY-03*	\$ 8,600,000.00	\$ 4,200,000.00	\$ 12,800,000.00
FY-04*	\$ 8,300,000.00	\$ 4,100,000.00	\$ 12,400,000.00
FY-05*	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 12,000,000.00

These totals reflect almost entirely Operations & Maintenance appropriations, except for FY1997, FY2000 and FY2001, which include \$2.9 Mil, \$400k, and \$700k, respectively, of funds in the Procurement appropriation for Information Technology (IT) projects.



BUDGET DETAIL

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

The OSAGWI-MRMD budget is divided between OSD and WHS requirements. The OSD portion of the budget funds non-IT Contracted Advisory and Support Services, General Services Administration leased facilities rent, and travel costs, while the WHS portion funds general WHS office support services and IT requirements.

OSAGWI is supported by three prime contractors, and a host of other support contractors and Federal activities. The prime contractors, TRW, Inc., Computer Sciences Corporation, and Soza & Company, Ltd., provide analytical, IT, and administrative support services, respectively. The accompanying FY2001 budget matrix reflects anticipated funding levels for each activity and for recurring operational expenses.

The following is a detailed description of the services provided by each activity.

Prime Contractors:

TRW, Inc. - TRW, Inc. (formerly BDM International) provides technical, business, and analytical support services. TRW investigative analysts bring expertise in environmental, chemical and biological issues to bear on the OSAGWI-MRMD investigation of Gulf War Illnesses and deployment matters in general. TRW analysts form the bulk of the investigative core that generates narratives and information papers describing the results of research performed by OSAGWI-MRMD. TRW also provides office space, utilities, HVAC maintenance, furniture and telecommunications (including Internet) for the Four Skyline Place office. TRW employs multiple sub-contractors including Parsons Engineering, ESCI, and Knowledge Associates.

Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) - CSC provides database and information system development, analysis, and LAN installation, maintenance and technical support services. CSC's tasking includes installation and integration of the three networks comprising the OSAGWI Automated Information System.

SOZA & Company, Ltd. - SOZA is an Integrator and Independent Verification & Validation contractor. SOZA provides management and administrative support services. Services provided include program support management and contractor integration, public affairs support, technical editing, case management, operations, financial analysis, contracting support, systems administration, records management and document imaging and archiving.

Government Activities

Battelle - Battelle Memorial Institute operates the Chemical and Biological Defense Information Analysis Center (CBIAC). The CBIAC is a full service Department of Defense (DoD) Information Analysis Center (IAC) under contract to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and administratively managed by the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) under the DoD IAC Program Office. Battelle supports the OSAGWI-MRMD Investigation and Analysis Directorate (IAD) by helping to develop methodology and provide technical advice in the analysis of information, evaluation of potential exposures to chemical or biological agents, and the review of case narratives, technical reports and presentations describing the results and impact of any modeling.

Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) - DMDC operates the Department of Defense Gulf War Telephone Center, including the Medical Registry and Incident Reporting hot lines. DMDC receives and archives incoming calls from veterans, compiles the data in an automated database, and downloads the data to the OSAGWI Case Management Assignment Team on a weekly basis. DMDC also provides as needed data analysis support to OSAGWI including generation of mailing address files and lists, matching Desert Shield/Storm and Social Security Administration mortality files, and mailing of various letters and surveys.

Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) - DTIC is responsible for operating and maintaining GulfLINK, the official website of the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses. Funding for DTIC supports the cost of labor, hardware, software, and hardware and software maintenance for GulfLINK and any other OSAGWI-MRMD websites. GulfLINK is the primary medium for communicating with veterans of the Gulf War about their experiences, and conveying the results of OSAGWI investigations. GulfLINK includes such components as a bimonthly newsletter, Congressional testimony, an events calendar, military service histories of significant operations, case narratives of key events, and medical information. The user is offered a choice of three search engines to use in accessing the content of the site, and a comparison matrix is provided to assist in choosing which engine is most effective for a specific purpose. One of the most significant and popular technology applications

now found on the site is an e mail function which allows veterans who have questions or concerns about the investigations into Gulf War illnesses to communicate directly with DoD through email. This mechanism not only gives the veterans and other interested parties a way to direct specific inquiries or comments to the Special Assistant's office, but it also provides DoD with a mechanism to obtain more information from veterans who served in the Gulf.

National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO (NPRC) – Funds are provided to NPRC to support the identification and retrieval of records from NPRC's holdings for review by the OSAGWI Medical Issues Team. While the review of the records will be conducted by OSAGWI designated personnel, NPRC charges for the retrieval of records from their holdings.

Network Infrastructure Systems Agency (NISA) – NISA maintains the NES-1 encryption device supporting the circuit to the SIPRnet.

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM) – USACHPPM, the U.S. Army's experts on environmental modeling, provides ad hoc expertise and technical assistance to the OSAGWI IAD in applying environmental models and studies to known exposure incidents and troop locations. USACHPPM works closely with IAD investigators to recommend and apply analytical methodologies to emerging IAD requirements. The results of USACHPPM's analyses for OSAGWI are regularly communicated directly to the Director, IAD, and to the investigators responsible for the case narratives and issue papers that incorporate those results.

Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) – WHS is tasked with providing infrastructure support to the various Office of the Secretary of Defense components located in the National Capitol Region. The services and supplies provided by WHS are varied and include, but are not limited to, budget and financial analysis, contracting, correspondence control, reproduction, Freedom of Information Act support, information technology administration, personnel and security support, facilities support, telecommunications, and property management for Government leased office space, office supplies and services, graphics support, Defense protective services and General Counsel support.

Other Contractors

Oracle Corporation provides database design and development services and maintenance support for the OSAGWI-MRMD Automated Information System.

Skyline Sport & Health Club - Funds are provided to subsidize the membership fees for OSAGWI-MRMD government civilian and military personnel to utilize the Skyline club as part of an organizational health promotion and fitness program. OSAGWI-MRMD initiated this program to assist personnel in pursuing preventative health standards and, in the case of military personnel, military fitness standards. OSAGWI-MRMD recognizes the positive impact of good health on maintaining effective performance and productivity, and on avoiding or minimizing the problems associated with absenteeism, early retirement due to unavoidable disability, and the decline in individual performance due to health problems.

Sun Microsystems provides hardware and software maintenance for the UNIX-based portion of the OSAGWI-MRMD AIS.



BUDGET TRENDS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

Prior to the establishment of OSAGWI-MRMD, it was anticipated that OSAGWI would begin a ramp-down beginning in FY2000, with a precipitous drop in resource requirements beginning in FY2001, leading to a sustainment level beginning in FY2003. PBD 071 was constructed accordingly.





BUDGET ISSUES

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

The resource requirements for the new organization have not yet been determined. If they exceed current budget programming, WHS B&F will need to be notified, and inputs to the FY2003-2004 Budget Estimate Submission submitted to B&F reflecting the increased requirements.

The \$700k in the Procurement appropriation approved for FY2001 is on hold with the WHS Directorate for Information Operations Reports Systems & Services Branch pending OSAGWI-MRMD submission of a Functional and Quantitative Economic Analysis describing the savings associated with the IT project to be funded by the \$400k in FY2000 and \$700k in FY2001.

The FY2001 WHS portion of the budget was reduced by \$69k in early October 2000 as a result of Congressional budget cuts. The WHS portion was again reduced in November 2000 by another \$348k for additional budget cuts. WHS is working with B&I to restore the second cut, but the outcome of that effort has not yet been determined. In the meantime, the FY2001 budget matrix has been reduced to reflect both cuts.

FY2001 Budget Estimate

12/19/00

SUMMARY

	Budget	ceiling	Cost Estimate
OSD-Wide	15,300,000.00		12,066,680.00
WHS/IT	5,181,300.00		8,841,000.00
Procurement	700,000.00		650,000.00
Total	21,181,300.00		21,557,680.00

DETAIL

Requirement	OSD-Wide Estimate	WHS/IT Estimate	Procurement Estimate
Recurring Expenses			
Sky 4 Rent	1,150,000.00		
Sky 1 Suite 810 Rent		152,000.00	
Sky 1 Suite 806 Rent		26,000.00	
Civilian Salaries	1,120,000.00		
WHS Support		505,000.00	
Travel	125,000.00		
Recurring Services			
Oracle Maintenance		135,000.00	
Oracle Development		250,000.00	
Sun Maintenance		135,000.00	
Computer Maintenance		150,000.00	
CSC		2,641,600.00	
SOZA		4,846,400.00	
TRW	8,096,380.00		
DTIC/GulfLINK Support	160,000.00		
CHPPM Support	100,000.00		
DMDC Support	50,000.00		
Miscellaneous	100,000.00		
NISA (NES Maintenance)	35,000.00		
Special Projects			
Sun Server Upgrade			300,000.00
Oracle Software Enhancement			215,000.00
Windows Server Upgrade			35,000.00
PC Replenishment			100,000.00
Battelle	100,000.00		
Risk Communications	30,000.00		
Rapid Response Investigations	500,000.00		
Lessons Learned Cell	500,000.00		
OSD/WHS Breakout	12,066,380.00	8,841,000.00	650,000.00
Budget Estimate Total	21,557,380.00		





- A. Summary of Statistics
- B. Personnel Management Issues

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

	1997-June 2000	Effective July 2000
	Office of the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses (all positions temporary)	Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness & Military Deployments
Civilians:		
SES	2	2
GS	4	3
Military:		
Officer	11	9
Enlisted	7	
Total	24	14



PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

On July 26, 2000, the Deputy Secretary of Defense established the position of Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments. During the transition of the Office of the Special Assistant from the single focus of Gulf War Illnesses to the broader scope of the new organization, the Deputy Secretary directed that Dr. Bernard Restker would serve as the new Special Assistant along with his other responsibilities as the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness). It was not intended that the future Special Assistant continue as a dual-hatted position. Therefore, given the change in Administration, an official should be appointed as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments (see Attachment).

2000307-0000002



SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR GULF WAR ILLNESSES,
MEDICAL READINESS, AND
MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

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

NOV 1 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION, & MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses,
Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments

On July 26, 2000, the Deputy Secretary established (see Attachment) the position of Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments and allocated manpower resources to support the Office of the Special Assistant.

One of the approved civilian resources is to be a noncareer SES resource for the Special Assistant. Accordingly, I request that the SES position of Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness, and Military Deployments be established and that an SES resource be allocated for the position.

As approved by the Deputy Secretary, I am serving during the transition period as the Special Assistant along with my other responsibilities as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Thank you for your assistance. My point of contact for this action is Bob Menig, 703-845 8369.

Bernard Rostker

Attachment
As stated





- A. Policy Development Process
- B. Major Policy Issues



OVERVIEW OF THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

Our policy development processes are aimed at responding to requirements or desired capabilities as articulated by the operative policy drivers for medical readiness and force health protection:

- Statutory and regulatory issuances
 - PL 105-85, Force Health Protection
- Presidential Review Directive (PRD) 5: "A National Obligation"
- Overarching Conceptual Guidance
 - 1) Joint Vision 2010/2020
 - 2) Medical Readiness Strategic Plan
 - 3) J4, Medical Readiness Capstone Document: "Force Health Protection"
- Objectives: pursuant to the roles, missions, and functional areas delegated by guidance, advance overarching Interagency goals described in the policy drivers listed above.
- Leverage knowledge gained from retrospective investigations and analysis of Gulf War and subsequent deployments to identify gaps, weaknesses, or deficiencies in the way the DoD recognizes and responds to force health protection needs;
- Promote and facilitate Interagency coordination and responsiveness in recognizing and addressing systemic gaps and weaknesses in current and evolving FHP programs;



MAJOR POLICY ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

- Since the Gulf War, the US has conducted major deployments to numerous theaters and areas of operation, many of which put US forces at some degree of risk from environmental exposures and other non-traditional threats.
- Within the military, morale, retention, and readiness have suffered due to perceptions that the US government and DoD have been less than forthright regarding the health risks associated with operational deployments.
- US biological and chemical vulnerability testing going back decades is surfacing as a major concern for veterans who participated, wittingly or unwittingly, in such tests and who now fear their health was harmed. This has allowed an opportunity for cooperative work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), but could resurrect charges of secretive government testing.
- The Anthrax vaccination program as part of Force Health Protection is in jeopardy due to vaccine production problems.
- Use of depleted uranium (DU) in training (Vietnam and Okinawa) and military action (Kosovo) have triggered environmental concerns which far outweigh the known scientific concern, thus fueling vocal advocacy groups and hostile nations efforts to outlaw DU ammunition.