

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	Synopsis of sample mail re: Gulf War Syndrome to POTUS and HRC [partial] (2 pages)	nd	b(6)
002. memo	From: Alice J. Pushkar, Direstor First Lady's Correspondence, To: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Re: Letters from Gulf War Veterans [partial] (1 page)	12/10/94	b(6)
003. email	From: CAGULFVETS@AOL.com, to: president [partial] (1 page)	9/24/94	b(6)
004a. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: President Clinton [partial] (2 pages)	7/18/94	b(6)
004b. letter	From: kenneth Kizer, M.D., M.P.H. Under Secretary for Health, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	12/23/94	b(6)
004c. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	8/5/94	b(6)
004d. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: James Dorskind [partial] (2 pages)	8/29/94	b(6)
005a. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (3 pages)	5/8/94	b(6)
005b. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Spouse of Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/22/94	b(6)
005c. letter	From: R.J. Vogel, Under Secretary for Benefits, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	12/6/94	b(6)
005d. form	DTS Control and Tracking Sheet [partial] (1 page)	8/23/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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005e. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (3 pages)	5/8/94	b(6)
005f. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Spouse of Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/22/94	b(6)
005g. letter	From: R.J. Vogel, Under Secretary for Benefits, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	12/6/94	b(6)
005h. form	DTS Control and Tracking Sheet [partial] (1 page)	8/23/94	b(6)
006a. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: President Clinton [partial] (1 page)	5/5/94	b(6)
006b. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/29/94	b(6)
006c. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	10/19/94	b(6)
006d. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: President Clinton [partial] (1 page)	5/5/94	b(6)
006e. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/29/94	b(6)
006f. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	10/19/94	b(6)
007a. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (1 page)	3/16/94	b(6)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007b. letter	From: Taryn Oakley, To: Mr. Clinton [partial] (1 page)	nd	b(6)
007c. letter	From: John Farrar, M.D., Acting Under Secretary for Health, To: Senator Paul Simon [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)
007d. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Taryn Oakley [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)
007e. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (1 page)	3/16/94	b(6)
007f. letter	From: Senator Paul Simon, To: Steve Ricchetti, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs [partial] (1 page)	4/13/94	b(6)
007g. letter	From: John Farrar, M.D., Acting Under Secretary for Health, To: Senator Paul Simon [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)
007h. letter	From: Taryn Oakley, To: Mr. Clinton [partial] (1 page)	nd	b(6)
007i. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Taryn Oakley [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)
008a. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mrs. Clinton [partial] (3 pages)	nd	b(6)
008b. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Whom it May Concern [partial] (6 pages)	1/10/93	b(6)
008c. letter	From: Alice Pushkar, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	2/28/94	b(6)

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008d. letter	From: David Law, M.D., Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director for Clinical Programs, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	6/20/94	b(6)
008e. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mrs. Clinton [partial] (3 pages)	nd	b(6)
008f. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Whom it May Concern [partial] (6 pages)	1/10/93	b(6)
008g. letter	From: Alice Pushkar, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	2/28/94	b(6)
008h. letter	From: David Law, M.D., Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director for Clinical Programs, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	6/20/94	b(6)
009a. letter	From: Sister of Gulf War Veteran, To: President Bill Clinton, [partial] (2 pages)	4/28/94	b(6)
009b. letter	From: Darin Law, M.D., Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director for Clinical Programs, To: Sister of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	8/30/94	b(6)
009c. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Sister of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/7/94	b(6)

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

RE: Pamela Cicetti Files

The following information is a slightly modified version of the inventory that accompanied the files in this box.

12/22/00 JH Good

First Lady Archives - Presidential Record
From the Office of Pam Cicetti
West Wing

Gulf War Illness
(All the files relate to this subject)

Clips
Department of Defense (DOD)
First Lady (FLOTUS) Memorandum to the President
Miscellaneous
President's Advisory Committee
(Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses)
Research
Veterans' Letters
White House Staff Memoranda
Zuckerman Memoranda (Diana Zuckerman)

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

1604 filed 12/27/2000
JT

19439

NARA 16643

1 - GULF WAR ILLNESS - VETERANS'
LETTERS

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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001. list	Synopsis of sample mail re: Gulf War Syndrome to POTUS and HRC [partial] (2 pages)	nd	b(6)

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Synopsis of Sample Mail Re: Gulf War Syndrome to POTUS and HRC

001 (b)(6) veteran and wife of a veteran

- Young married couple (25 and 22) write in desperation about the health of the 25 year old veteran. Suggest experimental, chemical drugs as cause. Plea for help.

001 (b)(6) wife of a veteran

- Writes to POTUS in anger and desperation about her husband who is "plagued with a series of overwhelmingly debilitating symptoms," about the insufficient government response to her husband's condition, and a general failure to take his condition seriously. "No one will help him," she writes.

001 (b)(6) wife of a veteran

- Writes to HRC about her husband, aged 24, who has experienced severely debilitating symptoms since his return from the Persian Gulf. Expresses frustration about the inability to get information about the condition and about the government's failure the problems of veterans seriously. "These men and women put their lives on the line when asked to by our government. They more than deserve any information available that could relate to the state of their health in any way," she writes. She intimates that the government has been not forthcoming with information about possible causes.

001 (b)(6) wife of a veteran

- Writes about her husband's condition and her frustration with the VA's inability to address his symptoms. Urges more research.

No phone numbers for:

001 (b)(6) veteran

- Writes in anger and frustration about the government's insufficient response to his debilitating health conditions and his those of his wife, who suffers similar symptoms. Complains that his wife cannot receive even minimal treatment from the VA: "the United States is too arrogant to believe that anyone besides its soldiers can be injured in its wars." Writes that the VA's response to his pleas for help have been to "delay, diminish, and confuse the issue." Suggests the that a "conspiracy" may be preventing full disclosure of pertinent information.

001 (b)(6) sister of a veteran

- Writes in frustration at the treatment her brother is receiving for his health condition. Explains that months after her brother came to live with her, she began to experience the same symptoms. Urges that the issue be taken more seriously, demands research on

communicability, and pleads for adequate treatment and compensation for veterans and their families.

001 (b)(6) sister of a veteran

- Writes about her frustration with the VA and the insufficient response to her brother's health condition. "The VA Hospital turns us away. They won't even perform the appropriate tests on him that will let us know what he has been exposed to...What are they hiding?"

001 (b)(6) veteran
CA

- Writes in anger about the insufficient care he and his family receive for their health conditions. Suggests that military bases be re-opened for ill veterans to live and be cared for properly. Urges action and attention to the issue.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 10, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: ALICE J. PUSHKAR, DIRECTOR
FIRST LADY'S CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT: LETTERS FROM GULF WAR VETERANS

Attached is a copy of a letter written to you by (b)(6) 002
002 (b)(6), the wife of a Gulf War veteran, and the response sent to
(b)(6) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. (b)(6) 002
was sent our standard letter to let her know that her
correspondence had been forwarded to the VA for response.

You have not received a large number of letters from veterans. The President receives a greater number. For example, from September to November of this year, you received 70 letters from veterans that were forwarded to the Office of Agency Liaison for assistance. The President received 1000 letters from veterans in the same time period. Therefore, I asked the staff in Agency Liaison to give me several samples of the President's letters. There are three included with this memo. One of the letters to the President is from Troy Albuck. Mr. Albuck is mentioned in the Anna Quindlen column on this subject - a copy of which I have included for you. I have also included two AP releases on the controversy surrounding the inoculations given to the Gulf War troops.

Because of the recent press articles, I anticipate that you will begin to receive mail on this subject. We have no form reply for this type of letter. I have checked with Presidential Correspondence and they do not have a form letter either. They do have some text that they have used in individual responses. Do you want us to hold any mail that you receive on this subject, report to you on numbers and then prepare a text using approved Presidential language?

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1913200
GULF: - HHS (YA) Jr
From CAGULFVETS@aol.com Sat Sep 24 15:40:43 1994
Received: by WhiteHouse.Gov (5.65/fma/mjr-120691);
id AA10536; Sat, 24 Sep 94 15:40:43 -0400
Received: from mail02.prod.aol.net/192.203.190.97 via smap
Received: by mail02.prod.aol.net
(1.38.193.5/16.2) id AA20038; Sat, 24 Sep 1994 15:40:15 -0400
From: CAGULFVETS@aol.com
X-Mailer: America Online Mailer
Sender: "CAGULFVETS" <CAGULFVETS@aol.com>
Message-Id: <9409241539.tn32788@aol.com>
To: president
Date: Sat, 24 Sep 94 15:39:53 EDT
Subject: White House Forum E-Mail

Field 1 = Erika Lundholm, Executive Director
California Association of Persian Gulf Veterans
P.O. Box 3661
Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3661

Field 2 = Dear Mr. President,

I am writing you about my concerns regarding Gulf War Syndrome. My brother was with the 649th MP Company stationed at Hafar al Batin and KMC in Saudi Arabia during the war. He guarded EPWs and took them for medical care.

While in the Gulf my brother witnessed SCUD missile attacks and chemical alarms sounding where they had to get into full protective gear. In April 1991 my brother (b)(6) 0034 The military subsequently lost all medical records related to this event. The only proof we have is his admission paper to the hospital.

Since the war my brother has been ill. In the last year he has gotten progressively worse, (b)(6) 003 and receiving far less than adequate medical care at the VA. We have been unable to obtain testing results for the many tests that have been performed on him, and still do not know the extent of his illness. His VA disability claim has been pending for over a year.

003
I am appealing to you and your staff to do several things.

1.) Re-instate the blood ban on Gulf Vets now! You do not want this to spread more than it already has. We need to determine the possibility of communicability immediately.

2.) Provide immediate funding for research by the CDC, and other non-DoD and VA sources, to investigate the etiology and epidemiology of Gulf War Syndrome. As of May, the DoD and VA were mainly funding PTSD research and not the physical symptoms and communicability. We can not trust these agencies to do the right thing at this point.

3.) Relieve Jesse Brown of his post as head of the VA. He has not taken a pro-active stance on this issue and has denied needed funding for research on GWS. If this is true, than why is the proper research not being undertaken? And why does a VA disability claim take 1-2 years to be adjudicated? And appeals take up to 7 years. Obviously something is not working right in the VA and Mr. Brown burying his head in the sand is not going to help. Appoint someone who can tackle these very serious issues.

4.) Make the DoD and VA Registries manditory for all veterans of the Persian Gulf War. We need to know who is sick and who is not for a proper epidemiological survey.

5.) Establish a Registry for spouses, children, family members, and civilians who have symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome. We need to determine the extent of the disease in the non-military community. Senator Reigle's survey shows over 70% of veterans that are ill have sick family members as well. Also, civilians working at Army Supply Depots and other locations have shown symptoms. We need to know who, where, when, and what for this population too. We need to collect medical data from all that are ill in order to determine the causation and find treatment.

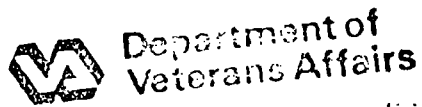
6.) Last, veterans need financial compensation now - not when a determination of the diagnosis is made. Because so many veterans have no diagnosis and because the VA disability process is such an absurdly inefficient system, veterans are going hungry. The discouragement, anger and frusturation this situation creates is overwhelming for the veterans and their families.

Please act now on behalf of the veterans who proudly served their county and their families!

With regards,

Erika Lundholm

4081 (no listing)



DEC 12 1994

116A

Ms. Erika Lundholm
Executive Director
California Association
of Persian Gulf Veterans
P.O. Box 3661
Santa Cruz, CA 95063-3661

Dear Ms. Lundholm:

Your letter to the President regarding the medical problems that you and your brother have experienced since his service in the Persian Gulf War was recently referred to this office for response. We regret the delay in this reply.

You advocated a number of actions in your letter. Our reply will respond to each of the measures you proposed.

You urged a reinstatement of the ban on blood donations by Persian Gulf veterans. While we certainly understand your concern, we think that such action is not justified at this time. As you know, a blood ban was imposed as a precautionary measure several years ago. The ban was lifted when the scientists involved determined that it was not necessary.

You recommended funding for research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and entities other than the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). On August 31, 1993, President Clinton designated VA as lead agency for all Federally funded research into the health effects of the Gulf War. Early this year, the Secretaries of the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services announced formation of a new interagency board to work to resolve the health concerns of Persian Gulf War veterans. The Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board and its research working group is overseeing more than thirty Persian Gulf-related studies on a wide range of subjects.

VA and the DoD have contracted with the National Academy of Sciences, a non-governmental organization, for a review of existing scientific, medical, and other information on the possible health consequences of Persian Gulf service.

You suggested that the President replace Secretary Brown. Secretary Brown has been proactive in handling concerns of Persian Gulf veterans. He advocated and won from Congress the authority to compensate veterans with undiagnosed medical conditions. Secretary Brown has received considerable praise from veterans' groups for his stance on this unprecedented legislation as well as action he has taken on a number of other issues important to veterans.

Page 2

Ms. Erika Lundholm

You urged that all Persian Gulf veterans be forced to undergo an examination. We understand why you feel that way, but we do not think that we can or should require all veterans to be tested. We offer an examination, and thousands of veterans are voluntarily coming to VA every month for this program.

You wrote that a registry be established for family members of Persian Gulf veterans who may have medical problems similar to Persian Gulf veterans. Section 107, Public Law 103-446, signed by President Clinton on November 2, 1994, requires VA to conduct a study to evaluate the health status of spouses and children of Persian Gulf War veterans. The law requires that the results of diagnostic tests, medical histories, and medical examinations of these family members be entered into the VA Persian Gulf Registry.

Your final recommendation called for immediate compensation for Persian Gulf-related problems. As noted earlier Congress, at Secretary Brown's urging, has acted to ensuring that compensation will not be denied merely because doctors are unable to diagnose the problem or problems of a Persian Gulf veteran.

We hope this information will be reassuring to you, your brother, and others you represent.

Sincerely yours,

Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Chief Medical Director for
Environmental Medicine and Public Health

cc: 101B ✓
White House

Correspondence# 1913200
Department of Veterans Affairs

November 17, 1994

Ms. Erika Lundholm
Executive Director
California Association of
Persian Gulf Veterans
Post Office Box 3661
Santa Cruz, California 95063-3661

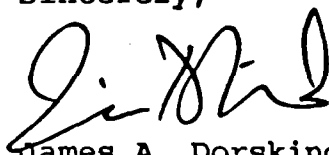
Dear Ms. Lundholm:

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Correspondence and
Presidential Messages

RECEIVED

NOV 21 1994

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004a. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: President Clinton [partial] (2 pages)	7/18/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

AGLHS
(6-10-51-10101)

VA

TW

17-28213

July 18, 1994

(b)(6)

0049

President William Clinton
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Re:

(b)(6)

0049

Dear President Clinton:

0049

We are writing to you to request your help. When (b)(6) and I were married, our young lives were beginning to blossom. We looked forward to new beginnings and changes that would become positive in all aspects of our lives. We are young productive professionals with much to offer society, yet we have been blocked by an obstacle too great for us to pass alone. My husband is ill and we need your help. Our lives may be in your hands. (b)(6) has what the media has labeled "Gulf War Syndrome." We have labeled it the "Never Ending Nightmare." No longer can we be festive or jolly this nightmare follows us constantly. My husband has manifested signs of a physical and pathological entity that are real and need to be recognized. (b)(6) has been evaluated by Victor Gordon, M.D. at Manchester, NH, VA. Dr. Gordon concluded that (b)(6) respiratory, gastrointestinal, muscular skeletal, and immune systems have all been affected. As a registered nurse, I have the medical background to assess my husband's deteriorating health status and know that extensive research must be done now.

0049

As a marine in the Persian Gulf, (b)(6) was ordered to ingest the drug Pyredostigmine by his superior officer. There was no label that read experimental and no further instructions were given. While taking this medication, he sprayed bug repellents and insecticides routinely. A US Agriculture Department researcher has found that the pyridostigmine increases - up to tenfold - the toxicity of bug repellents and insecticides. This has been confirmed by doctors across the nation.

Dr. Gordon, at the Manchester VA, has been working diligently for treatment of these Gulf War victims. He has written a proposal for Research that is of the utmost importance in regaining (b)(6) health. Dr. Gordon cannot fight alone. We need your dedication to this cause as well to see that this proposal does not reach a dead end. Each day that passes is another day that a life could have been saved. Men and women who served their country with the utmost pride are dying. You are our voice, and we trust that you will convey our need for treatment. Please help us!

Sincerely,

0049

(b)(6)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004b. letter	From: kenneth Kizer, M.D., M.P.H. Under Secretary for Health, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	12/23/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

MLC 23 1994

(b)(6)

004b

In Reply Refer To: (131)

Dear Mr. & Mrs. (b)(6) 004b

Thank you for the August 29, 1994, letter you wrote to President Clinton, in which you expressed your full support for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue to conduct research for further treatment of Persian Gulf veterans. Your letter was referred to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) for reply and we are pleased to do so. We regret the delay in responding.

In March 1994, Dr. Victor Gordon submitted a Persian Gulf research proposal to the Research and Development Committee at the Manchester, New Hampshire VA Medical Center (VAMC). This Committee disapproved the proposal because it was scientifically deficient. The Committee also raised some ethical issues regarding the proposed treatment of patient subjects. The Committee provided recommendations to Dr. Gordon and suggested that he submit a revised proposal.

VA has undertaken a vigorous research response to the problem of unexplained illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans. Among our various research activities, we have funded, through a competitive process, three major research centers at VAMCs in Boston, Massachusetts; Portland, Oregon; and East Orange, New Jersey to investigate the causes of unexplained illnesses in Persian Gulf War veterans. Two of these centers are addressing the issue of chemical sensitivities which is of concern to you.

It is our sincerest hope that through further research into unexplained illnesses we will be able to provide accurate diagnosis and treatment for our veterans who have unselfishly served our country.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.
Under Secretary for Health

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004c. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	8/5/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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389745

Correspondence# 1728213
Department of Veterans Affairs

August 5, 1994

(b)(6)

004c

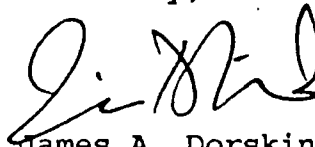
Dear (b)(6) 004c

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004d. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: James Dorskind [partial] (2 pages)	8/29/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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#1806253

(b)(6)

004d

29 August 1994
James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages
The White House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Dorskind,

004d We would like to thank you for your response to our letter concerning (b)(6) health status. Unfortunately, my husband's health has deteriorated since our last correspondence. On July 24 my husband was Life Flown from the V.A. in Manchester, N. H. to U. Mass Medical Center with the intentions to save his life. My husband was almost dead at the age of 25. I was almost a widow at the age of 22. Can the scenario become any darker before the government helps us? Must each day that passes be a day of lowered expectations and failed attempts to educate the public of the neglect our government has shown to our soldiers. The reason for (b)(6) sudden crisis was as simple as an antibiotic, something you or I would take to be healed from an infection. Because of the Chemical Sensitivity (b)(6) has developed from the Gulf War, we are unable to treat the recurring respiratory infections that disable him.

The replies I have been receiving are somewhat disheartening. During my husband's crisis he was required to have 6 blood transfusions. stat. The V.A. lab. told Dr. Gordon it would be sent down immediately. Over 30 minutes passed and no blood arrived. I scurried to the lab. to find out what was happening. There was No Blood. No notification was sent to the doctor or myself. The helicopter was awaiting take off pending the transfusions. Needless to say, we were in the V.A. purgatory awaiting our prayers to be answered. I feel it necessary to speak about the man who saved (b)(6) life, Dr. Victor Gordon. Dr. Gordon came into work that day on his own time and saved (b)(6) from falling into the never-ending black hole. A.K.A., the V.A. We were blessed with another life together, yet our battle to fight this Gulf syndrome seems never-ending. The trend seems to be leaning towards trust the V.A. In good conscience, I must say no way. The only part of the V.A. system we trust lies within Dr. Gordon, our lifeline.

James Dorskind

2

29 August 1994

In your letter to us you stated your interest in helping the soldiers. Please do not forget us. We need help. Each day that passes, our soldiers are becoming sicker and our days are, at best, a deep shade of gray. We are counting on you. Please do not let us down. God bless and Semper Fi.

004d

(b)(6)

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005a. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (3 pages)	5/8/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

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1621652

385450

VA
BBH

May 8, 1994

Dear Mr. President,

0059 (b)(6) I am asking you to help my husband, who served in the Persian Gulf War from December, 1990 through April, 1991, with the 362nd Psychological Operations Unit out of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

0059 (b)(6) has been very ill for 3 long years. He took pyridostigmine bromide the anti-nerve gas agent in January, 1991 and he has been plagued with a series of overwhelmingly debilitating symptoms ever since.

No one will help him. The VA Hospital at Bay Pines, Florida says he's not sick. He's been refused VA Disability because they can't seem to diagnose him.

I am outraged, I am enraged, and I am very, very disappointed in this country's utter disregard for its own people's well-being.

My husband is 43 years old. His productive work life is destroyed. Our

financial life is in ruins - we file for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy this week. Our emotional life is tenuous at best. We don't even know if ⁰⁰⁵⁹ (b)(6) will live to see his 10 year old daughter graduate from the 6th grade

Nine billion dollars spent to wage a war to leave Hussein in power and get Bush reelected, and 3 years later there just doesn't seem to be enough money or expertise to treat these poor victims of misguided patriotism who made it possible to wage that war?

Shame on all of you!

I used to tear right up whenever "America the Beautiful" was played. Now my eyes are filled with tears, but not for love of country.

"The land of the Free and the Home of the Brave" ? — No, just one very large, very real, RED, WHITE, + BLUE NIGHTMARE.

No longer is this our country; it has

where the bottom line justifies) any and all means. A corporation run by those that have, and want even more. A corporation where, those that don't have are invisible.

Well, Mr. President, I am not invisible to my loved ones. I am a wife, and mother, taxpayer, and citizen and I detest the suffering my husband goes through every day, yet I am powerless to alleviate it.

We need your help and we need it now.

Sincerely,

0059

(b)(6)

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005b. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Spouse of Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/22/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Correspondence# 1621652
Department of Veterans Affairs

June 22, 1994

(b)(6)

005b

Dear Mrs.

(b)(6)

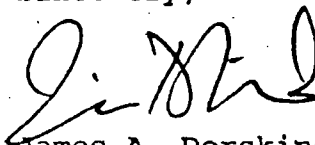
005b

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages

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JUN 27 1994
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005c. letter	From: R.J. Vogel, Under Secretary for Benefits, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	12/6/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

DEC 06 1994

(b)(6)

005c

(b)(6)

005c

Dear Mr. (b)(6) 005c

Your wife's letter to the President on your behalf has been referred to me for response.

The records show that you currently have a claim pending to establish service-connection for chronic giardiasis, manifested by recurring cycles of violent diarrhea and bloating fever. We have received treatment records from your private physician, Dr. Reifsnnyder, and your case is currently being transferred to our regional office in Nashville, Tennessee, which specializes in the evaluation of Gulf War syndrome cases.

The issues involved in your case are valid. Your overall symptom complex is real, although not easily diagnosed. Strides are being made by this agency, the Department of Defense, and the United States Congress to provide a mechanism which will allow us to properly compensate your disabilities.

If you have questions regarding your case, you may contact a benefits counselor toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

Sincerely yours,

R. J. Vogel
Under Secretary for Benefits

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005d. form	DTS Control and Tracking Sheet [partial] (1 page)	8/23/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

DTS CONTROL AND TRACKING SHEET

Owner Organization: 001B
 Control# : 385450
 Date Entered : 08/23/1994
 Responsible Org : 20
 Document Type : WHITE HOUSE

Orig Org: WHITE HOUSE
 Originator: DORSKIND , JAMES A. 1621652

OBO: (b)(6) 005d

Written To: VA
 Subject: SEEKS MEDICAL BENEFITS

Date of Doc: 06/22/1994

Facility: 564 VAMC Fayetteville (AR)

Concurr	Concurr	Copies of Reply	FYI	FYI	Related Docs
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Assignee : EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
 Action : FINAL RESPONSE
 Sig Office: XXXXXXXX

----- ASSIGNMENT SECTION -----						
Assignee	Asg Date	Ac	St	Sus Date	Cmp Date	Comments
20A1	08/23/94	FR	AS	10/05/94		

-----Notes-----

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005e. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (3 pages)	5/8/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

1621652

385450

VA
SBA

May 8, 1994

Dear Mr. President,

005c

(b)(6)

I am asking you to help my husband, who served in the Persian Gulf War from December, 1990 through April, 1991, with the 362nd Psychological Operations Unit out of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

005c

(b)(6)

has been very ill for 3 long years. He took pyridostigmine bromide the anti-nerve gas agent in January, 1991 and he has been plagued with a series of overwhelmingly debilitating symptoms ever since.

No one will help him. The VA Hospital at Bay Pines, Florida says he's not sick. He's been refused VA Disability because they can't seem to diagnose him.

I am outraged, I am enraged, and I am very, very disappointed in this country's utter disregard for its own people's well-being.

My husband is 43 years old. His productive work life is destroyed. Our

financial life is in ruins - we file for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy this week. Our emotional life is tenuous at best. We don't even know if ⁰⁰⁵² (b)(6) will live to see his 10 year old daughter graduate from the 6th grade....

Nine billion dollars spent to wage a war to leave Hussein in power and get Bush reelected, and 3 years later there just doesn't seem to be enough money or expertise to treat these poor victims of misguided patriotism who made it possible to wage that war?

Shame on all of you!

I used to tear right up whenever "America the Beautiful" was played. Now my eyes are filled with tears, but not for love of country.

"The land of the Free and the Home of the Brave" ? — No, just one very large, very real, RED, WHITE, + BLUE NIGHTMARE.

No longer is this our country; it has

where the bottom line justifies any
and all means. A corporation seen by
those that have, and want even
more. A corporation where, those that
don't have are invisible.

Well, Mr. President, I am not invisible
to my loved ones. I am a wife, and
mother, taxpayer, and citizen and
I detest the suffering my husband
goes through every day, yet I am
powerless to alleviate it.

We need your help and we need it
now.

Sincerely,

005e

(b)(6)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005f. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Spouse of Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/22/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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Correspondence# 1621652
Department of Veterans Affairs

June 22, 1994

005f

(b)(6)

Dear Mrs.

(b)(6)

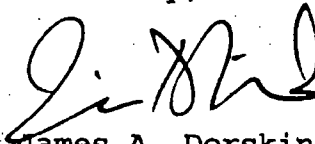
005f

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages

RECEIVED
JUN 27 1994
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005g. letter	From: R.J. Vogel, Under Secretary for Benefits, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	12/6/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

DEC 06 1994

(b)(6)

0053

(b)(6)

0053

Dear Mr.:

(b)(6)

0053

Your wife's letter to the President on your behalf has been referred to me for response.

The records show that you currently have a claim pending to establish service-connection for chronic giardiasis, manifested by recurring cycles of violent diarrhea and bloating fever. We have received treatment records from your private physician, Dr. Reifsnnyder, and your case is currently being transferred to our regional office in Nashville, Tennessee, which specializes in the evaluation of Gulf War syndrome cases.

The issues involved in your case are valid. Your overall symptom complex is real, although not easily diagnosed. Strides are being made by this agency, the Department of Defense, and the United States Congress to provide a mechanism which will allow us to properly compensate your disabilities.

If you have questions regarding your case, you may contact a benefits counselor toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

Sincerely yours,

R. J. Vogel
Under Secretary for Benefits

OK

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005h. form	DTS Control and Tracking Sheet [partial] (1 page)	8/23/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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DTS CONTROL AND TRACKING SHEET

Owner Organization: 001B
 Control# : 385450
 Date Entered : 08/23/1994
 Responsible Org : 20
 Document Type : WHITE HOUSE

Orig Org: WHITE HOUSE
 Originator: DORSKIND , JAMES A. 1621652

OBO: (b)(6) 005h

Written To: VA
 Subject: SEEKS MEDICAL BENEFITS

Date of Doc: 06/22/1994

Facility: 564 VAMC Fayetteville (AR)

Concurr	Concurr	Copies of Reply	FYI	FYI	Related Docs
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Assignee : EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
 Action : FINAL RESPONSE
 Sig Office: XXXXXXXX

ASSIGNMENT SECTION						
Assignee	Asg Date	Ac	St	Sus Date	Cmp Date	Comments
20A1	08/23/94	FR	AS	10/05/94		

-----Notes-----

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006a. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: President Clinton [partial] (1 page)	5/5/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

25
163 7923
May 5, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I have just recently become a resident of South Carolina, after leaving the United States Marine Corps. I have an issue which needs your attention. My husband, a patriotic, Marine, and that is what sent him to fight in the Persian Gulf War, for his country. Fighting to keep our country free, for one and all. He has returned from the Persian Gulf (Desert Storm) and is experiencing symptoms. We, also have a son of 14 months, who has upper respiratory problems since birth. Medication has not helped.

There is a Bill #HR 2535, passed and made law 103210 on December 30, 1993, to get medical help for the VA. I'm sorry to say, but the VA doesn't know what they have or how to treat them.

My husband has been to the VA clinic in Greenville, SC twice and they have not given him any medication for his symptoms. They tell him to come back if he has any problems. But they don't do anything to help.

I have received an article from the Navy Times, dated 1/24/94 and had it sent to the VA in SC., much to my surprise, they said they knew nothing about this article. I have enclosed a copy of this article for you to read.

I have a petition circulating across the country. This petition is for funding to research the symptoms, by the VA, so they can cure my husband and all the other vets, hopefully.

We don't want another Vietnam (Agent Orange) fiasco.

I, we need your support in this matter. May I hear from you at your earliest convenience?

(b)(6)

0069

or

(b)(6)

0069

Opinion

Commentary

Curing what ails him and other Gulf war vets

High in the reaches of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, a brave and caring soldier is fighting for his life against an enemy that may have infiltrated the bodies of thousands of other veterans of Operation Desert Storm without their knowing it.

Army Capt. Marcus Nerone, a strapping 35-year-old who started his career in 1961 as a private first class and believes there is no more noble title than soldier, is infested with tiny parasites that were injected into his body when a sand fly on the Saudi Arabian desert bit him.

Nobody knows much about this parasitic disease called leishmaniasis. Doctors do know that anybody can get it if bitten by the sand flies found in Saudi Arabia, and that the poison ejected by the parasites can kill you by destroying your immune and nervous systems.

What doctors do not know is how many Desert Storm veterans have the disease, how to quickly detect the disease — which can take years to reveal itself — or how to kill the parasites and cure their victims.

Nerone fears that many service men and women who served in the Persian Gulf are battling against some of the same symptoms he had — inexplicable fatigue, stomach cramps, diarrhea, night sweats, sleeplessness, sores, numbness — without realizing the cause is progressive poisoning by tiny parasites.

He apparently got bitten by a fly while serving in the Saudi desert west of Jabel as an intelligence officer with the 197th Infantry Brigade out of Fort Benning, Ga. The brigade, like so many other outfits, slept in foxholes and tents where they were constantly exposed to flies and ro-

dents. Nerone does not remember getting bitten but said it could have happened almost any time or anywhere while he was in Saudi Arabia.

Back at Benning after the war, Nerone tried to ignore the fatigue and other symptoms and make good on his new job as commander of the headquarters infantry company at the base. But leishmaniasis — undetected by the hospital at Benning despite dozens of tests for cancer and other ailments — eventually overwhelmed him. Dr. William Yost at Benning consulted with Dr. Alan J. Magill, an infectious disease specialist at Walter Reed. Magill discovered the leishmaniasis after Nerone was admitted to Walter Reed.

When an Army friend urged me to join him in visiting Nerone at the hospital, I expected to see a sick, dispirited man lying in bed with tubes sticking out all over. Instead, I found a vigorous, 6-foot-4 soldier with a booming voice and laugh who considered himself a lucky man with an important mission — even though he knew full well that leishmaniasis might kill him.

"How can you say you're lucky?" people ask me. Well, I'm getting great care. But for every guy like me, there could be hundreds out there — many no longer in the Army — just out there with no support. Sure, I want to get better. But if there's something I can do to help someone else, I'll do it."

Nerone has volunteered himself as a guinea pig to such an extent that the other day he asked a nurse, "When are they going to put the wheel in my room?" He has donated blood to the National Institutes of Health for study, consented to painful bone marrow extractions and, most risky, authorized the intravenous feeding of experimental chemicals into his veins for seven hours at a time.

Doctors believe he is the first person to be given the powerful toxin, amphotericin B, for leishmaniasis. The idea is to outpoison the parasites, killing them but not Nerone. The chemical leaves the patient feeling so terrible that the nickname for it is amphi-terrible.

"I already know of one NCO with the disease who is sitting home waiting to see if this works," said Nerone of the chemotherapy experiment. The empathetic captain — son of retired infantry Cpl. Si Nerone — said the Walter Reed environment has given him a new appreciation for life and made it impossible to feel sorry for himself.

"The other day I was downstairs getting an illegal cup of coffee when a woman with no legs wheeled in. It made me ask of myself, 'What are you complaining about?'"

Nerone said he has learned from his stay at Walter Reed how precious but transitory life is and that the military family is real, as evidenced by all the support he has received inside and outside the hospital.

As Nerone continued with his upbeat account of his struggle against an enemy he cannot see, I thought of all the Vietnam War veterans who had showed me their rashes and described other ailments they attributed to being exposed to Agent Orange. The vets told me how angry and dispirited they felt when Department of Veterans Affairs officials and doctors dismissed their complaints and accused them of being malingerers.

I wondered while at Nerone's bedside, and wonder still, whether military and political leaders will be as insensitive toward Persian Gulf diseases like leishmaniasis as they were toward Agent Orange. We do not need another long, disgraceful, hurtful bureaucratic tap dance like we had on Agent Orange.

I did not have to ask the Persian Gulf vet on the bed if he shared my fears about bureaucratic insensitivity, perhaps getting him in trouble with superiors since he is still on active duty. What Nerone is doing speaks louder than any words to his concern for other casualties of Desert Storm and to his commitment to help get them well. The bureaucrats, and the rest of us, can learn something from Capt. Marcus Nerone.

The writer is a former defense correspondent of The Washington Post and author of several books on military affairs.



George C.
Wilson

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006b. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/29/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or
financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President
and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C.
2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of
an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information
concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

388266

Correspondence# 1637923
Department of Veterans Affairs

June 29, 1994

(b)(6)

0066

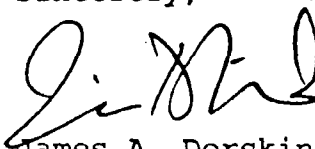
Dear Ms. (b)(6) 0066

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006c. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	10/19/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Oct. 19, 1994

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Dear Ms.

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006C

Your letter to the President regarding medical problems possibly related to military service in the Persian Gulf was recently referred to this office for response.

We are very sorry that your husband and young son are suffering with the problems described in your letter. Unfortunately, some Persian Gulf veterans have reported a wide array of symptoms. The most frequent complaints in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Persian Gulf Registry have been fatigue, skin rash, joint and muscle aches, headache, shortness of breath, sleep disturbance, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal complaints, and cough.

At this time, it is unclear what caused these common problems and even whether they are related to service in the Persian Gulf. Many Persian Gulf veterans are in good health with no health problems whatsoever.

We certainly share your concerns about the possible adverse health effects of service in the Persian Gulf. This matter demands and has the attention of the Nation's top leadership. Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like your husband, require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 130,000 Persian Gulf War veterans have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 10,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and approximately 30,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

Under Public Law 103-210, VA is authorized to provide priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. You indicated that your husband

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has been to the VA outpatient clinic in Greenville, SC, twice and that he has been encouraged to return if he has any problems. If your husband is dissatisfied in any way with the treatment he has received at the outpatient clinic, we suggest that he contact the Director there. The telephone number at the clinic is 803-299-1600.

We certainly are sorry that young son has experienced respiratory difficulties. We are unaware of any conclusive scientific evidence that would link your husband's military service in the Persian Gulf War with your son's health problem. Furthermore, under existing laws, VA's authority to provide health care services to veterans' families is quite limited. In most instances, we only can provide advice and referral information regarding appropriate community resources.

Thank you for enclosing the newspaper article about leishmaniasis and the staff report regarding biological warfare agents. A number of theories have been advanced to explain the varied symptoms experienced by Gulf War veterans. We are currently considering all of these theories in an effort to determine what may have caused these problems and what treatment approaches would be most effective.

Possible causative or contributing factors for the various illnesses experienced by Persian Gulf veterans which are being considered by scientists have included leishmaniasis, petroleum, sand dust, depleted uranium, pyridostigmine for prophylaxis against nerve agents, pesticides, chemical agent resistant coatings, biological and chemical warfare agents, vaccines, and stressors. Unfortunately, despite extensive examination of available scientific evidence, no consensus has emerged regarding the cause, diagnoses, and treatment of unexplained illnesses of Persian Gulf veterans. Please be assured that we are committed to continuing our search for the cause(s) and most effective treatment(s) for the problems experienced by Persian Gulf veterans.

We hope this information will be helpful to you, your family, and members of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Chief Medical Director
for Environmental Medicine and Public Health

cc: 101B

Public & Private

ANNA QUINDLEN

Casualties Of War

Two baby boys, born many miles apart. Michael was apparently healthy except for the strange sweats that drenched his clothes and bedding. His mother thought of him as a fussy baby because he nursed so often, slept so little, and wanted to be held so much. He died in November, age five months. An autopsy showed a mitral valve defect that had caused his heart to swell several times its normal size.

Cedrick was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, missing an eye and an ear, his heart on the right side of his body, his trachea and esophagus connected. People gasped and turned away when they saw him in the cart in the supermarket. He is 2 and has had eight operations so far.

Two baby boys. What do they have in common? Both have fathers who served in the Persian Gulf. And therein lies a cautionary tale. It may turn out to be a story of chemical exposure and inadequate monitoring. But at the very least it illustrates how tenuous the credibility of the military has become on matters of occupational health. The rallying cry of those who believe the war in the gulf made soldiers and their dependents sick harks back to Vietnam, and the military's last large-scale effort at medical deniability. Over and over again they repeat, "Not another Agent Orange."

Michael's mother, Melanie Ayers, and Cedrick's father, Stephen Miller, both believe their sons are casualties of war. Ms. Ayers says that around Fort Bragg she knows of many miscarriages, several stillbirths and the unusual deaths of several babies, including a little girl born without a spleen and a baby boy with liver cancer. Mr. Miller, a nurse at an Army hospital in San Antonio, says he has been told that the syndrome that caused many of his son's problems is a product of either heredity or chemical or radiation exposure.

Did going to
the gulf make
soldiers sick?

He and his wife underwent genetic testing. Nothing.

Thousands of gulf war veterans themselves complain of a malady with various symptoms: persistent headaches, rashes, nausea, chronic fatigue and body aches, as though they have the worst sort of flu. Military doctors at first said their symptoms had nothing to do with the war. One man was told that his rash was age spots, his low red blood cell count a dietary deficiency, and his hacking cough a function of pollution. Others were told they were suffering from stress.

Soldiers think the answer is less mysterious. In the gulf they were given experimental drugs to combat nerve gas. Pesticides were applied to skin and uniforms. An Agriculture Department scientist, Jim Moss, has been working on research suggesting that the toxicity of the insect repellent DEET increases dramatically when combined with the nerve gas agent. Mr. Moss says he was told to drop the research; when he wouldn't comply, he was fired.

Kelli Albuck, whose husband is disabled with the symptoms of what is now called gulf war syndrome, testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs that she and other wives had developed pelvic infections and pain during sex because of semen so toxic that it causes irritation, even blistering for both husband and wife. "Shooting fire," the women call it. The Albucks, like the Ayerses and the Millers, have one healthy child, born before the gulf war. Since then, Kelli has had two miscarriages and given birth prematurely to a son with, among other ailments, cerebral palsy and spinal meningitis.

Congress recently allocated money for research into what's happening to gulf war soldiers. But the legislation specifies that the research must be farmed out to independent researchers, not done by the Defense Department. The reason is apparent: There is little confidence that the military can investigate itself, or that its conclusions would be believed.

"WHY ARE WE SICK?" read the headline on a chilling package of stories in The Air Force Times, which said that some soldiers were waiting to have children until the gulf war phenomenon had been adequately explained. And the military has some explaining to do. With warfare changing so radically, why has the Pentagon been unable or unwilling to deal quickly and convincingly with the possible effects of chemical contamination? Perhaps it will turn out that the war caused neither Michael's death nor Cedrick's birth defects. But one injury is certain, and that is the blow dealt to the military's credibility among many of its own people. □

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 11 STORIES

The Associated Press

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December 8, 1994, Thursday, PM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 659 words

HEADLINE: Senator Blasts Military for Giving Gulf Soldiers Experimental Drugs

BYLINE: By CASSANDRA BURRELL, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The military displayed reckless disregard for the well-being of U.S. servicemen and women by administering experimental drugs to them during the Persian Gulf War, Sen. Jay Rockefeller says.

The drugs may have caused the mysterious illnesses collectively known as Gulf War syndrome, and they probably did not protect soldiers against biological or chemical weapons, according to a 53-page report written by staff for the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, which is chaired by Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

"On far too many occasions, the Pentagon has shown a reckless disregard for the health and well-being of U.S. service members," Rockefeller said. "Soldiers who are exposed to dangerous substances without their knowledge or consent become veterans who do not receive the medical care and compensation to which they are entitled."

According to the report, the Pentagon did not get consent from many people taking the drugs because of a wartime waiver granted by the Food and Drug Administration. Even with the waiver, however, officials were required to warn everyone of the risk of the drugs, but they did not, the report said.

Some troops were threatened with punishment if they did not obey orders to take the chemicals, the report said. Many Gulf War veterans also were ordered to tell no one about their vaccinations.

Rockefeller compared use of the drugs during the Gulf War to gas chamber experiments involving sailors and soldiers in the 1940s, radiation experiments from the 1940s to the 1960s, LSD experiments in the 1960s and the testing of biological and chemical agents that continue today at the military's Dugway Proving Ground in Utah.

Pentagon spokesman Jim Turner declined immediate comment Wednesday, saying the department had not seen the report.

But the Defense Department has said the drugs were administered only after the Food and Drug Administration approved their use for the war.

The Associated Press, December 8, 1994

Although the drugs had not been approved for commercial marketing, they "were specifically allowed by FDA for the special military uses proposed by DoD. FDA allowed these uses because there was evidence they would be effective and no recognized alternative existed and because FDA thought the use would be safe," said Dr. Edward Martin - principal assistant secretary of defense for health affairs - during a committee hearing in May.

The most common symptoms reported by 150 servicemen and women surveyed by committee staff included fatigue, skin problems, memory loss, joint pain, headaches, personality changes, diarrhea, trouble with vision, shortness of breath, numbness, sores, bleeding and fever, the report said.

Some documents collected by the report's researchers suggest Pentagon officials understood the drugs' dangers before the Gulf War, "but these risks were ignored because of fear that Iraq would use chemical and biological weapons," said a statement from Rockefeller's office.

The report concluded that the Pentagon had no proof that the drugs were safe and effective when it provided them to troops in the Persian Gulf in 1990 and 1991 or to servicemen and women deployed to the gulf two months ago.

"There is no question that U.S. troops were not adequately protected when they were sent to the Persian Gulf, and the investigational drugs and vaccines that were meant to help them could have harmed them instead," Rockefeller said.

The report recommended the FDA deny Pentagon requests for informed-consent waivers during war or the threat of war.

It also recommended that Congress:

- Authorize a centralized database for all federally funded experiments involving human subjects.

- Require all federal agencies to declassify most documents on research involving human subjects.

- Re-establish a national commission to investigate potential human rights violations in federally funded research.

- Allow soldiers to sue the government for compensation if they are victims of inappropriate experimentation.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: December 8, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 11 STORIES

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USA TODAY

December 8, 1994, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 471 words

HEADLINE: Report: Military knew risks of gulf war drugs

BYLINE: John Ritter

BODY:

The Pentagon knew the risks of experimental drugs and vaccines before the gulf war, but used them on troops anyway, says a Senate report out today.

The military ignored the risks, the report says, because of fears Iraq would use chemical and biological weapons.

Troops got no warning about the drugs' possible adverse effects, nor were they monitored afterward, the report says.

One drug, pyridostigmine bromide, was given in pills to 400,000 troops to protect them against nerve gas, even though military researchers weren't sure it was safe.

"These kinds of abuses must stop," says Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., Veterans Affairs Committee chairman. "The investigational drugs and vaccines that were meant to help gulf troops could have harmed them instead."

The report could support claims by troops suing the government over illnesses since the war. Vets report myriad symptoms now lumped together as gulf war syndrome: nausea, skin rashes, memory loss, joint pain, heart problems and liver dysfunction.

Troops were exposed to diesel fuel, depleted uranium, pesticides and oil fire smoke, but no cause or diagnosis for gulf syndrome has been accepted by the government.

The gulf war is just the latest instance of the military's apparent medical mistreatment.

"For at least 50 years," the report says, the Pentagon has "intentionally exposed" troops to potentially dangerous substances, often secretly.

In the 1940s, troops took part in gas chamber experiments. In the '50s, they were exposed to radiation. In the '60s, they unknowingly swallowed LSD.

Pentagon officials hadn't seen the report and had no immediate comment.

But in May, doctor Edward Martin, an assistant Defense secretary for health affairs, told Rockefeller's committee two drugs used in the gulf were approved for "the particular medical purposes" by the Food and Drug Administration.

USA TODAY, December 8, 1994

Martin said the drugs were given as "direct treatment" for biological and chemical warfare and not part of research.

Some gulf vets say they were exposed to chemical and biological agents, but the military says none were present.

Before the war, however, military planners were worried enough to authorize prevention. Besides pyridostigmine bromide, smaller numbers of troops got anthrax and botulism vaccines.

The report says pyridostigmine "may be more dangerous" combined with pesticides or other exposures, and the safety of botulism and anthrax vaccines hadn't been confirmed before the war.

"The studies were inadequate and insufficient in size to bring out health risks," says Tod Engsign of Citizen Soldier, a veterans advocacy group.

Joe Violante of the Disabled American Veterans says: "When the drugs weren't fully tested, when they didn't give troops the chance to make an intelligent decision, that's just unconscionable."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, b/w, USA TODAY

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: December 09, 1994

LEVEL 1 - 9 OF 11 STORIES

The Associated Press

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

December 7, 1994, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 587 words

HEADLINE: Senate Report Links Gulf War Syndrome to Vaccine

BYLINE: By CASSANDRA BURRELL, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Vaccines given to U.S. troops during the Persian Gulf to protect them from possible chemical or biological weapons may be the cause of the mysterious illnesses collectively labeled "gulf war syndrome," Sen. Jay Rockefeller said Wednesday.

The Pentagon has concluded that no such weapons were used by Iraqi forces in the war. But if they had been, the drugs likely would not have protected the troops who were vaccinated, according to a 53-page report by the staff of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, which is chaired by Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

The Pentagon did not get consent from many people taking the drugs because of a wartime waiver granted by the Food and Drug Administration. Even with the waiver, however, officials were required to warn everyone of the risk of the drugs but did not, the report said.

And it said some troops were threatened with punishment if they did not obey orders to take the chemicals. Many Gulf War veterans also were ordered to tell no one about their vaccinations, the report said.

Rockefeller compared use of the drugs during the Gulf War to gas chamber experiments involving sailors and soldiers in the 1940s, radiation experiments from the 1940s to the 1960s and LSD experiments in the 1960s.

"On far too many occasions, the Pentagon has shown a reckless disregard for the health and well-being of U.S. service members," Rockefeller said. "Soldiers who are exposed to dangerous substances without their knowledge or consent become veterans who do not receive the medical care and compensation to which they are entitled."

Pentagon spokesman Jim Turner declined immediate comment Wednesday, saying the department had not seen the report.

But last May Defense Department officials denied that the two drugs - Pyridostigmine and Botulinum toxoid - were used for experimental purposes.

The Associated Press, December 7, 1994

And in view of the risks associated with biological or chemical warfare agents and the lack of alternative treatments, FDA Commissioner David Kessler concluded that withholding the two drugs "would be contrary to the best interests of military personnel."

Pryidostigmine has been approved by the FDA since 1955 in treating neuromuscular diseases and has been stockpiled since 1986 as a pre-treatment for nerve gas exposure. Botulinum toxoid has been used for more than 20 years as a vaccine to prevent Botulism.

The most common symptoms reported by 150 servicemen and women surveyed by committee staff included fatigue, skin problems, memory loss, joint pain, headaches, personality changes, diarrhea, trouble with vision, shortness of breath, numbness, sores, bleeding and fever, the report said.

Some documents collected by the Senate panel's researchers suggest Defense Department officials understood the drugs' dangers before the Gulf War. "But these risks were ignored because of fear that Iraq would use chemical and biological weapons," said a statement from Rockefeller's office.

The report recommended the FDA deny Pentagon requests for informed-consent waivers during war or the threat of war.

It also recommended that Congress:

- Authorize a centralized database for all federally funded experiments involving human subjects.

- Mandate all federal agencies to declassify most documents on research involving human subjects.

- Re-establish a national commission to investigate potential violations of human subjects' rights in federally funded research.

- Allow soldiers to sue the government for compensation if they are victims of inappropriate experimentation.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: December 8, 1994

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006d. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: President Clinton [partial] (1 page)	5/5/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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25
163 7923
May 5, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I have just recently become a resident of South Carolina, after leaving the United States Marine Corps. I have an issue which needs your attention. My husband, a patriotic, Marine, and that is what sent him to fight in the Persian Gulf War, for his country. Fighting to keep our country free, for one and all. He has returned from the Persian Gulf (Desert Storm) and is experiencing symptoms. We, also have a son of 14 months, who has upper respiratory problems since birth. Medication has not helped.

There is a Bill #HR 2535, passed and made law 103210 on December 30, 1993, to get medical help for the VA. I'm sorry to say, but the VA doesn't know what they have or how to treat them.

My husband has been to the VA clinic in Greenville, SC twice and they have not given him any medication for his symptoms. They tell him to come back if he has any problems. But they don't do anything to help.

I have received an article from the Navy Times, dated 1/24/94 and had it sent to the VA in SC., much to my surprise, they said they knew nothing about this article. I have enclosed a copy of this article for you to read.

I have a petition circulating across the country. This petition is for funding to research the symptoms, by the VA, so they can cure my husband and all the other vets, hopefully.

We don't want another Vietnam (Agent Orange) fiasco.

I, we need your support in this matter. May I hear from you at your earliest convenience?

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006d

or

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Opinion

Commentary

Curing what ails him and other Gulf war vets

High in the reaches of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, a brave and caring soldier is fighting for his life against an enemy that may have infiltrated the bodies of thousands of other veterans of Operation Desert Storm without their knowing it.

Army Capt. Marcus Nerone, a strapping 35-year-old who started his career in 1981 as a private first class and believes there is no more noble title than soldier, is infested with tiny parasites that were injected into his body when a sand fly on the Saudi Arabian desert bit him.

Nobody knows much about this parasitic disease called leishmaniasis. Doctors do know that anybody can get it if bitten by the sand flies found in Saudi Arabia, and that the poison ejected by the parasites can kill you by destroying your immune and nervous systems.

What doctors do not know is how many Desert Storm veterans have the disease, how to quickly detect the disease — which can take years to reveal itself — or how to kill the parasites and cure their victims.

Nerone fears that many service men and women who served in the Persian Gulf are battling against some of the same symptoms he had — inexplicable fatigue, stomach cramps, diarrhea, night sweats, sleeplessness, sores, numbness — without realizing the cause is progressive poisoning by tiny parasites.

He apparently got bitten by a fly while serving in the Saudi desert west of Jabel as an intelligence officer with the 197th Infantry Brigade out of Fort Benning, Ga. The brigade, like so many other outfits, slept in foxholes and tents where they were constantly exposed to flies and ro-



George C.
Wilson

cents. Nerone does not remember getting bitten but said it could have happened almost any time or anywhere while he was in Saudi Arabia.

Back at Benning after the war, Nerone tried to ignore the fatigue and other symptoms and make good on his new job as commander of the headquarters infantry company at the base. But leishmaniasis — undetected by the hospital at Benning despite dozens of tests for cancer and other ailments — eventually overwhelmed him. Dr. William Yost at Benning consulted with Dr. Alan J. Magill, an infectious disease specialist at Walter Reed. Magill discovered the leishmaniasis after Nerone was admitted to Walter Reed.

When an Army friend urged me to join him in visiting Nerone at the hospital, I expected to see a sick, dispirited man lying in bed with tubes sticking out all over. Instead, I found a vigorous, 6-foot-4 soldier with a booming voice and laugh who considered himself a lucky man with an important mission — even though he knew full well that leishmaniasis might kill him.

"How can you say you're lucky?" people ask me. Well, I'm getting great care. But for every guy like me, there could be hundreds out there — many no longer in the Army — just out there with no support. Sure, I want to get better. But if there's something I can do to help someone else, I'll do it."

Nerone has volunteered himself as a guinea pig to such an extent that the other day he asked a nurse, "When are they going to put the wheel in my room?" He has donated blood to the National Institutes of Health for study; consented to painful bone marrow extractions and, most risky, authorized the intravenous feeding of experimental chemicals into his veins for seven hours at a time.

Doctors believe he is the first person to be given the powerful toxin, amphotericin B, for leishmaniasis. The idea is to outpoison the parasites, killing them but not Nerone. The chemical leaves the patient feeling so terrible that the nickname for it is ampho-terrible.

"I already know of one NCO with the disease who is sitting home waiting to see if this works," said Nerone of the chemotherapy experiment. The empathetic captain — son of retired infantry Cpl. Si Nerone — said the Walter Reed environment has given him a new appreciation for life and made it impossible to feel sorry for himself.

"The other day I was downstairs getting an illegal cup of coffee when a woman with no legs wheeled in. It made me ask of myself, 'What are you complaining about?'"

Nerone said he has learned from his stay at Walter Reed how precious but transitory life is and that the military family is real, as evidenced by all the support he has received inside and outside the hospital.

As Nerone continued with his upbeat account of his struggle against an enemy he cannot see, I thought of all the Vietnam War veterans who had showed me their rashes and described other ailments they attributed to being exposed to Agent Orange. The vets told me how angry and dispirited they felt when Department of Veterans Affairs officials and doctors dismissed their complaints and accused them of being malingerers.

I wondered while at Nerone's bedside, and wonder still, whether military and political leaders will be as insensitive toward Persian Gulf diseases like leishmaniasis as they were toward Agent Orange. We do not need another long, disgraceful, hurtful bureaucratic tap dance like we had on Agent Orange.

I did not have to ask the Persian Gulf vet on the bed if he shared my fears about bureaucratic insensitivity, perhaps getting him in trouble with superiors since he is still on active duty. What Nerone is doing speaks louder than any words to his concern for other casualties of Desert Storm and to his commitment to help get them well. The bureaucrats, and the rest of us, can learn something from Capt. Marcus Nerone.

The writer is a former defense correspondent of The Washington Post and author of several books on military affairs.

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006e. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/29/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

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388206

Correspondence# 1637923
Department of Veterans Affairs

June 29, 1994

(b)(6)

006e

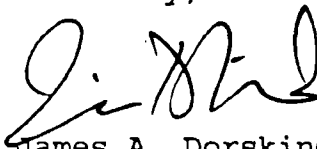
Dear Ms. (b)(6) 006e

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages

RECEIVED
JUL 7 1994
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006f. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	10/19/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Oct. 19, 1994

116A

(b)(6)

006f

Dear Ms.

(b)(6)

006f

Your letter to the President regarding medical problems possibly related to military service in the Persian Gulf was recently referred to this office for response.

We are very sorry that your husband and young son are suffering with the problems described in your letter. Unfortunately, some Persian Gulf veterans have reported a wide array of symptoms. The most frequent complaints in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Persian Gulf Registry have been fatigue, skin rash, joint and muscle aches, headache, shortness of breath, sleep disturbance, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal complaints, and cough.

At this time, it is unclear what caused these common problems and even whether they are related to service in the Persian Gulf. Many Persian Gulf veterans are in good health with no health problems whatsoever.

We certainly share your concerns about the possible adverse health effects of service in the Persian Gulf. This matter demands and has the attention of the Nation's top leadership. Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like your husband, require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 130,000 Persian Gulf War veterans have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 10,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and approximately 30,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

Under Public Law 103-210, VA is authorized to provide priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. You indicated that your husband

(b)(6)

006f

has been to the VA outpatient clinic in Greenville, SC, twice and that he has been encouraged to return if he has any problems. If your husband is dissatisfied in any way with the treatment he has received at the outpatient clinic, we suggest that he contact the Director there. The telephone number at the clinic is 803-299-1600.

We certainly are sorry that young son has experienced respiratory difficulties. We are unaware of any conclusive scientific evidence that would link your husband's military service in the Persian Gulf War with your son's health problem. Furthermore, under existing laws, VA's authority to provide health care services to veterans' families is quite limited. In most instances, we only can provide advice and referral information regarding appropriate community resources.

Thank you for enclosing the newspaper article about leishmaniasis and the staff report regarding biological warfare agents. A number of theories have been advanced to explain the varied symptoms experienced by Gulf War veterans. We are currently considering all of these theories in an effort to determine what may have caused these problems and what treatment approaches would be most effective.

Possible causative or contributing factors for the various illnesses experienced by Persian Gulf veterans which are being considered by scientists have included leishmaniasis, petroleum, sand dust, depleted uranium, pyridostigmine for prophylaxis against nerve agents, pesticides, chemical agent resistant coatings, biological and chemical warfare agents, vaccines, and stressors. Unfortunately, despite extensive examination of available scientific evidence, no consensus has emerged regarding the cause, diagnoses, and treatment of unexplained illnesses of Persian Gulf veterans. Please be assured that we are committed to continuing our search for the cause(s) and most effective treatment(s) for the problems experienced by Persian Gulf veterans.

We hope this information will be helpful to you, your family, and members of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Chief Medical Director
for Environmental Medicine and Public Health

cc: 101B

March 16, 1994

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

If this letter gets referred to the VA like the other letters I have sent concerning my family and other wounded Gulf War Syndrome families, I will see to it that the media is made fully aware of your conspiracy to prevent Gulf veterans from receiving the medical attention necessary to save their lives. As I explained in the last letter dated ~~October 22, 1993~~ we had lost two children and my wife and I were beginning to show symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome in October of 1992. I wrote to you because it seemed to me that the VA was either unable or unwilling to help with our wounds during that entire year. Then your staff betrayed me further by sending that personal correspondence to the very culprits in this potentially deadly situation. Allowing them to sit on and subsequently diminish the danger.

I resent being treated so poorly. I was an Airborne Ranger Infantry Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division with medals from both Panama and Iraq. The plain and simple truth is that I was safer on the various battlefields I fought on than I am here in "peace" time. On the battlefield if I picked up a radio to get dustoff and medical attention for my wounded I did not have someone on the other end of the line refer me to someone else or question my judgment. I will fight every day to save my wife and son from these wounds in our continuing war against Iraq and the United States. This is very clear to me I swore to defend the Constitution of the United States and now the nation formed by that paper I swore to defend has betrayed and orphaned me and my family. I know this is difficult for you to understand because you have never been a soldier. That does not mean you cannot wear the hat of Commander in Chief, President Roosevelt steered us through World War II fairly well and I hope you can perform just as effectively. You must act immediately to save the wounded American families of the Gulf War.

The most pressing difficulty here is that the problem is not being met head on. The Veterans Administration is not prepared to handle the results of a chemical-biological war. In 1865 President Lincoln charged the VA to "bind the nation's wounds" and "care for him who shall have borne the battle." Unfortunately, the VA fails to accomplish this clearly defined mission. I have tried to force the VA to treat my

wounds, since November of 1992, and they even transferred me to a Gulf War Syndrome specialty center in Houston in November of 1993, but as of yet there are no answers and the most I get for crippling joint and muscle aches is Motrin. For breathing difficulty an inhaler which is no help, for constipation or diarrhea Kaopectate or Immodium, no answers for racing heartbeat, bleeding gums, hair loss, burning stomach, sleep disorders, chronic fatigue, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, or strange red lesions. Of course, I volunteered so I have to take what I get, but my son, my wife, and the two babies we lost were drafted to fight Iraq and the United States against their will. They did not even have the chance to dodge this call to arms. The VA can do nothing for them because the United States is too arrogant to believe that anyone besides its soldiers can be injured in its wars, as though we could never be invaded or touched by the wars we fight. I wonder if President Lincoln believed that to be true when he created the VA? This is a situation the VA must handle, because this problem is why they exist.

The answer is simple and consists of three parts. Treat the wounded, all the wounded to include exposed spouses, children, and civilians deployed to the Gulf War. Grant 100% VA disability to those families until they are cured or dead. As it stands now the VA is rewarded for inaction and this will reverse that. Lastly, do what is necessary to prevent the rest of the United States from becoming exposed to whatever it is we have. I know this is all common sense and your urge is to send my letter to the VA and say "handle this." The reason I wrote you last October is because this is not being handled, other than to delay, diminish, and confuse the issue. In the mean time families disintegrate and die. I have done dozens of interviews on this subject and if you were to view or read them all, you would notice that I have said nothing negative and have dismissed any questions of conspiracy on the part of the United States Government. It is becoming impossible for me to continue doing that. I find it increasingly difficult to believe that the DOD is not lying to Congress. More and more, Health Care Reform looks like a carefully veiled mechanism to kill the Gulf Veterans and their families, because socialized medicine will not treat something that "does not exist." Everyday I get calls from around the world from soldiers or their families telling me how sick they are or how they were hunted down and eliminated from the military with a Mental Chapter for simply being wounded.

So let me help you. The secret to being a commander is to know this: it is people that are the soldiers that make up your command. If you do not seize this opportunity to care for your soldiers this time, how can you be sure they will march to the sound of the drums next time. It appears that the only thing an American soldier can count on when he returns from war is certain death, for him and his family. All the college money in the world will not make up for that. I for one know that I would rather be parachuting into combat with my wife and kids,

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007a. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (1 page)	3/16/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

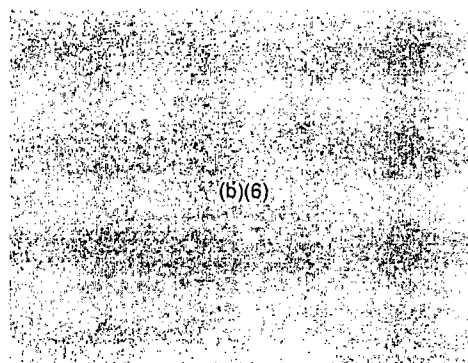
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

where I know I could get help for their wounds, than to be stuck in my basement, fighting you with this word processor. You managed to find money and resources to help thousands of Iraqi ex-POWs and their families. I know this to be true, because one Iraqi soldier, that I captured, saw me on the news and called me to laugh at me. He said he gets food stamps, free medical care, a house, and job placement. I do not want all that, just medical attention for my wounded and to die of these wounds instead of starvation. Airborne! Rangers lead the way!



(b)(6)

0079

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007b. letter	From: Taryn Oakley, To: Mr. Clinton [partial] (1 page)	nd	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Issue Letter
JWR
V/A

387947

AT

Dear Mr. Clinton,

I am a student-council member at Barrington High School and I have recently become aware of a very serious nationwide problem that is affecting my community. (b)(6) 007b a citizen of Barrington and a Persian Gulf War veteran, was infected with Persian Gulf Syndrome and has passed it on to his wife and child.

007b (b)(6) cannot afford medical treatment for himself and his family, and needs financial support. I am writing to ask you to do your best to provide financial support to (b)(6) 007b and the many other Persian Gulf War veterans and their families who suffer from the after effects of the war.

Sincerely,

Larry M. Oakley

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007c. letter	From: John Farrar, M.D., Acting Under Secretary for Health, To: Senator Paul Simon [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
WASHINGTON DC 20420

SEP 21 1994

The Honorable Paul Simon
United States Senator
230 South Dearborn
Kluczyński Building, 38th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Senator Simon:

Your letter to the White House on behalf of (b)(6) regarding the medical problems that he and his family have experienced since his service in the Persian Gulf was referred to this office for response. I regret the delay in providing a reply.

We certainly understand and share (b)(6)'s frustration with the lack of definitive answers to questions raised by some Persian Gulf veterans. We sincerely regret the tragic developments that he and his family have endured during the past several years. They have our deepest sympathy.

Concerns raised about the possible long-term health effects of exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf theater of operations are very important. These concerns demand and have the attention of the Nation's top leadership. Be assured that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in conjunction with other departments, is taking concrete measures on behalf of Persian Gulf veterans and their families.

Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

In collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like (b)(6) require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 130,000 have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 10,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and more than 24,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

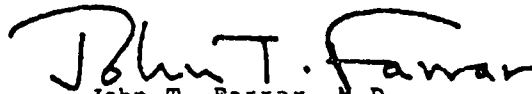
- 2 - The Honorable Paul Simon

As you may know, under the authority of legislation enacted last year, VA is providing priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. If (b)(6) 007C is not currently receiving medical attention from VA and is still interested in obtaining medical treatment for himself, he may wish to contact the nearest VA medical center for follow-up care.

We understand that (b)(6) 007C also is seeking medical care for his family. While we understand his reasoning, under existing laws VA's authority to provide health care to veterans' families and other non-veterans is quite limited. In most instances, we only can provide advice and referral information regarding appropriate community resources.

Enclosed are copies of recent testimony before Congress, fact sheets, a news release, and a newsletter describing our efforts to help Persian Gulf veterans. We hope that this information will be helpful to you in responding to the inquiry from (b)(6) 007C.

Sincerely yours,



John T. Farrar, M.D.

Acting Under Secretary for Health

Enclosures

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007d. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Taryn Oakley [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

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SEP 21 1994

116A

Mr. Taryn M. Oakley
289 Pebble Creek Drive
Barrington, IL 60010

Dear Mr. Oakley:

Your recent letter to President Clinton on behalf of (b)(6) and other Persian Gulf veterans with medical problems was recently referred to this office for response.

We very much appreciate your interest in and support for programs to help Persian Gulf veterans. Unfortunately, Persian Gulf veterans are suffering with a wide range of medical difficulties. The most frequent complaints in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Persian Gulf Registry have been fatigue, skin rash, joint and muscle aches, headache, shortness of breath, sleep disturbance, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal complaints, and cough.

Unfortunately, at this time it is unclear what caused these common problems and even whether they are related to service in the Persian Gulf. Many Persian Gulf veterans are in good health with no health problems whatsoever. Please be assured that we share your concerns about the possible adverse health effects of service in the Persian Gulf.

This is a very serious matter, and it demands and has the attention of the Nation's top leadership. Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

In collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing three environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like (b)(6) require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 130,000 have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 10,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and more than 29,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

Under the authority of legislation enacted last year, VA is providing priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. We are committed to providing appropriate, timely, and effective treatment to Persian Gulf veterans suffering with illness possibly related to their experience in the Persian Gulf. (b)(6) has discussed with members of my staff the range of VA services available to him as a Persian Gulf veteran.

007d

You wrote that (b)(6) transmitted his condition to his wife and child. We are not aware of any scientific evidence that would explain this matter. It is possible that the problems his wife and child have experienced were not caused by and are totally unrelated to (b)(6)'s military service in the Persian Gulf.

007d

While we certainly sympathize with (b)(6) and his family and agree that his wife and child should receive all necessary medical treatments, under existing laws, VA's authority to provide health care services to veterans' families and other non-veterans is quite limited. In most instances, we only can provide advice and referral information regarding appropriate community resources. This limited VA role is most appropriate under the existing health care structure. We would envision a much larger VA effort under the proposed national health care reform structure.

Enclosed are two fact sheets, a news release, and a newsletter with additional information about our efforts to help Persian Gulf veterans. We hope this information will reassure you of our commitment to serve the needs of Persian Gulf veterans.

Sincerely yours,

Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Chief Medical Director
for Environmental Medicine and Public Health

Enclosures

DJROSENBLUM:djr:ams:bg 9/19/94 116A 116 #909/20-21 #387947

cc: 101E, White House

March 16, 1994

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

If this letter gets referred to the VA like the other letters I have sent concerning my family and other wounded Gulf War Syndrome families, I will see to it that the media is made fully aware of your conspiracy to prevent Gulf veterans from receiving the medical attention necessary to save their lives. As I explained in the last letter dated ~~October 22, 1993~~ we had lost two children and my wife and I were beginning to show symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome in October of 1992. I wrote to you because it seemed to me that the VA was either unable or unwilling to help with our wounds during that entire year. Then your staff betrayed me further by sending that personal correspondence to the very culprits in this potentially deadly situation. Allowing them to sit on and subsequently diminish the danger.

I resent being treated so poorly. I was an Airborne Ranger Infantry Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division with medals from both Panama and Iraq. The plain and simple truth is that I was safer on the various battlefields I fought on than I am here in "peace" time. On the battlefield if I picked up a radio to get dustoff and medical attention for my wounded I did not have someone on the other end of the line refer me to someone else or question my judgment. I will fight every day to save my wife and son from these wounds in our continuing war against Iraq and the United States. This is very clear to me I swore to defend the Constitution of the United States and now the nation formed by that paper I swore to defend has betrayed and orphaned me and my family. I know this is difficult for you to understand because you have never been a soldier. That does not mean you cannot wear the hat of Commander in Chief, President Roosevelt steered us through World War II fairly well and I hope you can perform just as effectively. You must act immediately to save the wounded American families of the Gulf War.

The most pressing difficulty here is that the problem is not being met head on. The Veterans Administration is not prepared to handle the results of a chemical-biological war. In 1865 President Lincoln charged the VA to "bind the nation's wounds" and "care for him who shall have borne the battle." Unfortunately, the VA fails to accomplish this clearly defined mission. I have tried to force the VA to treat my

wounds, since November of 1992, and they even transferred me to a Gulf War Syndrome specialty center in Houston in November of 1993, but as of yet there are no answers and the most I get for crippling joint and muscle aches is Motrin. For breathing difficulty an inhaler which is no help, for constipation or diarrhea Kaopectate or Immodium, no answers for racing heartbeat, bleeding gums, hair loss, burning stomach, sleep disorders, chronic fatigue, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, or strange red lesions. Of course, I volunteered so I have to take what I get, but my son, my wife, and the two babies we lost were drafted to fight Iraq and the United States against their will. They did not even have the chance to dodge this call to arms. The VA can do nothing for them because the United States is too arrogant to believe that anyone besides its soldiers can be injured in its wars, as though we could never be invaded or touched by the wars we fight. I wonder if President Lincoln believed that to be true when he created the VA? This is a situation the VA must handle, because this problem is why they exist.

The answer is simple and consists of three parts. Treat the wounded, all the wounded to include exposed spouses, children, and civilians deployed to the Gulf War. Grant 100% VA disability to those families until they are cured or dead. As it stands now the VA is rewarded for inaction and this will reverse that. Lastly, do what is necessary to prevent the rest of the United States from becoming exposed to whatever it is we have. I know this is all common sense and your urge is to send my letter to the VA and say "handle this." The reason I wrote you last October is because this is not being handled, other than to delay, diminish, and confuse the issue. In the mean time families disintegrate and die. I have done dozens of interviews on this subject and if you were to view or read them all, you would notice that I have said nothing negative and have dismissed any questions of conspiracy on the part of the United States Government. It is becoming impossible for me to continue doing that. I find it increasingly difficult to believe that the DOD is not lying to Congress. More and more, Health Care Reform looks like a carefully veiled mechanism to kill the Gulf Veterans and their families, because socialized medicine will not treat something that "does not exist." Everyday I get calls from around the world from soldiers or their families telling me how sick they are or how they were hunted down and eliminated from the military with a Mental Chapter for simply being wounded.

So let me help you. The secret to being a commander is to know this: it is people that are the soldiers that make up your command. If you do not seize this opportunity to care for your soldiers this time, how can you be sure they will march to the sound of the drums next time. It appears that the only thing an American soldier can count on when he returns from war is certain death, for him and his family. All the college money in the world will not make up for that. I for one know that I would rather be parachuting into combat with my wife and kids,

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007e. letter	From: Gulf War Veteran, To: Mr. President [partial] (1 page)	3/16/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

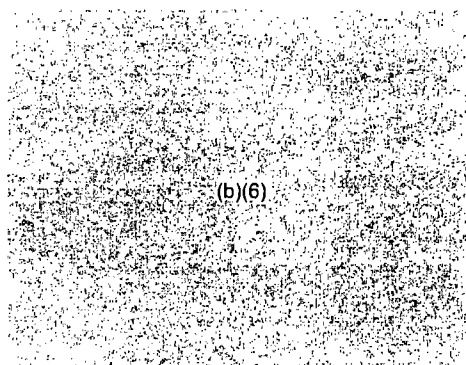
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

where I know I could get help for their wounds, than to be stuck in my basement, fighting you with this word processor. You managed to find money and resources to help thousands of Iraqi ex-POWs and their families. I know this to be true, because one Iraqi soldier, that I captured, saw me on the news and called me to laugh at me. He said he gets food stamps, free medical care, a house, and job placement. I do not want all that, just medical attention for my wounded and to die of these wounds instead of starvation. Airborne! Rangers lead the way!



(b)(6)

007e

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007f. letter	From: Senator Paul Simon, To: Steve Ricchetti, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs [partial] (1 page)	4/13/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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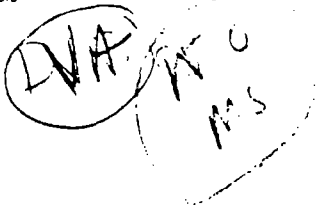
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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PAUL SIMON
ILLINOIS



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302

COMMITTEES
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
BUDGET
INDIAN AFFAIRS

April 13, 1994

Mr. Steve Ricchetti
Deputy Assistant To the President For Legislative Affairs-Senate
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Ricchetti:

I have been contacted by (b)(6) who asked me to forward the enclosed letter to the President.

(b)(6) is a Gulf War veteran suffering from an illness called Gulf War Syndrome. He is one of many Gulf War veterans to contact my office since the end of the Gulf War complaining of similar health problems.

I would appreciate your reviewing (b)(6)'s letter and taking whatever action you deem necessary.

Thank you for your assistance.

Cordially,

Paul Simon
U. S. Senator

230 South Dearborn (3892)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 353-4952

PS/wjc

462 DIRKSEN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302
202/224-2152
TDD 202/224-5469

230 S. DEARBORN
KLUCZYNSKI BLDG., 38TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604
312/353-4952
TDD: 312/786-0308

3 WEST OLD CAPITOL PLAZA
SUITE 1
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
217/492-4960
TDD: 217/544-7524

250 WEST CHERRY
ROOM 115-B
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
618/457-3653

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

6/8/94
DATE

VA 51

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

JENNIFER MCCARTHY
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF CASEWORK IN BULK

As you know, an unprecedented number of individuals have called upon the President and the First Lady for help. I know that this has meant a far greater volume of mail for your agency than ever before. I appreciate your continuing cooperation in our ongoing effort to be as responsive as possible.

Departing from our usual procedure, the letters I am sending over today have not received a Marsha Scott, Director of Presidential Correspondence, or Alice J. Pushkar, Director of First Lady's Correspondence, letter from The White House. Nonetheless, I am forwarding this correspondence to your agency for any appropriate action. I apologize for any early dates on these letters.

I will need you to return the original incoming letter, along with a copy of any written or telephone response, to me at the address below. I also would appreciate receiving a copy of your agency's log of the names and addresses of these individuals. Should you run across any misreferrals, please return them to my office or redirect them to the appropriate agency. If you have any questions you can reach me at 456-7486.

Jennifer McCarthy
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

RECEIVED

JUN 13 1994

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007g. letter	From: John Farrar, M.D., Acting Under Secretary for Health, To: Senator Paul Simon [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
WASHINGTON DC 20420

SEP 21 1994

The Honorable Paul Simon
United States Senator
230 South Dearborn
Kluczynski Building, 38th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Senator Simon:

Your letter to the White House on behalf of (b)(6) 007g regarding the medical problems that he and his family have experienced since his service in the Persian Gulf was referred to this office for response. I regret the delay in providing a reply.

We certainly understand and share (b)(6) 007g's frustration with the lack of definitive answers to questions raised by some Persian Gulf veterans. We sincerely regret the tragic developments that he and his family have endured during the past several years. They have our deepest sympathy.

Concerns raised about the possible long-term health effects of exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf theater of operations are very important. These concerns demand and have the attention of the Nation's top leadership. Be assured that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in conjunction with other departments, is taking concrete measures on behalf of Persian Gulf veterans and their families.

Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

In collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like (b)(6) 007g, require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 130,000 have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 10,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and more than 24,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

- 2 - The Honorable Paul Simon

As you may know, under the authority of legislation enacted last year, VA is providing priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. If (b)(6) 0079 is not currently receiving medical attention from VA and is still interested in obtaining medical treatment for himself, he may wish to contact the nearest VA medical center for follow-up care.

We understand that (b)(6) 0079 also is seeking medical care for his family. While we understand his reasoning, under existing laws VA's authority to provide health care to veterans' families and other non-veterans is quite limited. In most instances, we only can provide advice and referral information regarding appropriate community resources.

Enclosed are copies of recent testimony before Congress, fact sheets, a news release, and a newsletter describing our efforts to help Persian Gulf veterans. We hope that this information will be helpful to you in responding to the inquiry from (b)(6) 0079.

Sincerely yours,

John T. Farrar, M.D.

Acting Under Secretary for Health

Enclosures

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007h. letter	From: Taryn Oakley, To: Mr. Clinton [partial] (1 page)	nd	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Issue Letter
JWR
V/A

387947

AT

Dear Mr. Clinton,

I am a student-council member at Barrington High School and I have recently become aware of a very serious nationwide problem that is affecting my community. (b)(6) 007 h a citizen of

Barrington and a Persian Gulf War veteran, was infected with Persian Gulf Syndrome and has passed it on to his wife and child

007 h (b)(6) cannot afford medical treatment for himself and his family, and needs financial support. I am writing to ask you to do your best to provide financial support to (b)(6) 007 h and the many other Persian Gulf War veterans and their families who suffer from the after effects of the war.

Sincerely,

Larry M. Oakley

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007i. letter	From: Susan Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Chief Medical Director for Environmental Medicine and Public Health, To: Taryn Oakley [partial] (2 pages)	9/21/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

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SEP 21 1994

116A

Mr. Taryn M. Oakley
289 Pebble Creek Drive
Barrington, IL 60010

Dear Mr. Oakley:

Your recent letter to President Clinton on behalf of (b)(6) and other Persian Gulf veterans with medical problems was recently referred to this office for response.

We very much appreciate your interest in and support for programs to help Persian Gulf veterans. Unfortunately, Persian Gulf veterans are suffering with a wide range of medical difficulties. The most frequent complaints in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Persian Gulf Registry have been fatigue, skin rash, joint and muscle aches, headache, shortness of breath, sleep disturbance, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal complaints, and cough.

Unfortunately, at this time it is unclear what caused these common problems and even whether they are related to service in the Persian Gulf. Many Persian Gulf veterans are in good health with no health problems whatsoever. Please be assured that we share your concerns about the possible adverse health effects of service in the Persian Gulf.

This is a very serious matter, and it demands and has the attention of the Nation's top leadership. Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

In collaboration with the Department of Defense, VA contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing three environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like (b)(6) require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 130,000 have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 10,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and more than 29,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

Under the authority of legislation enacted last year, VA is providing priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf. We are committed to providing appropriate, timely, and effective treatment to Persian Gulf veterans suffering with illness possibly related to their experience in the Persian Gulf. (b)(6) has discussed with members of my staff the range of VA services available to him as a Persian Gulf veteran.

007;

You wrote that (b)(6) transmitted his condition to his wife and child. We are not aware of any scientific evidence that would explain this matter. It is possible that the problems his wife and child have experienced were not caused by and are totally unrelated to (b)(6)'s military service in the Persian Gulf.

007;

While we certainly sympathize with (b)(6) and his family and agree that his wife and child should receive all necessary medical treatments, under existing laws, VA's authority to provide health care services to veterans' families and other non-veterans is quite limited. In most instances, we only can provide advice and referral information regarding appropriate community resources. This limited VA role is most appropriate under the existing health care structure. We would envision a much larger VA effort under the proposed national health care reform structure.

Enclosed are two fact sheets, a news release, and a newsletter with additional information about our efforts to help Persian Gulf veterans. We hope this information will reassure you of our commitment to serve the needs of Persian Gulf veterans.

Sincerely yours,

Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Chief Medical Director
for Environmental Medicine and Public Health

Enclosures

DJROSENBLUM:djr:ams:bg 9/19/94 116A 116 #909/20-21 #387947

cc: 101B, White House

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008a. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mrs. Clinton [partial] (3 pages)	nd	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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1322736
from fall 87
1992
H
First Lady Hillary Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Mysterious illness afflicting Gulf War Veterans.

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing due to my serious concerns for Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War in regard to their state of health.

My husband, (b)(6) 24, USMC, served a very long three months in the gulf; only a fraction of what some men and women were asked to serve. Even though the visit was a short one, the impact it has had on our life together has been very strong. Putting us through hardships we never thought we would have to endure.

Upon my husbands return from the combat zone I could see many noticeable changes in him; none that I could pinpoint, but definitely changes. I continuously told him there was something wrong, but he denied any sort of problem to the fullest extent.

Little did I know at that time where the path of our life would take us. It wasn't the path I had anticipated taking when we married in 1989. I always thought we would have very few problems if any at all. We had the son we both wanted, and careers we both enjoyed. Then our government informed us of the deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf region; something we never considered a serious problem as it would end up being.

Before my husbands deployment to this region he was a very self reliant and, for the most part, independent young man. Today he is like a little kid who is unsure of every step he takes. He has come to rely on me to make everyday common sense decisions, seeming to lack the ability to process thoughts properly.

It seems everyone has a different reason for his the problems he and I are trying to deal with. We've been told it's because he hasn't really grown up yet, he's stressed, and he is suffering from depression. All of which do contribute to the problem, but only in a minute way.

Our problems have hit the critical point. Living with my husband is like living with a twenty-four year old man who has the common sense of about a twelve or thirteen year old, and has the memory of a seventy five year old man who is senial or suffers from alzheimers.

Watching someone so young experience the things my husband is experiencing is very hard both emotionally and physically. It hurts to see someone who means more than the world to you seem to lose every ounce of mental stability they ever knew. Especially when it seems there is no causes, and it's hard to find someone to back-up the theory you believe to be the cause.

I remember in August of 1992, seeing a commercial about 20/20's report entitled What Happened Over There and making a joke to him saying that we finally knew what was wrong with him. The next day we listened to the previous day's, as well as that day's messages on our answering machine; we heard two calls from close friends asking if he had been checked for the illness that had been discussed in this report. These messages made the problems we were dealing with a little more real to me, but my husband remained in denial.

During the next six months we lost several friendships, including my long-time friendship with his mother, due to the fact that he was constantly lying to cover up his problems, and becoming more and more angry because of what he was dealing with in his own mind. This anger was, of course, transferred to my son and myself, which in affect, caused even more problems than before.

In looking back, it seems those six months lasted a lifetime; a lifetime of heartache in hell. Finally, a close friend who had been at my side through every violent fight and every heart-broken crying session, sat down with (b)(6) and, in a period of approximately eight hours, finally got him to admit that a problem actually existed. 0089

This eight hour session was followed by three nights without sleep, but full of shouting and a whole lot of crying. The look in my husbands eyes when he finally told me he was sick was the saddest look I have ever seen. His eyes were full of hurt and confusion; there was also a great deal of sadness and a great deal of fear in his eyes. It felt like my heart was being ripped from my chest and my soul was being beaten.

In the four months since his confession, I've still had to poke and prod to find out everything that is wrong with him; and I'm still unsure of whether or not I know everything. Sometimes I seriously wonder if I truly want to know everything.

The ailments I have been able to verify with my husband are many: Making me feel sorry for those who are suffering in a worse way than my husband.

My husbands symptoms include chronic fatigue, short-term memory loss, bleeding gums, a weight loss of approximately 30 pounds over the past two years, not gaining any back, sore muscles and joints, coughing up dark grey phlegm, coughing up blood clots, inability to concentrate, severe migraine headaches, flashbacks, and chestpains. I am sure there are many other medical problems that exist, ones my husband has more or less learned to live with no matter what the effect they have on his life.

I have started studying this subject, getting my information from a few veterans magazines, a contact at the American Legion in Washington, D.C., and by making phone calls to public officials and requesting information.

In my research I have come upon several ignorant statements made by government officials regarding sick vets not having any common exposure, and there being no common cause of this problem. These statements made me sick to my stomach.

Any level headed human being could look at the situation our military personnel were put in and be hit in the face with a logical common exposure and a logical common cause.

Consider all the burning oil wells and think of all the smoke these fires produced; smoke that contained lead and benzene, both being known to cause severe physical health problems. Now consider the fact that our troops were digging foxholes and sleeping in them in soil that is so mineral rich they were told they would be risking their lives by sleeping in them. Another ~~fact to consider~~ is that our troops were using depleted uranium rounds, and, I have read, the Iraqi's were using white phosphorus rounds. There is also talk of chemical warfare from the Iran/Iraq War being left in the Iraqi bunkers; being put into the atmosphere by allied troops which bombed these same bunkers.

Another consideration is the experimental vaccines given to many veterans. Two that were administered were the botulism vaccine and the anthrax vaccine. Both of these vaccines have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

On June 9, 1993, I was pleased to hear from family and friends that a government hearing was held concerning this matter. With several witnesses, including a Congressman from Indiana, testifying about the severe health problems they are now faced with. I was told that in this same hearing our government admitted to the Persian Gulf War as being the first nuclear war. Something I have always considered a possibility and something I have always feared.

Finding out whether or not our government actually made this statement will have to wait. The full transcripts will not be available for the public for approximately thirty days after the hearing. Needless to say, I have already requested my full copies and will receive them as soon as they are made public.

The main reason I am writing this letter is to request help in making this problem get publicity and hopefully get a solution as soon as possible. The only way this can be done is for the media to flood the airwaves with information pertaining to it. In affect, letting our government know that there are a lot of concerned Americans, all wanting answers and solutions immediately. Hopefully avoiding a situation comparable to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

There are thousands of Gulf War Veterans living in a hysterical state of confusion concerning their state of health; thousands of Gulf War Veterans who are not aware of the existence of The Persian Gulf War Registry, or it's purpose.

I feel for all the veterans and their families who have to go through what my husband and our family has been through. If the path we, along with many others, have had to take can be avoided, every step possible should be taken to help others avoid it.

These men and women put their lives on the line when asked to by our government. They more than deserve any information available that could relate to their state of health in any way.

Please do the right thing and help me bring this information to the people who need it most, American Veterans. These Veterans should not have to search for reasons, causes, or answers, especially if some information is known. It should be a privilege as a Veteran to be given information that could change the course of their future, maybe before it's too late.

Thank you for your help and co-operation in making this matter public in a greater way than has been done already.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

0089

encl.
cc

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008b. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Whom it May Concern [partial] (6 pages)	1/10/93	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

To whom it may concern:

0026 I am writing in regard to the present health condition of both my husband, (b)(6) Desert Storm Veteran, as well as myself and our 1½ year old daughter.

My husband and I are both very ill; he shows more problems concerning the functioning of his brain with slight to medium problems in using his body and it's functions; whereas I show extremely more problems in using by body and it's functions with slight problems concerning the function of my brain. Our daughter has showed minor physical problems since birth, with recent sign of pain when touched; God blessed us since she was born with no apparent major medical dellimas, as well as no physical abnormalities.

We have seeked help for my husband at the VA Hospital, La Jolla, CA, and at the local clinic in Fort Myers. His first visit was around March, 1993. As of yet, he has not completed the Persian Gulf Exam; due to several cancellations of appointments by the VA itself, as well as a few cancellations by us.

Even though they have failed to follow up on major medical problems he reported, they didn't fail to take the time report his problem of memory lapses to the Department of Motor Vehicles in California causing him to lose his liscense to drive (a decision I fully agree with).

Evidently they considered this problem bad enough as to render him unable to drive, but not bad enough to vigorously pursue finding it's cause and treating this problem.

Due to this seemingly lack of concern by the VA, I have been researching any and every possible cause and effect I feel are possible under the conditions of the Persion Gulf Region.

In my research I have come up with many theories for my husbands illness, as well as my own, and possibilities for future problems in my daughter. Most of these--actually all of these come down to the same cause: my husbands exposure to an unknown number of enviromental and manmade toxins due to not wearing an appropriate breathing apparatis for the environmental conditions.

I only wonder what the EPA standards are regarding this; and why our government wouldn't see the possible health risks and protect those exposed to these risks; I feel they played "God" in regards to all the servicemens lives.

-----The following pages describe my concern for ill vets and families as well as my outrage directed towards the United States Government. I would appreciate any help possible in regards to these concerns.

Another one of my major concerns is the numerous vaccines and shots veterans were given to protect them from almost every aspect of the antigen world.

My major concern is the effect all these immunoboosting antigens might have if exposure to one not formed into antibody caused immunodeficiency. With the low levels of radiation present, a possibility exists that other antigens not yet formed into antibodies actually infected instead of protected because of this. The radiation could have sped the rate of these cells causing mass production/mass infection.

I would like to know more specifically about the gammaglobulin shot's; referred to by some as "super soldier" shots. This has also been major concern of several vets I have spoken to.

I would appreciate any and all help in regards to my husband's care from the VA, his service records (and medical), and any important information regarding this illness we have.

His full name is (b)(6) He is
honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps.

All help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

01-03 92

My name is (b)(6). I am a sick wife of a Desert Storm Veteran. My husband, (b)(6), 24, honorably discharged from the USMC, served from January 3 to April 7, 1991, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He also returned approximately one year later for a short stay during a deployment.

While my husband was in the Marine Corps he worked as a cannon-cocker; serving in this capacity throughout the war. In addition to his regular duties my husband was assigned to sniper watch; sitting atop the cab of the 5-ton truck he rode in manning a machine gun.

Although my husband's purpose in the war was supposed to be carried out behind the grunts; due to a logistics mistake, my husband's gun along with two other guns, ended up taking direct fire from the enemy at about 200 yards. The trucks in front and in back of my husband both took hits; sending all who were present scrambling for cover under their respective trucks. One gun was dropped and loaded, then direct fired on the enemy; the only direct fire by a howitzer during the war.

My husband's position atop the cab was dangerous; he remembers tracer rounds passing his head, and hearing them pass by. There was another danger though, one that was made unimportant by all the other dangers involved in war.

My husband sat between two exhaust pipes of the diesel powered truck he rode in; one of which had a hole with a diameter of approximately 3 inches. Every time the truck accelerated, my husband was engulfed in a cloud of diesel exhaust and fumes.

I am deeply concerned about my husband's, my daughter's, other Vets, other wives, their children, as well as my own present and future state of health; and the healthcare, or lack of, everyone effected is receiving.

I have read Senate testimony from June and November of this year, and end up speechless with every Vet's story I read; as well as testimony regarding the environmental aspects of what the government has labeled "Gulf War Syndrome". It seems it should be called the "Government Negligence Syndrome".

I will not pretend that I am not angry, maybe even bitter, and sad regarding this situation. I am very angry, very sad, and overwhelmed with bitterness. It's not fun to live life filled with these three emotions; impossible to live without them since I live with effects of my husband's service everyday, in every way.

I can say from a firsthand point of view that this situation is something I would not and could not wish on my worst enemy. It's sad that my family is being forced to live like this; along with thousands of other Veteran families. We are being forced to deal with problems so numerous that many had been, and still are labeling those who are ill as hypochondriacs.

To hear of a person or people with such a myriad of health problems, one can't understand that it's possible, how it could happen, or how deeply it can effect one's life and those of close interaction. I can say this too, from knowledge gained through my familie's experienc.

My husband was experiencing effects of his service in the war for two years before he finally broke down and told a close family friend, then myself. Two years of marital hell.

Since my husband didn't understand his deteriorating physical and mental health, it scared him; due to his ignorance he ecouldn't relate to me what was going on. I personally feel this ignorance was caused by the limited information being publicized through public outlets in regard to this "Syndrome".

Had the public been saturated with reports of ill vets, spouses, and children, it would have been better accepted and understood. If the public was currently being saturated with all the facts, as well as possibilities, regarding veterans and families of the Gulf War, it would be better accepted and understood at present time.

There are days on which my husband cannot think straight, having a hard time putting sentences together and remembering words. I have had to watch him cry because he was trying to think without success; to look into his eyes and see nothing. At times there is no soul in his eyes; he gets scared at times because he doesn't understand what's happening, and doesn't know what might happen.

There are days my 1½ year old daughter cringes and cries in reaction to being touched. There are days she seems to feel as bad as my husband and myself, but doesn't know what to do about it; walking around crying and whining for no reason. At times she sleeps for abnormally long periods of time for no reason. We can only wonder if her life has been effected in a way that is not physically noticeable, due to this "syndrome".

My 4 year old little boy is also greatly effected by this so-called "syndrome"; oh, it's not physical, but mental. He's too young to understand that mommy and daddy can't be like his mamau and papoo. All he seems to understand is that we used to be able to play and interact a hell of a lot more than we do now. From his reactions towards our immediate family and his reactions towards my family, it seems he feels we don't want to play; maybe even that we don't like him. He has told me several times that I'm a "bad person".

Ontop of watching and worrying about my family's health and well-being, I have to deal with anxieties caused by my own list of symptoms.

There are days I cannot move from a laying position on the couch; forced to care for my children, and rely on my son to help my daughter, from a flat position. I have had temporary paralysis in the lower half of my body, requiring my husband to pick me up and move me. Not to mention loss of feeling in various other parts of my body, slong with extreme pain.

I have found one thing to be thankful for out of all of this. As I read stories about children being born to sick vets, and in many cases also sick spouses, it feels as if my heart is going to break. I think of my little angel, (b)(6) and consider the fact that she does not have (as of yet) any one of the numerous diseases I have read of other children having.

0086

I know when I first started experiencing all the problems that have come about, the way I dealt with them was to feel sorry for myself, my husband, and our children. I have long since passed the point of feeling sorry for our family, first becoming inquisitive to all regards of the "syndrome", and finally coming to the point I'm at now. That point is of considerable anger; along with a great deal of sadness.

After I made it past the point of denial, I began intense research into every possible cause and effect. Taking direction from articles I read, my own theories, and theories of other veterans who are also sick.

My anger began shortly into researching from a bacterial point; this problem led to questionable blood disorders, which eventually led to radiation. It was hard to put it all together at first. Even though I had all the facts in front of me from varied sources, the fact that the public was not behind me is what I believe made it such a difficult task. I must say that I had, for the most part stopped thinking about the United States Government. When I did I was overwhelmed by my emotions.

Due to the governments negligence in regards to informing vets on a large scale, forced me to become our family practioner and medical researcher; this was also due to my husband's discharge and no medical coverage. Even though I was seeing dr's thru workman's comp for carpal tunnel, this did me no good either. I have been accused of withholding on grip tests and actually laughed at to my face by doctors who have repeatedly told me there is nothing wrong with me; even after relating my concerns regarding my illness being caused possibly by my husband's exposures-doing so by giving them the few articles I had found at that time.

This situation has and still is being repeated by numerous families who are ill. Some have found great success much quicker than I, still others may not be finding success at all. I have found in talking to people directly effected, as well as relatives of those with risk, that there is still a great number of families who are greatly unaware that the problem is so extreme and widespread, if they are aware of the problem at all.

The point of this letter is not just to tell a sympathetic story of illogical and negligent acts leading to great wide spread harm.

The point is to beg for help. Not just for my own family, but for the thousands of other families who have somehow managed to remain in tact throughout this ordeal; for the ill vets who have lost their wives, children, and in some cases even their parents; for women considering giving birth to a living being that may be at possible risk for a great variety of physical limiting problems; for families who have lost a loved one due to this "syndrome"; but mostly for those who do not have an understanding of the great impact it has had on all of our lives in every aspect.

This was not a war that required young men and women to be drafted. It was one of volunteers. Thousands of men and women with extreme pride in their country, their families, and in all citizens of the United States. They, the veterans, deserve to be honored for their service, along with the families who supported them emotionally during and after a life-altering event. They do not deserve to be ignored; made to think they are not worthy of widespread publicity.

The physical effects of numerous types of warfare throughout the history of wars is for the most part well known; of course after long periods of denial by government agencies. Are the lessons of denial in this regard hard to learn? Have they still not been learned?

We are not dogs living in the wild; nor are we a species with little or no intelligence. We are human beings; and we deserve to be treated with a little respect and a lot of honesty.

In everyday life we are forced to interact with all who laugh, question, and whisper; as are these people forced to interact with us, not knowing the underlying reason for whatever is being questioned by them.

Having knowledge of this severe problem, what I have seen done to correct it has more or less ridiculed these honorable men and women who are veterans. In regards to spouses and children I have seen uncaring attitudes taken, and for the most part illogical ignorance to the families illnesses.

I can understand ignorance of any of this to someone who must more or less be living in a hole (at least since the beginning of Operation Desert Shield).

The overall effect of this war can be deemed a major, if not the greatest, ecological and environmental disaster. In my opinion, considering all the stress on pollution of the environment and all the books, movies, and periodicals that concern themselves with this subject, anyone with any common sense cannot logically and honestly say that the environment our men and women were in could not cause a wide spectrum of physical, mental, and genetic problems.

I can recommend a book that explains in a logical way, using numerous studies worldwide as references, the general concept of effects caused by the Persian Gulf War. This book is titled Chemical Deception - The Toxic Threat to Health and the Environment written by Marc Lappe, published by Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. I can also recommend two reference books geared towards environmental risks. One is Cambridge Paperback Encyclopedia edited by David Crystal, published by Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, Australia; the other is Staying Healthy in a Risky Environment: The New York University Medical Center Family Guide edited by Author C. Upton, M.D. and Eden Graber, M.S., published by Simon & Schuster, New York.

It is not an easily understood subject for someone who is not in a medically, chemically, or biologically related field of occupation; or is not average or above in intellect. It takes considerable time to discover the enormous amount of possible short and long term effects our veterans face.

Please look into these publications, if not these, literature with focus on chemicals and the environment, radiation, or environmental toxic exposure. The veterans and their families need public support and understanding; equally as much now as they did during the war. Don't turn your back and walk away.

WE NEED HELP!!

Due to the wide range of effects from this "syndrome", many, including myself and my husband, are losing control over their own lives; control of every aspect of living as an adult and parent.

Those who have found their way to treatment by civilian medical personnel are possibly suffering great financial problems, especially if they do not have insurance. Generally the Veterans Administration is still extremely slow in treating, if they even admit, effects caused by environmental exposures to veterans; the spouses and children who are ill are not even considered for treatment by and paid for by the Veterans Administration.

I feel that until there is a public outcry demanding the government to act on these major health concerns veterans and their families face, it will be a game of beating around the bush. They will give a little information here and there, with periods of calm, and never (possibly slight) admission of government negligency; this due to proper breathing apparatus' given to at least higher risk soldiers during the war, excuse me, I forgot for a moment that even though the EPA, along with federal, state, small public organizations, and private organizations comply with a general safety standard(s) in relation to this type of situation, our government heading the war claimed immunity or exemption from these same standards.

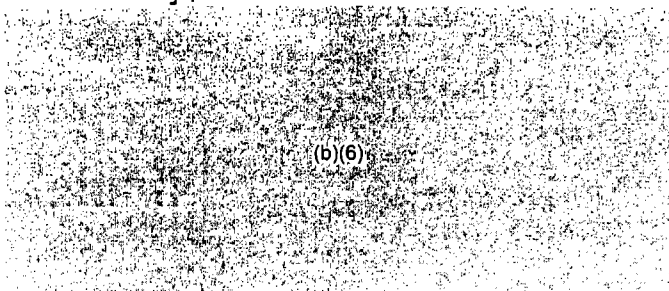
Until this public outcry is finally made, more and more veterans and their families will slowly lose their financial and mental stability. More and more being forced to live off of Welfare and other public assistance due to their inability to work, in general to function. Do we want another situation comparable to the problem with great numbers of homeless Vietnam Veterans?

Please help. There are thousands of people in our country, as well as other countries, living life the way I am being made to live life. This is a situation, I would say, ten-fold that of prior wars and their physical effects. This time it's not just the children, spouses too.

It seems as if veterans and their families are being unjustly chastised for and by answering the call of our government.

I saw such a great amount of support and out-right concern during the war, I now have to wander where everyone went.

Sincerely,



(b)(6)

01-10-93

0086

About two weeks prior to the government announcing publicly that there had been secret radiation tests performed, I had come upon radiation as a possible factor in my husband's illness; this through hundreds of hours of research. At the time of the announcement, I told my husband, along with my family, that I believed this was being done to ultimately ease the reaction by the public regarding the true aspects of the gulf war.

When all is told, our government will say they had done research, and according to their results our vets were not put in any considerable danger; or they may hope that since the public already has a good dose of information regarding nuclear power (radioactivity), they will just add the gulf war to the list already started. They may hope that the public does not see the negligence Vets and families effected are, have been and will continue being treated with.

It's sad when convicted criminals, who have intentionally brought harm to others, are being treated better than Veterans who volunteered to represent our government in a life-threatening situation; along with every citizen in the U.S.

When the criminals are sick, they are sent to a doctor, and in some cases to a hospital. They are fed three square meals a day, given time for exercise every day, and given a roof over their head every day they are in prison.

In some cases they seem to be rewarded for their crimes. I'm speaking in regard to a story I saw recently on a night time news show. A man was mugging another man in a subway stairwell, when a cop interrupted the mugging he ran. The cop shot, hitting him in the back causing him to be paralyzed from the waist down. (I would personally consider this due payment in return for invading the human rights of another person)

After serving two years for this crime, he sued the cop; and to my disgust won. I believe he got something like 3 million dollars. This was due to the fact that he was mugging someone.

The Vets didn't break a law, they did what the US government ordered them to do; they have yet to be rewarded. Instead, they are being ignored, and in some cases ridiculed.

Unlike convicted criminals, the Vets and their families are sick and are not getting treatment from doctors; only if they know the facts, how to use them for demanding treatment, and where to get the facts- or if they can find the thousands of dollars needed for private treatment, have insurance and the knowledge of where to get treatment, or can find a doctor who will wait for payment when they can afford it. Since this is such a debilitating sickness, many vets and spouses are unable to work. Unlike convicted criminals, many don't get three meals a day, neither do their children. We have personally gone without any food so that our two children would have something.

Unlike the convicted criminals, we are not able to exercise. Many are physically unable to do simple tasks, let alone run, play contact sports, or simple aerobics.

And unlike convicted criminals, many families are worried about a roof over their head. If they are unable to work, function physically and mentally, they cannot afford a roof over their head, and carry too much pride to get on public assistance before it's too late.

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE?

I would like to direct an experiment involving all the government officials who are not standing behind Gulf War Vets and their families. I wonder how many would agree to letting a wide variety of toxic chemicals be injected into their bodies. How many would agree to being in a closed room with limited ventilation with 1/10 the degree of the environment our troops lived in for several months?

I believe these questions are immediately answered as they are read. No person in their right mind would agree to anything remotely close to these requests. Only proving that everyone has some knowledge of how dangerous they would be.

What makes the Veterans any different from any of these government officials? For that matter any living/breathing being?

What regard, if any, is being given to an individuals constitutional, civil, and for that matter human rights in this situation?

Why has the government notified by mail, or presidential press conference, no one involved in the war or their families of the possible health problems produced?

It seems they are sacrificing the lives of a lot of people to buy time so they can figure out how they are going to explain this to the American public. They will try with all their might to put full blame on Saddam Hussein, it seems, at any costs. They will try not to put themselves in a position that will force them to admit they fucked up (no overexaggeration either), that they did not think of the welfare of those volunteering to put their lives on the line in their name, let alone their rights in all regards.



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Mr. Hilary Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008c. letter	From: Alice Pushkar, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	2/28/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Correspondence# 1322736
Department of Veterans Affairs

February 28, 1994

(b)(6) 008c
Dear (b)(6) 008c

Thank you very much for your recent letter. Mrs. Clinton greatly appreciates your expression of trust and confidence in her.

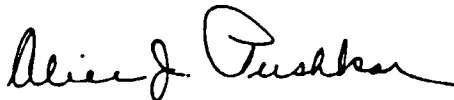
To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I have referred your letter to the following agency for any appropriate action:

Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

I have asked the agency for a prompt reply, but please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the concerns you raised. If you have any questions after reviewing the agency's response, you may write to the address listed above.

I appreciate your patience and hope that your situation is resolved satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,



Alice J. Pushkar
Director of Correspondence
for the First Lady

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1994

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008d. letter	From: David Law, M.D., Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director for Clinical Programs, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	6/20/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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JUL 26 1994

116A

(b)(6)

008d

Dear

(b)(6)

008d

Your letter to the First Lady regarding medical problems experienced by your husband and other Persian Gulf War veterans was recently referred to this office for response.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that some Persian Gulf veterans are suffering with a myriad of health difficulties, and we are trying to help them. Scientists at VA and other Federal departments and agencies are actively investigating the symptoms that have been reported by Persian Gulf veterans so that we can better understand and diagnose the illnesses they are suffering and can provide the most effective treatment.

While we do not have answers to all the questions raised by Persian Gulf veterans and their families, we are taking action to respond to their immediate medical difficulties. To date, more than 110,000 Persian Gulf veterans have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities, more than 8,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities, and more than 20,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

VA provides priority treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for conditions that may be related to exposure to environmental hazards encountered during Persian Gulf service. If your husband is still experiencing the medical problems described in your letter, he may wish to again contact the nearest VA health care facility for an appointment.

Some veterans have presented medical conditions that evaded diagnosis at the local VA medical facility. These veterans may be admitted to one of three regional specialized referral centers for an in-depth comprehensive examination. The referral centers are located at VA medical centers in West Los Angeles, Houston, and Washington. The referral center program provides for inpatient stays, averaging about two weeks, to allow for observation, multidisciplinary consultations and lengthy occupational and exposure history with an opportunity to re-examine each veteran. If local VA physicians are unable to help your husband, he may be considered for transfer to a referral center.

(b)(6)

008d

You expressed concern about the spouses and children of Persian Gulf veterans. We can certainly understand and share this concern. We realize that a number of families of Persian Gulf veterans have encountered significant difficulties since the War. Marital and family counseling is provided at VA medical centers and Vet Centers to veterans of Persian Gulf War and their spouses and children.

You also indicated that their young children and the children of other Persian Gulf veterans have suffered with significant health problems. We have heard other disturbing reports of serious illnesses in the children of Persian Gulf veterans. We are investigating this matter. The information that we have reviewed to date does not show that Persian Gulf veterans are at increased risk of having children with birth defects or other medical problems.

We hope this information will be helpful to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Signed & Dispatched

David H. Law, M.D.
Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director
for Clinical Programs

cc: 101B, 11, White House

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008e. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Mrs. Clinton [partial] (3 pages)	nd	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

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1322736
from fall 87
1992
A
First Lady Hillary Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Mysterious illness afflicting Gulf War Veterans.

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing due to my serious concerns for Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War in regard to their state of health.

008e My husband, (b)(6) 24, USMC, served a very long three months in the gulf; only a fraction of what some men and women were asked to serve. Even though the visit was a short one, the impact it has had on our life together has been very strong. Putting us through hardships we never thought we would have to endure.

Upon my husbands return from the combat zone I could see many noticeable changes in him; none that I could pinpoint, but definitely changes. I continuously told him there was something wrong, but he denied any sort of problem to the fullest extent.

Little did I know at that time where the path of our life would take us. It wasn't the path I had anticipated taking when we married in 1989. I always thought we would have very few problems if any at all. We had the son we both wanted, and careers we both enjoyed. Then our government informed us of the deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf region; something we never considered a serious problem as it would end up being.

Before my husbands deployment to this region he was a very self reliant and, for the most part, independent young man. Today he is like a little kid who is unsure of every step he takes. He has come to rely on me to make everyday common sense decisions, seeming to lack the ability to process thoughts properly.

It seems everyone has a different reason for his the problems he and I are trying to deal with. We've been told it's because he hasn't really grown up yet, he's stressed, and he is suffering from depression. All of which do contribute to the problem, but only in a minute way.

Our problems have hit the critical point. Living with my husband is like living with a twenty-four year old man who has the common sense of about a twelve or thirteen year old, and has the memory of a seventy five year old man who is senial or suffers from alzheimers.

Watching someone so young experience the things my husband is experiencing is very hard both emotionally and physically. It hurts to see someone who means more than the world to you seem to lose every ounce of mental stability they ever knew. Especially when it seems there is no causes, and it's hard to find someone to back-up the theory you believe to be the cause.

I remember in August of 1992, seeing a commercial about 20/20's report entitled What Happened Over There and making a joke to him saying that we finally knew what was wrong with him. The next day we listened to the previous day's, as well as that day's messages on our answering machine; we heard two calls from close friends asking if he had been checked for the illness that had been discussed in this report. These messages made the problems we were dealing with a little more real to me, but my husband remained in denial.

During the next six months we lost several friendships, including my long-time friendship with his mother, due to the fact that he was constantly lying to cover up his problems, and becoming more and more angry because of what he was dealing with in his own mind. This anger was, of course, transferred to my son and myself, which in affect, caused even more problems than before.

008e In looking back, it seems those six months lasted a lifetime; a lifetime of heartache in hell. Finally, a close friend who had been at my side through every violent fight and every heart-broken crying session, sat down with (b)(6) and, in a period of approximately eight hours, finally got him to admit that a problem actually existed.

This eight hour session was followed by three nights without sleep, but full of shouting and a whole lot of crying. The look in my husbands eyes when he finally told me he was sick was the saddest look I have ever seen. His eyes were full of hurt and confusion; there was also a great deal of sadness and a great deal of fear in his eyes. It felt like my heart was being ripped from my chest and my soul was being beaten.

In the four months since his confession, I've still had to poke and prod to find out everything that is wrong with him; and I'm still unsure of whether or not I know everything. Sometimes I seriously wonder if I truly want to know everything.

The ailments I have been able to verify with my husband are many: Making me feel sorry for those who are suffering in a worse way than my husband.

My husbands symptoms include chronic fatigue, short-term memory loss, bleeding gums, a weight loss of approximately 30 pounds over the past two years, not gaining any back, sore muscles and joints, coughing up dark grey phlegm, coughing up blood clots, inability to concentrate, severe migraine headaches, flash-backs, and chestpains. I am sure there are many other medical problems that exist, ones my husband has more or less learned to live with no matter what the effect they have on his life.

I have started studying this subject, getting my information from a few veterans magazines, a contact at the American Legion in Washington, D.C., and by making phone calls to public officials and requesting information.

In my research I have come upon several ignorant statements made by government officials regarding sick vets not having any common exposure, and there being no common cause of this problem. These statements made me sick to my stomach.

Any level headed human being could look at the situation our military personnel were put in and be hit in the face with a logical common exposure and a logical common cause.

Consider all the burning oil wells and think of all the smoke these fires produced; smoke that contained lead and benzene, both being known to cause severe physical health problems. Now consider the fact that our troops were digging foxholes and sleeping in them in soil that is so mineral rich they were told they would be risking their lives by sleeping in them. Another ~~fact to consider~~ is that our troops were using depleted uranium rounds, and, I have read, the Iraqi's were using white phosphorus rounds. There is also talk of chemical warfare from the Iran/Iraq War being left in the Iraqi bunkers; being put into the atmosphere by allied troops which bombed these same bunkers.

Another consideration is the experimental vaccines given to many veterans. Two that were administered were the botulism vaccine and the anthrax vaccine. Both of these vaccines have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

On June 9, 1993, I was pleased to hear from family and friends that a government hearing was held concerning this matter. With several witnesses, including a Congressman from Indiana, testifying about the severe health problems they are now faced with. I was told that in this same hearing our government admitted to the Persian Gulf War as being the first nuclear war. Something I have always considered a possibility and something I have always feared.

Finding out whether or not our government actually made this statement will have to wait. The full transcripts will not be available for the public for approximately thirty days after the hearing. Needless to say, I have already requested my full copies and will receive them as soon as they are made public.

The main reason I am writing this letter is to request help in making this problem get publicity and hopefully get a solution as soon as possible. The only way this can be done is for the media to flood the airwaves with information pertaining to it. In affect, letting our government know that there are a lot of concerned Americans, all wanting answers and solutions immediately. Hopefully avoiding a situation comparable to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Page 4

There are thousands of Gulf War Veterans living in a hysterical state of confusion concerning their state of health; thousands of Gulf War Veterans who are not aware of the existence of The Persian Gulf War Registry, or it's purpose.

I feel for all the veterans and their families who have to go through what my husband and our family has been through. If the path we, along with many others, have had to take can be avoided, every step possible should be taken to help others avoid it.

These men and women put their lives on the line when asked to by our government. They more than deserve any information available that could relate to their state of health in any way.

Please do the right thing and help me bring this information to the people who need it most, American Veterans. These Veterans should not have to search for reasons, causes, or answers, especially if some information is known. It should be a privilege as a Veteran to be given information that could change the course of their future, maybe before it's too late.

Thank you for your help and co-operation in making this matter public in a greater way than has been done already.

Sincerely,

008e

(b)(6)

encl.
cc

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008f. letter	From: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran, To: Whom it May Concern [partial] (6 pages)	1/10/93	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

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To whom it may concern:

002f

I am writing in regard to the present health condition of both my husband, (b)(6) Desert Storm Veteran, as well as myself and our 1½ year old daughter.

My husband and I are both very ill; he shows more problems concerning the functioning of his brain with slight to medium problems in using his body and it's functions; whereas I show extremely more problems in using by body and it's functions with slight problems concerning the function of my brain. Our daughter has showed minor physical problems since birth, with recent sign of pain when touched; God blessed us since she was born with no apparent major medical dellimas, as well as no physical abnormalities.

We have seeked help for my husband at the VA Hospital, La Jolla, CA, and at the local clinic in Fort Myers. His first visit was around March, 1993. As of yet, he has not completed the Persian Gulf Exam; due to several cancellations of appointments by the VA itself, as well as a few cancellations by us.

Even though they have failed to follow up on major medical problems he reported, they didn't fail to take the time report his problem of memory lapses to the Department of Motor Vehicles in California causing him to lose his liscense to drive (a decision I fully agree with).

Evidently they considered this problem bad enough as to render him unable to drive, but not bad enough to vigorously pursue finding it's cause and treating this problem.

Due to this seemingly lack of concern by the VA, I have been researching any and every possible cause and effect I feel are possible under the conditions of the Persion Gulf Region.

In my research I have come up with many theories for my husbands illness, as well as my own, and possibilities for future problems in my daughter. Most of these--actually all of these come down to the same cause: my husbands exposure to an unknown number of enviromental and manmade toxins due to not wearing an appropriate breathing apparatis for the environmental conditions.

I only wonder what the EPA standards are regarding this; and why our government wouldn't see the possible health risks and protect those exposed to these risks; I feel they played "God" in regards to all the servicemens lives.

The following pages describe my concern for ill vets and families as well as my outrage directed towards the United States Government. I would appreciate any help possible in regards to these concerns.

Another one of my major concerns is the numerous vaccines and shots veterans were given to protect them from almost every aspect of the antigen world.

My major concern is the effect all these immunoboosting antigens might have if exposure to one not formed into antibody caused immunodeficiency. With the low levels of radiation present, a possibility exists that other antigens not yet formed into antibodies actually infected instead of protected because of this. The radiation could have sped the rate of these cells causing mass production/mass infection.

I would like to know more specifically about the gammaglobulin shot's; referred to by some as "super soldier" shots. This has also been major concern of several vets I have spoken to.

I would appreciate any and all help in regards to my husband's care from the VA, his service records (and medical), and any important information regarding this illness we have.

His full name is (b)(6) He is honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps.

All help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

01-63 92

008f

My name is (b)(6). I am a sick wife of a Desert Storm Veteran. My husband, (b)(6) 24, honorably discharged from the USMC, served from January 3 to April 7, 1991, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He also returned approximately one year later for a short stay during a deployment.

While my husband was in the Marine Corps he worked as a cannon-cocker; serving in this capacity throughout the war. In addition to his regular duties my husband was assigned to sniper watch; sitting atop the cab of the 5-ton truck he rode in manning a machine gun.

Although my husband's purpose in the war was supposed to be carried out behind the grunts; due to a logistics mistake, my husband's gun along with two other guns, ended up taking direct fire from the enemy at about 200 yards. The trucks in front and in back of my husband both took hits; sending all who were present scrambling for cover under their perspective trucks. One gun was dropped and loaded, then direct fired on the enemy; the only direct fire by a howitzer during the war.

My husband's position atop the cab was dangerous; he remembers tracer rounds passing his head, and hearing them pass by. There was another danger though, one that was made unimportant by all the other dangers involved in war.

My husband sat between two exhaust pipes of the diesel powered truck he rode in; one of which had a hole with a diameter of approximately 3 inches. Every time the truck accelerated, my husband was engulfed in a cloud of diesel exhaust and fumes.

I am deeply concerned about my husband's, my daughter's, other Vets, other wives, their children, as well as my own present and future state of health; and the healthcare, or lack of, everyone effected is receiving.

I have read Senate testimony from June and November of this year, and end up speechless with every Vet's story I read; as well as testimony regarding the environmental aspects of what the government has labeled "Gulf War Syndrome". It seems it should be called the "Government Negligence Syndrome".

I will not pretend that I am not angry, maybe even bitter, and sad regarding this situation. I am very angry, very sad, and overwhelmed with bitterness. It's not fun to live life filled with these three emotions; impossible to live without them since I live with effects of my husband's service everyday, in every way.

I can say from a firsthand point of view that this situation is something I would not and could not wish on my worst enemy. It's sad that my family is being forced to live like this; along with thousands of other Veteran families. We are being forced to deal with problems so numerous that many had been, and still are labeling those who are ill as hypochondriacs.

To hear of a person or people with such a myriad of health problems, one can't understand that it's possible, how it could happen, or how deeply it can effect one's life and those of close interaction. I can say this too, from knowledge gained through my familie's experierc.

My husband was experiencing effects of his service in the war for two years before he finally broke down and told a close family friend, then myself. Two years of marital hell.

Since my husband didn't understand his deteriorating physical and mental health, it scared him; due to his ignorance he ccouldn't relate to me what was going on. I personally feel this ignorance was caused by the limited information being publicized through public outlets in regard to this "Syndrome".

Had the public been saturated with reports of ill vets, spouses, and children, it would have been better accepted and understood. If the public was currently being saturated with all the facts, as well as possibilities, regarding veterans and families of the Gulf War, it would be better accepted and understood at present time.

There are days on which my husband cannot think straight, having a hard time putting sentences together and remembering words. I have had to watch him cry because he was trying to think without success; to look into his eyes and see nothing. At times there is no soul in his eyes; he gets scared at times because he doesn't understand what's happening, and doesn't know what might happen.

There are days my 1½ year old daughter cringes and cries in reaction to being touched. There are days she seems to feel as bad as my husband and myself, but doesn't know what to do about it; walking around crying and whining for no reason. At times she sleeps for abnormally long periods of time for no reason. We can only wonder if her life has been effected in a way that is not physically noticeable, due to this "syndrome".

My 4 year old little boy is also greatly effected by this so-called "syndrome"; oh, it's not physical, but mental. He's too young to understand that mommy and daddy can't be like his mamau and papoo. All he seems to understand is that we used to be able to play and interact a hell of a lot more than we do now. From his reactions towards our immediate family and his reactions towards my family, it seems he feels we don't want to play; maybe even that we don't like him. He has told me several times that I'm a "bad person".

Ontop of watching and worrying about my family's health and well-being, I have to deal with anxieties caused by my own list of symptoms.

There are days I cannot move from a laying position on the couch; forced to care for my children, and rely on my son to help my daughter, from a flat position. I have had temporary paralysis in the lower half of my body, requiring my husband to pick me up and move me. Not to mention loss of feeling in various other parts of my body, slong with extreme pain.

I have found one thing to be thankful for out of all of this. As I read stories about children being born to sick vets, and in many cases also sick spouses, it feels as if my heart is going to break. I think of my little angel, (b)(6) and consider the fact that she does not have (as of yet) any one of the numerous diseases I have read of other children having. 008f

I know when I first started experiencing all the problems that have come about, the way I dealt with them was to feel sorry for myself, my husband, and our children. I have long since passed the point of feeling sorry for our family, first becoming inquisitive to all regards of the "syndrome", and finally coming to the point I'm at now. That point is of considerable anger; along with a great deal of sadness.

After I made it past the point of denial, I began intense research into every possible cause and effect. Taking direction from articles I read, my own theories, and theories of other veterans who are also sick.

My anger began shortly into researching from a bacterial point; this problem led to questionable blood disorders, which eventually led to radiation. It was hard to put it all together at first. Even though I had all the facts in front of me from varied sources, the fact that the public was not behind me is what I believe made it such a difficult task. I must say that I had, for the most part stopped thinking about the United States Government. When I did I was overwhelmed by my emotions.

Due to the governments negligence in regards to informing vets on a large scale, forced me to become our family practioner and medical researcher; this was also due to my husband's discharge and no medical coverage. Even though I was seeing dr's thru workman's comp for carpal tunnel, this did me no good either. I have been accused of withholding on grip tests and actually laughed at to my face by doctors who have repeatedly told me there is nothing wrong with me; even after relating my concerns regarding my illness being caused possibly by my husband's exposures-doing so by giving them the few articles I had found at that time.

This situation has and still is being repeated by numerous families who are ill. Some have found great success much quicker than I, still others may not be finding success at all. I have found in talking to people directly effected, as well as relatives of those with risk, that there is still a great number of families who are greatly unaware that the problem is so extreme and widespread, if they are aware of the problem at all.

The point of this letter is not just to tell a sympathetic story of illogical and negligent acts leading to great wide spread harm.

The point is to beg for help. Not just for my own family, but for the thousands of other families who have somehow managed to remain in tact throughout this ordeal; for the ill vets who have lost their wives, children, and in some cases even their parents; for women considering giving birth to a living being that may be at possible risk for a great variety of physical limiting problems; for families who have lost a loved one due to this "syndrome"; but mostly for those who do not have an understanding of the great impact it has had on all of our lives in every aspect.

This was not a war that required young men and women to be drafted. It was one of volunteers. Thousands of men and women with extreme pride in their country, their families, and in all citizens of the United States. They, the veterans, deserve to be honored for their service, along with the families who supported them emotionally during and after a life-altering event. They do not deserve to be ignored; made to think they are not worthy of widespread publicity.

The physical effects of numerous types of warfare throughout the history of wars is for the most part well known; of course after long periods of denial by government agencies. Are the lessons of denial in this regard hard to learn? Have they still not been learned?

We are not dogs living in the wild; nor are we a species with little or no intelligence. We are human beings; and we deserve to be treated with a little respect and a lot of honesty.

In everyday life we are forced to interact with all who laugh, question, and whisper; as are these people forced to interact with us, not knowing the underlying reason for whatever is being questioned by them.

Having knowledge of this severe problem, what I have seen done to correct it has more or less ridiculed these honorable men and women who are veterans. In regards to spouses and children I have seen uncaring attitudes taken, and for the most part illogical ignorance to the families illnesses.

I can understand ignorance of any of this to someone who must more or less be living in a hole (at least since the beginning of Operation Desert Shield).

The overall effect of this war can be deemed a major, if not the greatest, ecological and environmental disaster. In my opinion, considering all the stress on pollution of the environment and all the books, movies, and periodicals that concern themselves with this subject, anyone with any common sense cannot logically and honestly say that the environment our men and women were in could not cause a wide spectrum of physical, mental, and genetic problems.

I can recommend a book that explains in a logical way, using numerous studies worldwide as references, the general concept of effects caused by the Persian Gulf War. This book is titled Chemical Deception - The Toxic Threat to Health and the Environment written by Marc Lappe, published by Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. I can also recommend two reference books geared towards environmental risks. One is Cambridge Paperback Encyclopedia edited by David Crystal, published by Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, Australia; the other is Staying Healthy in a Risky Environment: The New York University Medical Center Family Guide edited by Author C. Upton, M.D. and Eden Graber, M.S., published by Simon & Schuster, New York.

It is not an easily understood subject for someone who is not in a medically, chemically, or biologically related field of occupation; or is not average or above in intellect. It takes considerable time to discover the enormous amount of possible short and long term effects our veterans face.

Please look into these publications, if not these, literature with focus on chemicals and the environment, radiation, or environmental toxic exposure. The veterans and their families need public support and understanding; equally as much now as they did during the war. Don't turn your back and walk away.

WE NEED HELP!!

Due to the wide range of effects from this "syndrome", many, including myself and my husband, are losing control over their own lives; control of every aspect of living as an adult and parent.

Those who have found their way to treatment by civilian medical personnel are possibly suffering great financial problems, especially if they do not have insurance. Generally the Veterans Administration is still extremely slow in treating, if they even admit, effects caused by environmental exposures to veterans; the spouses and children who are ill are not even considered for treatment by and paid for by the Veterans Administration.

I feel that until there is a public outcry demanding the government to act on these major health concerns veterans and their families face, it will be a game of beating around the bush. They will give a little information here and there, with periods of calm, and never (possibly slight) admission of government negligency; this due to proper breathing apparatus' given to at least higher risk soldiers during the war, excuse me, I forgot for a moment that even though the EPA, along with federal, state, small public organizations, and private organizations comply with a general safety standard(s) in relation to this type of situation, our government heading the war claimed immunity or exemption from these same standards.

Until this public outcry is finally made, more and more veterans and their families will slowly lose their financial and mental stability. More and more being forced to live off of Welfare and other public assistance due to their inability to work, in general to function. Do we want another situation comparable to the problem with great numbers of homeless Vietnam Veterans?

Please help. There are thousands of people in our country, as well as other countries, living life the way I am being made to live life. This is a situation, I would say, ten-fold that of prior wars and their physical effects. This time it's not just the children, spouses too.

It seems as if veterans and their families are being unjustly chastised for and by answering the call of our government.

I saw such a great amount of support and out-right concern during the war, I now have to wander where everyone went.

Sincerely,

008f
(b)(6)

01-10-93

About two weeks prior to the government announcing publicly that there had been secret radiation tests performed, I had come upon radiation as a possible factor in my husband's illness; this through hundreds of hours of research. At the time of the announcement, I told my husband, along with my family, that I believed this was being done to ultimately ease the reaction by the public regarding the true aspects of the gulf war.

When all is told, our government will say they had done research, and according to their results our vets were not put in any considerable danger; or they may hope that since the public already has a good dose of information regarding nuclear power (radioactivity), they will just add the gulf war to the list already started. They may hope that the public does not see the negligence Vets and families effected are, have been and will continue being treated with.

It's sad when convicted criminals, who have intentionally brought harm to others, are being treated better than Veterans who volunteered to represent our government in a life-threatening situation; along with every citizen in the U.S.

When the criminals are sick, they are sent to a doctor, and in some cases to a hospital. They are fed three square meals a day, given time for exercise every day, and given a roof over their head every day they are in prison.

In some cases they seem to be rewarded for their crimes. I'm speaking in regard to a story I saw recently on a night time news show. A man was mugging another man in a subway stairwell, when a cop interrupted the mugging he ran. The cop shot, hitting him in the back causing him to be paralyzed from the waist down. (I would personally consider this due payment in return for invading the human rights of another person) After serving two years for this crime, he sued the cop; and to my disgust won. I believe he got something like 3 million dollars. This was due to the fact that he was mugging someone.

The Vets didn't break a law, they did what the US government ordered them to do; they have yet to be rewarded. Instead, they are being ignored, and in some cases ridiculed.

Unlike convicted criminals, the Vets and their families are sick and are not getting treatment from doctors; only if they know the facts, how to use them for demanding treatment, and where to get the facts- or if they can find the thousands of dollars needed for private treatment, have insurance and the knowledge of where to get treatment, or can find a doctor who will wait for payment when they can afford it. Since this is such a debilitating sickness, many vets and spouses are unable to work. Unlike convicted criminals, many don't get three meals a day, neither do their children. We have personally gone without any food so that our two children would have something.

Unlike the convicted criminals, we are not able to exercise. Many are physically unable to do simple tasks, let alone run, play contact sports, or simple aerobics.

And unlike convicted criminals, many families are worried about a roof over their head. If they are unable to work, function physically and mentally, they cannot afford a roof over their head, and carry too much pride to get on public assistance before it's too late:

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE?

I would like to direct an experiment involving all the government officials who are not standing behind Gulf War Vets and their families. I wonder how many would agree to letting a wide variety of toxic chemicals be injected into their bodies. How many would agree to being in a closed room with limited ventilation with 1/10 the degree of the environment our troops lived in for several months?

I believe these questions are immediately answered as they are read. No person in their right mind would agree to anything remotely close to these requests. Only proving that everyone has some knowledge of how dangerous they would be.

What makes the Veterans any different from any of these government officials? For that matter any living/breathing being?

What regard, if any, is being given to an individual's constitutional, civil, and for that matter human rights in this situation?

Why has the government notified by mail, or presidential press conference, no one involved in the war or their families of the possible health problems produced?

It seems they are sacrificing the lives of a lot of people to buy time so they can figure out how they are going to explain this to the American public. They will try with all their might to put full blame on Saddam Hussein, it seems, at any costs. They will try not to put themselves in a position that will force them to admit they fucked up (no overexaggeration either), that they did not think of the welfare of those volunteering to put their lives on the line in their name, let alone their rights in all regards.



094 PM (9)(g) 0087 JAN 11 1994 PM FORT MYERS FL 339

Mr. Hilary Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
RECEPTION & SECURITY
JAN 14 1994
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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008g. letter	From: Alice Pushkar, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	2/28/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Correspondence# 1322736
Department of Veterans Affairs

February 28, 1994

(b)(6)

0085

Dear

(b)(6)

0085

Thank you very much for your recent letter. Mrs. Clinton greatly appreciates your expression of trust and confidence in her.

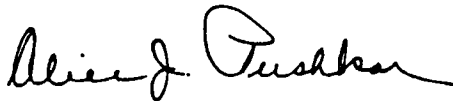
To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I have referred your letter to the following agency for any appropriate action:

Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

I have asked the agency for a prompt reply, but please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the concerns you raised. If you have any questions after reviewing the agency's response, you may write to the address listed above.

I appreciate your patience and hope that your situation is resolved satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,



Alice J. Pushkar
Director of Correspondence
for the First Lady

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1994

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008h. letter	From: David Law, M.D., Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director for Clinical Programs, To: Spouse of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	6/20/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

JUN 20 1994

116A

(b)(6)

008h

Dear

(b)(6)

008h

Your letter to the First Lady regarding medical problems experienced by your husband and other Persian Gulf War veterans was recently referred to this office for response.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that some Persian Gulf veterans are suffering with a myriad of health difficulties, and we are trying to help them. Scientists at VA and other Federal departments and agencies are actively investigating the symptoms that have been reported by Persian Gulf veterans so that we can better understand and diagnose the illnesses they are suffering and can provide the most effective treatment.

While we do not have answers to all the questions raised by Persian Gulf veterans and their families, we are taking action to respond to their immediate medical difficulties. To date, more than 110,000 Persian Gulf veterans have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities, more than 8,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities, and more than 20,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

VA provides priority treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for conditions that may be related to exposure to environmental hazards encountered during Persian Gulf service. If your husband is still experiencing the medical problems described in your letter, he may wish to again contact the nearest VA health care facility for an appointment.

Some veterans have presented medical conditions that evaded diagnosis at the local VA medical facility. These veterans may be admitted to one of three regional specialized referral centers for an in-depth comprehensive examination. The referral centers are located at VA medical centers in West Los Angeles, Houston, and Washington. The referral center program provides for inpatient stays, averaging about two weeks, to allow for observation, multidisciplinary consultations and lengthy occupational and exposure history with an opportunity to re-examine each veteran. If local VA physicians are unable to help your husband, he may be considered for transfer to a referral center.

2018 FILE COPY

(b)(6)

008h

You expressed concern about the spouses and children of Persian Gulf veterans. We can certainly understand and share this concern. We realize that a number of families of Persian Gulf veterans have encountered significant difficulties since the War. Marital and family counseling is provided at VA medical centers and Vet Centers to veterans of Persian Gulf War and their spouses and children.

You also indicated that their young children and the children of other Persian Gulf veterans have suffered with significant health problems. We have heard other disturbing reports of serious illnesses in the children of Persian Gulf veterans. We are investigating this matter. The information that we have reviewed to date does not show that Persian Gulf veterans are at increased risk of having children with birth defects or other medical problems.

We hope this information will be helpful to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Signed & Dispatched

David H. Law, M.D.
Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director
for Clinical Programs

cc: 101B, 11, White House

1571825

363471

Dear President Bill Clinton,

m.a.
ACTHIS
VA SM
H.R.

I'm writing to you in a desperate plea for your help. I'm the sister of a young United States Army Soldier who very courageously served his country during Desert Storm. He wrote me many letters telling me how lonely and scared he was, and how he missed his family. Yet, he served proudly and was glad to be a part of such an elite group of soldiers. But now he is dealing with a much more scarier and dangerous war. He fights every day for his life to be back to normal and some days he feels like giving up because no one will listen or help.

I heard you today give a speech on behalf of the men who gave their lives in Iraq a few weeks ago after being shot down by freindly fire. You said you honored those who gave their life to serve their country. What about those who are still giving their lives for their country?

My brother is suffering from a severe illness he contracted during the Gulf War. He not only lost his first family because he was gone almost a year fighting the war but he is now about to lose his second family that he is very proud of, not to mention his life. It makes me so very sad to think that when you give so much for your country their is no concern of your welfare after you return home. My brother is so sick that I gave up my government job in California to return to Oklahoma so that I could spend what little time he has left with him. I know for a fact that not only has my brother been effected because of this war, but tens of thousands of soldiers are suffering and no one wants to help. Even the Penetagon has denied any evidence of chemical agents or biological warfare while thousands of veterens are suffering. Many feel like their country has deserted them. I realize you thought you where doing these veterans a favor by passing Public Law Bill 103-210 giving priority health care for the Persian Gulf Veterans but nothing is being done. My brother is only 28 yrs. old. He desperately needs special care. If he dies he will leave behind a loving wife and five children all under the age of thirteen. I don't know what it is like to grow up without a father, but I do know that in this horrible world we live in today I would hate for any child to grow up without a dad. My dad and I have some very special memories together. My brothers children may never get that opportunity to have special memories and times with their daddy.

My faith in God is very strong and although he can perform miracles I still can't help but think that the medical profession can also help. We have yet to find anyone who will. I realize that the Institute of Medicine is still doing research on the effects of numerqus chemicals which were used during the war and also looking for ways to treat the effects of such chemicals, but what I don't understand is why everyone acts if nothing

ever happened. I would like to think that nothing ever happened just like so many others who have loved ones who are suffering but I can't because everyday I am reminded of what went on over in the Desert just by looking at my brother. The VA Hospital turns us away. They won't even perform the appropriate tests on him that will let us know what he has been exposed too. We had requested they give him a radiation and uranium poisoning test. But we have yet to see any results. What are they hiding? I personally don't think it is right to hide anything especially when it's your life at stake. The VA keeps making excuses and telling us they have medical books that tell them how to treat their patients. These professionals told my brother that his problems were stress related and that he was a complainer. Well, I would complain too if I was terminally ill and no one was listening. Wouldn't you? We're being treated like we are stupid yet they act like nothing ever happened over in the Desert. Now whose calling who stupid. They weren't there, my brother was. My family and I have done extensive studying on this matter and we have found that my brother is not the only one being treated this way but thousands of other Desert Storm Vets are too.

Is this the government's way of saving money or reducing the population by letting these veterans die? I see, if they die that means less money the government has to spend on their health care. Well, that's not good enough for me. I love my brother and I have to see him suffering every day. It takes all I have not to cry around him. He experiences severe headaches that are so bad that he takes 1600 mg. of Motrin and they still do not go away. He walks with support because his joints are deteriorating. My 73 yr. old grandfather can get around better than my brother. He has violent mood swings that result in frequent memory loss and irrational behavior. They have diagnosed him as having PTSD. Well, I've known my own brother for 27 yrs and he has never in his life acted this way or even experienced anything like this until months after he came back from the Gulf. Okay, maybe he has PTSD, but what about the rashes he gets, the severe headaches, the heart pains, the respiratory problems, and the nervous shaking that is uncontrollable? And I have yet to mention my 8 month old nephew who also suffers from respiratory problems and a nervous disorder. The pediatricians tell us this is normal. I haven't been to medical school but I do know that this is not normal. My son never experienced any of these illnesses or have any of the other nine nieces and nephews I have.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009a. letter	From: Sister of Gulf War Veteran, To: President Bill Clinton, [partial] (2 pages)	4/28/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

If this is so normal why didn't any of them experience these symptoms? I know I ask a lot of questions but I want a lot of answers. Please tell me why everyone is lying to us. If we can't rely on our own government to help, then who can we turn too? You are IT, Mr. President. I feel if you won't help, then we've lost all hope. Except our faith in the Lord that He will prepare a special place for my brother. We've contacted our Senators and several Congressmen but no help. This is so hard to believe.

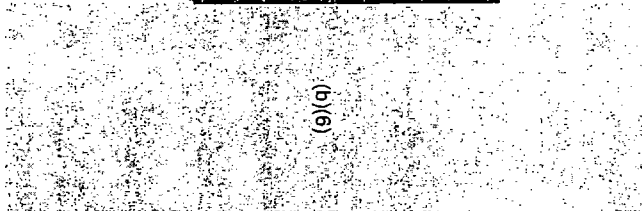
What really makes me angry is that our criminals have it a lot better than our U.S. Soldiers who served their own country so that our criminals can live like Kings. If he were to go out and murder someone at least he would have a home and a job and food on his table 3 times a day. That's a lot more than he has now. He was fired from his job because he has been up to the Veterans Hospital so many times because he's so sick. He's about to lose his house because he has no job, and he can't hardly feed his own family because of no income. He's been so sick that he doesn't even have the strength to go look for another job. And no one will hire him after they find out he is disabled. I bet you have never come close to living like this?

I think you not only have the potential but you have the power to do something for these Gulf War veterans. This is your chance to prove to America that you do care. Your working hard for Family Health Care Reforms lets work on Persian Gulf Veterans Health Care Reforms. Better yet, Lets just get some help for them.

0099

(b)(6)

918 / (no listing)



(b)(6)

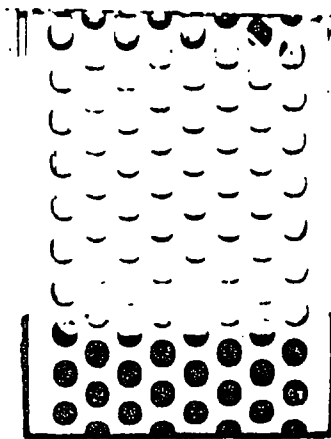
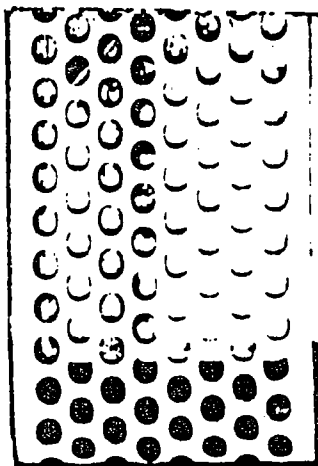
009



WASH., D.C. GM 28 APR 94 05/01 94 05 14 USA 29

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

20500



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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009b. letter	From: Darin Law, M.D., Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director for Clinical Programs, To: Sister of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (2 pages)	8/30/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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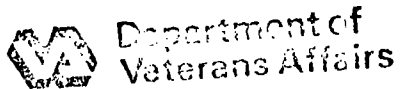
C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Aug. 30, 1994

(116A)

(b)(6)

0096

Dear (b)(6)

0096

Your letter to President Clinton regarding the medical problems your brother and other Persian Gulf veterans have experienced was recently referred to this office for response.

We are very sorry that your brother is suffering with the numerous health difficulties described in your letter. We certainly share your concerns about the possible adverse health effects of service in the Persian Gulf. This is a very serious matter, and it demands and has the attention of the Nation's top leadership.

Early this year, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services formed the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board to oversee and coordinate research and other Persian Gulf-related activities. The three departments are currently engaged in more than twenty Persian Gulf-related research projects on a wide variety of subjects, including general health, environmental effects, chemical agents, and depleted uranium.

In collaboration with the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contracted with the National Academy of Sciences for an extensive review of scientific literature on the possible effects of military service in the Gulf. VA also is establishing environmental research centers focusing on Persian Gulf health issues.

While these research efforts are of critical importance, we recognize that some Persian Gulf veterans, like your brother, require medical treatment now. They cannot wait until the research is complete. VA is providing quality health care services to a large number of Persian Gulf veterans. More than 110,000 have received outpatient care at VA health care facilities; more than 8,000 have received treatment as inpatients at VA facilities; and more than 24,000 have participated in our Persian Gulf Registry examination program.

Under the authority of legislation enacted last year, VA is providing priority medical treatment to Persian Gulf veterans for illnesses possibly related to exposure to environmental hazards in the Persian Gulf.

In response to your inquiry, we contacted the VA Medical Center, Muskogee, OK, to learn more about your brother's situation. We were advised that your brother has received several examinations already and has appointments scheduled for future care. If your brother is not satisfied, in any way, with the health care services provided to him at that facility, please encourage

Page 2

(b)(6) 0096

him to contact the office of the Medical Center Director in Muskogee. You and your brother should understand that the health care professionals at the Medical Center, by virtue of their training and experience, are in the best position to determine what tests are appropriate for your brother.

We understand your frustration and the frustration your brother, as does, feels about the lack of effective treatment to date. We have sent a copy of your letter and this response to the VA Medical Center, Muskogee, OK, so that key officials there will be fully aware of your concerns.

Enclosed are two fact sheets, a news release, and a newsletter with additional information about our efforts to help Foreign Born Veterans. We hope this information will be helpful to you and your brother and will reassure you of our commitment to serve the needs of Foreign Born Veterans.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Law, M.D.
Acting Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director
for Clinical Programs

Enclosures

cc: 101B, 11, 133, White House
Director, VAMC Muskogee, OK (with incoming)

10/16 ✓

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009c. letter	From: James Dorskind, Acting Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages, To: Sister of Gulf War Veteran [partial] (1 page)	6/7/94	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Pam Cicetti
OA/Box Number: 19439

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Illness - Veterans' Letters

2014-0159-S

sb307

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Correspondence# 1571825
Department of Veterans Affairs

June 7, 1994

(b)(6)

009C

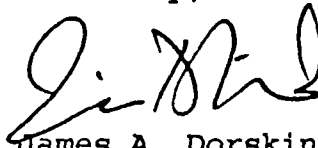
Dear (b)(6) 009C

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact Department of Veterans Affairs directly, you may write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Acting Director of Correspondence
and Presidential Messages

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