

GULF WAR SYNDROME

Letters from Gulf War Syndrome Victims

In last months' issue of **Health Freedom News**, we saw our troops were subjected to Iraqi SCUD chemical warfare attacks along with other Iraqi chemical weapons exposure during the initial ground invasion and some sixty or more thousand troops have come down with apparent chronic biological infections after the war. In Part I of the Gulf War Syndrome series of articles we saw Professor Garth L. Nicolson's letter in which he confirmed, that half or more of those troops coming down with what has become known as Gulf War Syndrome are infected with a contagious, deadly mycoplasma fermentans (incognitus strain) bacteria.

Our sick and dying veterans have been abandoned by their generals, who are now without honor. Below is a letter, which typifies the treatment received by our sick veterans and tells the true story of how veterans have been betrayed by a corrupt military and civilian chain of command that is without honor or integrity. The second letter indicates the depth of misconduct, betrayal, and corruption involved in this massive cover-up by the generals and the defense department officials. — Gary Wade, Physicist

Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
31 January 1997

Dear Senator Levin:

I am asking that you initiate a Congressional Investigation concerning my medical treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center following the Gulf War. Senator Levin, you, with the help of your aide Aaron, were instrumental in helping me to get a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB). Now I believe that I am being labeled for speaking out against the way soldiers and their families are being treated for Gulf War Illness.

I returned from the Gulf in April 1991, and within six (6) months after my return, my wife began noticing changes in my demeanor. She wondered if I had a chemical imbalance because I was irritable and moody. I made appointments at the Mental Hygiene Clinic at Kimbrough Army Community Hospital at Fort Meade, Maryland. After seeing three (3) psychiatrists and psychologists, they all determined

that I was mentally fine and fully fit for duty.

It was only after I spoke the words "Gulf War Syndrome" and entered the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) at Walter Reed did I suffer from psychological disorders. During the course of numerous appointments and evaluations, the doctors at Walter Reed, and subsequent evaluation at Fort Meade, found a list of PHYSICAL problems (all documented):

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Fibromyalgia
- Degenerative Disc Disease
- Mycoplasma Incognitus Infection
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Benign Rectal Polyps (removed twice)
- Chronic Prostatitis
- Dermatitis and other Fungal disorders
- Bunions
- Spina Bifida
- Joint Pain (Arthritis)
- Migraine-like headaches
- Gastroenteritis

This is in addition to abnormal lab results, such as abnormal monocyte and lymphocyte counts, elevated protein in my Cerebral Spinal fluid, and a positive EBV result. All of these results and findings have been discounted based upon a total of ONE HOUR seeing a psychiatrist, Dr. Giza.

In this one-hour period, Dr. Giza said that I suffered from a Somatoform disorder and alcohol abuse. Subsequently, a year after these findings, a Multi-Disciplinary Review Board added that I suffer from a Personality Disorder. Also, I was "evaluated" by a Neuropsychologist, whom I had never seen, as suffering from a "lack of self-esteem" and being "chronically unhappy." Even after I completed the CCEP, they continued to make accusations about my character and cited psychiatric problems as the cause of my ailments. All these disparaging statements because I used the phrase Gulf War Illness and demanded treatment. If I was evaluated as being mentally sound a year earlier, and my demeanor and disposition had not changed, why was it determined

that my physical problems are being overridden by their claims of somatoform disorder and personality disorders? Again, all this is based on seeing the psychiatrist, Dr. Giza, for a total of one hour.

This is how these physicians treat individuals that speak out against their lack of medical treatment and their use of psychological diagnoses to destroy the credibility of soldiers. It was done extensively to the Vietnam veterans with PTSD, and the tactics have not changed after the Gulf War.

I wrote a letter to the then Commander of Walter Reed, MG Ronald Blanck, asking for answers to questions that I submitted through my Chain of Command. MG Blanck, now the Army Surgeon General, responded and informed me that my doctor would be Dr. Kevin Moore and that he would be contacting me. Shortly after the receipt of this letter, Dr. Giza called my Battalion Commander, LTC Patty S. Barbour, to inquire as to what kind of soldier I was. LTC Barbour spoke very highly of my duty performance, and my Officer Evaluation Reports (OER) will verify this.

Dr. Moore never called until LTC Barbour called him and inquired again in January 1997. He states that he was never informed that he would be my doctor. I went to see Dr. Moore, who turned out to be a Forensic Psychiatrist at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and realized that they were still attempting to discredit and label me. The medical community is trying to paint me as "uncooperative" and suffering from mental disorders in order to stifle what I have been saying about the illness that my family, as well as tens of thousands, suffer from. Being evaluated by a psychiatrist again shows their efforts to suppress the physical findings that they have documented.

I have been on Active duty in the United States Army for 11 1/2 years, as an enlisted soldier, a Non-Commissioned officer, and a Commissioned Officer. While serving my country, I have received numerous awards and accolades, some of which are:

- Bronze Star
- Four (4) Army Commendation Medals
- Two (2) Army Achievement Medals
- Southwest Asia Service Medal (with 2 Bronze Stars)
- Kuwait Liberation Medal
- Air Assault Badge
- Pathfinder Badge
- Expert Field Medical Badge
- Graduate of the U.S. Army Field Officer Basic and Cannon Battery Officer Courses
- Graduate of the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School
- Graduate of the U.S. Army Primary Leadership Development Course and Member of the Commandant's List
- Named 25th Infantry Division Support Command (DISCOM) NCO of the Quarter
- Named 25th Medical Battalion, 25th Infantry Division NCO of the Quarter
- Nominated for the 1996 President's Service Award

In addition, I have earned both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University. All of this as well as receiving stellar evaluation reports throughout my 11 1/2 years of active duty. But in one hour, a psychiatrist can erase and eradicate this with a stroke of a pen.

I am disgusted that after all I have accomplished in the United States Army that it can all be dismissed by painting me as a "psycho." Now, if I refuse to

see Dr. Kevin Moore at Bethesda, then I am not cooperating with my Physical Evaluation procedures and can be denied any disability. And to top this all off, they have failed to consider the physical ailments that they have documented. Why, because I said the words "Gulf War Illness" to a physician or in public?

My military Chain of Command has been extremely supportive of my efforts to attain a fair medical hearing and diagnosis. As an overachiever, my duty performance has never suffered due to my illness and ailments, but my physical health does not enable me to participate in physical training. For a person who played basketball and ran track and cross country in high school, and in 1991 (the last time I checked) I still held school records in the 800 meters and 1600 meter relay, and played basketball and ran track in college, where I was the Michigan State indoor champion at 600 meters, this is more than a psychological problem. The only problems I have ever faced in the military came when I tried to get help for physical ailments after the Persian Gulf War. Would you please help me to find out why the military medical system has failed me, and what their intentions are concerning my Physical Evaluation Board? As a resident of the State of Michigan, I salute you and thank you.

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**An Open Letter To:
General H. Norman Schwartzkopf
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31 January 1997**

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