

# 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.

Captain Charles E. Hamden III  
7611A Thorne Street  
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755  
Phone (410) 674-6421  
Fax (410) 674-6421

**An Open Letter To:  
General H. Norman Schwartzkopf  
400 N. Ashley, Suite 3050  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
31 January 1997**

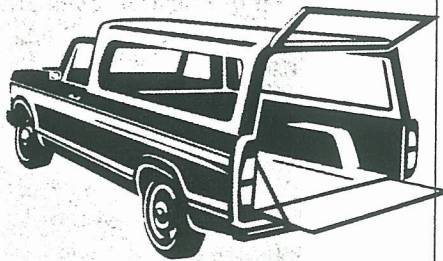
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## GULF WAR SYNDROME

*Continued*

Dear Sir:

I saw your recent appearance before the Senate in which you discussed your activities during the Persian Gulf War. There are a number of issues that I would like to address concerning both your testimony and observations/interpretations from both soldiers who served and open source documents.

**1. Intelligence Gaps** — you stated that you could not identify an Iraqi chemical weapon if it was brought before you. In discussions with soldiers who served in the theater there appears to have been a void of information concerning the enemy they were to fight, their tactics, history, weaponry. Most were told that the Iraqis use Soviet doctrine and that was about it. I have not heard of a single instance where soldiers were briefed on the Iraqi uniforms, weapons, how to recognize Iraqi chemical or biological weapons, etc. nor have I heard of any briefings concerning their tactics during the Iran-Iraq war given to our soldiers. If the Commanding General is not able to recognize the chemical or biological weapons how were the soldiers?

**2. Detection** — chemical weapons detectors were deployed and at least 10,000 alarms were set off. Fox vehicle commanders, Czechoslovakian chemical detection units, and anecdotal chemical detections were made by soldiers during the conflict. The military appears not to have been able to detect biological weapons at all. The question is why? A Fox vehicle commander testified before the House of Representatives that the Fox vehicle can take samples but is not allowed to analyze for biologicals and that these samples are sent out to Dugway Proving ground and other sites in the U.S. for analysis. Army Colonel Gerald Shumacher said

that they were able to modify a system called Pacers into a real-time biological detection system for the theater called the PBS, however on the orders of Lt. General Harrison it never left a U.S. warehouse. CIA Analyst Patrick Eddington in testimony before the Shays Committee stated that the S.A.I.C. contractor Mr. Richard McNally admitted to the Presidential Advisory Committee that Science Applications International Corporation (S.A.I.C.) was using REAL-TIME data during the war. S.A.I.C. it should be noted is a private company although it has strong ties to both Fort Detrick and the National Institute of Health (NIH), additionally S.A.I.C. has in the past employed Former CIA Director John Deutch and Former Defense Secretary William Perry amongst others. We have reports from the Egyptians and the Soviets of Iraqi soldiers being killed by biological agents during the bombings and that many presented to hospitals for treatment and further reports that illnesses appeared to be spreading in the region. Was any of this information being forwarded or were any detections reported to ground commanders?

**3. Exposures** — there appears to be three main instances where exposures to chemical and biological weapons occurred; residue from both the Air Campaign and later from U.S. destruction in the theater by ground soldiers following the cessation of hostilities, and a number of anecdotal offensive attacks, however this does not appear to be widespread. In your testimony, you also mentioned in your desire to eliminate delivery systems for these weapons you took out Chemical Biological facilities, and that immediately preceding the ground war you set out to destroy all artillery pieces near the forward edge of the battlefield, this would have been "freshly" destroyed before



our troops entered the areas. Information from Iraqi E.P.W.'s alleged that the Iraqis had a massive deployment of chemical agents down to the Battalion level, further it has been stated that 18th Airborne Corps Logs contained an entry stating Saddam Hussein had given the authority for his units to release chemical agents down to the Brigade level. This would be in keeping with tactics used by Iraqi soldiers during the Iran-Iraq war and in their history of using both chemical and biological weapons against the Kurds.

Our soldiers entered into areas where chemical and biological agents had been destroyed, some of these destructions were recent, additionally they talked about setting off chemical mines during breaching operations, etc. Biological agents and in particular Anthrax would still be contaminating the sand. Anthrax is a soil-borne organism whose spores can remain active for decades. Mycoplasma Fermentans Incognitus an unusual agent being found in Gulf Veterans and containing Anthrax DNA is also a soil-borne organism that conceivably would have been still active.

**4. Medications** — In your testimony you appeared to have little information concerning the medications being given to the soldiers. Three of these "investigational" drugs were the Pyridostigmine Bromide pills, the Botulinum toxoid vaccine and the Anthrax vaccine. **PYRIDOSTIGMINE BROMIDE** — is a nerve agent designed to protect against Soman not Sarin. In civilian medical applications it has been used in Myasthenia Gravis patients. The NIH panel reported that some soldiers had received up to the full dosage of 21 tablets. Many soldiers were given far more in overdoses to include my husband who was told to

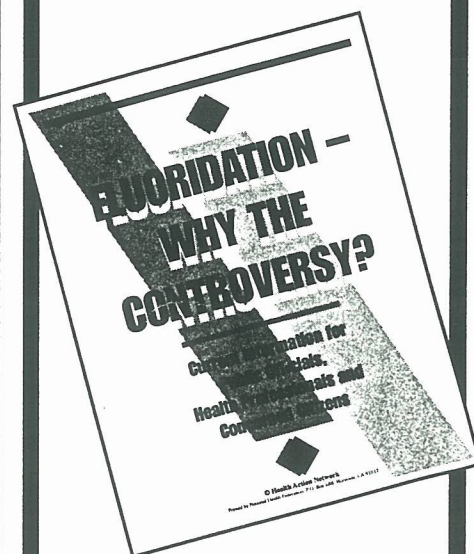
take them 3X per day for 6 months exceeding 500 pills and in the very least causing a Bromide poisoning. Even in the absence of battlefield exposures to chemical weapons, soldiers who took the PB were exposed to NERVE AGENT.

**BOTULINUM TOXOID** — was given too late to U.S. troops to be of any use the DOD admitted in 1994. 8,000 troops received the vaccine in which the safety had not been established by the FDA. You stated soldiers are to be informed and could refuse the vaccine and signed a waiver. This did not occur and if it did the DOD should bring forward the 8,000 signed waivers and present them to Congress which was told by DOD that no records were kept. My husband also received the Botulinum Toxoid vaccine and was not informed of a "choice", he recalls the soldiers names being recorded on a piece of paper.

**ANTHRAX VACCINE** — the military claims to have used the FDA approved Anthrax vaccine. In biological warfare the appropriate test would have been on aerosolized anthrax and the vaccine had not been established as being effective against aerosolized anthrax. In fact when USAMRID finally tested the vaccine against aerosolized anthrax in 1992 it FAILED to protect against it and treatment with antibiotics was required. The FDA approved Anthrax vaccine is usually given in 3 injections 2 weeks apart followed by 3 more given at 6, 12 and 18 month intervals after the initial injection. Many soldiers were told they were receiving a recombinant DNA Anthrax vaccine. This is interesting because at the time of the Gulf War, Fort Detrick had at least five rDNA vaccines available some employing a Cell Wall Skeleton (CWS) of Mycobacterium phlei or the BCG strain of

*Continued*

## Fluoridation — Why the Controversy?



"That nearly all physicians, dentists and other members of the dominant health professions have come to hold such uncritical faith in fluoride as a tooth decay remedy, raises serious questions about the content and quality of their training as scientists and practitioners. That so many professional leaders and government officials have been willing to falsify or obscure scientific data in their zeal to maintain the fluoridation pretense, raises concerns that are even more far-reaching."

— Janet Nagel, Ed.D.

Quote from Fluoridation — Why the Controversy? Booklet available through the National Health Federation, \$6.  
Call (818)-357-2181.



# GULF WAR SYNDROME

Continued

Mycobacterium bovis as a shuttle vector.

Exposures to chemical weapons and biological weapons should have been assumed from the beginning. In

addition, immediate family members and now extended family members are sick from biological exposures. We have a contagion that is passing throughout our military community and into the civilian sector. These were our best and

our brightest men and women. They did not change character to become liars and psychological cases.

My husband is one officer who has stood up for his family, his GOD and the truth about this illness from the beginning. We have not seen much of the top brass lately, though. Sometimes, General Schwartzkopf, it does take a Hero. Let's see if you are one!

Mrs. Julianne Hamden  
7611 A Thorne Street  
Fort Meade, MD 20755

Please notify your congress person and senators that you are disgusted with the dishonor and corruption of the generals, DOD officials, and Veterans Administration officials. Demand that a full congressional investigation be held where people of honor and integrity can have evidence admitted and questions put publicly to the generals, DOD officials, and Veterans Administration officials while they are under oath.

Nothing positive will happen in this situation unless we the people demand justice for your veterans and their families who have and are coming down with Gulf War Syndrome. You are not immune either. This is a deadly and contagious mycoplasma that is spreading as you read this. Go to the front of your phone book and find the addresses and phone numbers of your representatives. Then call them and write them with your concerns. The toll free number of the congressional switch board in Washington, D.C. is 1-800-962-3524 (HOUSE) and 1-800-972-3524 (SENATE). It is the right thing to do. **HFV**



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