



Special Assistant  
for  
Gulf War Illnesses

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000



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Dear Gulf War Veteran:

I am sending this letter because we have determined that your unit was near Khamisiyah, Iraq in early March 1991. My purpose is to update you on our investigation of the U.S. demolitions of Iraqi weapons at Khamisiyah and what this may mean for you.

When rockets were destroyed in the pit area at Khamisiyah on March 10, 1991, the nerve agents sarin and cyclosarin may have been released into the air. If you were with your unit at this time, *you may have been in an area where exposure to a very low level of nerve agents was possible. However, our analysis shows that the exposure levels would have been too low to activate chemical alarms or to cause any symptoms at the time.*

*Although little is known about the long-term effects from a brief, low level exposure to nerve agents, the current medical evidence indicates that long-term health problems are unlikely. Because the scientific evidence is limited, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs are committed to gaining a better understanding of the potential health effects of brief, low level nerve agent exposures, and they have funded several projects to learn more about them.*

If you have health concerns which might be related to your Gulf War service, you are encouraged to enroll in the DoD Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program by calling 1-800-796-9699, or the Department of Veterans Affairs Persian Gulf Registry, 1-800-749-8387. Because there are many possible medical reasons for most symptoms, if you have health concerns you are encouraged to request a medical evaluation. If you have already received a registry examination and you continue to have health concerns, you should contact your closest military treatment facility or VA medical center to schedule a follow-up appointment. Please feel free to share this letter with your personal physician. If you are healthy and not experiencing any symptoms, there is no need for you to seek medical attention.

The health of Gulf War veterans is extremely important to us. The DoD and VA are committed to providing the best possible medical care to all veterans and equally committed to gaining a full understanding of all the possible health effects of service during the war. As we learn more about the events during the Gulf War, we will continue to keep veterans informed.

Sincerely,

Bernard Rostker

Enclosure

