

the Gulf War (Roffey *et al.* 2002). Of the four biological warfare agents that Iraqi sources reported weaponized: aflatoxin, botulinum toxin, *Bacillus anthracis*, and ricin, only anthrax is a living microorganism and capable of multiplying in infected people. However, no evidence has been found that Iraq deployed any weapons containing biological warfare agents (Roffey *et al.* 2002; Zilinskas 1997).

Based on the NAS report, the Secretary has concluded that a presumption is not warranted for any disease associated with exposure to biological warfare agents because such weapons were not shown to have been deployed in the Gulf War.

IV. Conclusion

After careful review of the findings of the 2006 NAS report, "Gulf War & Health Volume 5: Infectious Diseases," the Secretary has determined that the scientific evidence presented in the report and other information available to the Secretary indicate that no new presumption of service connection is warranted for Al Eskan disease, idiopathic acute eosinophilic pneumonia, wound and nosocomial infection, mycoplasmas, or for any illness based on exposure to biological warfare agents.

Approved: March 26, 2009.

John R. Gingrich,

Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E9-7342 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials will be held on May 5-6, 2009, at the El Paso Marriott, 1600 Airway Boulevard, El Paso, Texas. On May 5, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 3:45 p.m. and on May 6, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of national cemeteries, soldiers' lots and plots, the selection of new national cemetery sites, the erection of appropriate memorials, and the adequacy of Federal burial benefits.

On May 5, the Committee will receive updates on National Cemetery Administration issues. On May 6, the Committee will tour Fort Bliss National Cemetery, located at 5200 Fred Wilson Boulevard, El Paso, Texas, and then reconvene at the hotel for a business session in the afternoon. The May 6 session will include discussions of Committee recommendations, future meeting sites, and potential agenda topics at future meetings.

Time will not be allocated for receiving oral presentations from the public.

Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact Mr. Michael Nacincik, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 461-6240. The Committee will accept written comments. Comments may be transmitted electronically to the Committee at *Michael.n@va.gov*, or mailed to the National Cemetery Administration (41C2), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. In the public's communications with the Committee, the writers must identify themselves and state the organizations, associations, or persons they represent.

Dated: March 27, 2009.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-7455 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families will meet on April 15-16, 2009, at the St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th Street, NW., Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the full spectrum of health care, benefits delivery and related family support issues that confront servicemembers during their transition from active duty to veteran status and during their post-service years. The Committee focuses on the concerns of all men and women with active military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom, but pays particular attention to severely disabled veterans and their families.

The agenda for April 15 and 16 will feature a review of information gathered by the Committee during the past two years. The Committee will also discuss the possibility of transferring records and sharing the results of its various fact-finding initiatives with other VA advisory committees which have complementary jurisdictions and similar areas of interest.

The public may submit written statements for the Committee's review to the Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families (008), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Laura O'Shea, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 461-5765.

Dated: March 31, 2009.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-7456 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee will meet on April 27, 2009, at the Madison Hotel, 1177 15th St NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on using genetic information to optimize medical care of Veterans and to enhance development of tests and treatments for diseases particularly relevant to Veterans.

The Committee will meet in an open session from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. to receive updates from the VA program staff; discuss optimal ways for VA to incorporate genomic information into its health care program while applying appropriate ethical oversight and protecting the privacy of Veterans; and receive an overview of the recent Institute of Medicine report on privacy protections in health research and discussions of potential areas of research in diseases/conditions prevalent in Veterans such as diabetes, women's health, specifically breast cancer, and the application of pharmacogenomics in clinical care.

The Committee will meet in a closed session from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. for discussion of confidential and unpublished results of an ongoing pilot study. As provided by section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended, closing portions of this meeting is in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(6) and (c)(9)(B), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The discussions and review of the ongoing pilot study and related documents could disclose confidential information and therefore compromise this ongoing study.

Public comments will be received at 3 p.m. Public comments will be limited to five minutes each. Individuals who speak are invited to submit 1-2 page summaries of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record. Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Dr. Sumitra Muralidhar, Designated Federal Officer, at sumitra.muralidhar@va.gov.

Dated: March 27, 2009.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-7457 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Special Medical Advisory Group; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Special Medical Advisory Group will meet on May 13, 2009, in Room 830 at VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Group is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on the care and treatment of disabled Veterans, and other matters pertinent to the Department's Veterans Health Administration.

The agenda for the meeting will include discussions of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom and Traumatic Brain Injury care and updates on quality and performance initiatives, mental health services and the future of Information Technology in the VA.

Any member of the public wishing to attend should contact Juanita Leslie, Office of Administrative Operations (10B2), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs at (202) 461-7019 or j.t.leslie@va.gov. No time will be set aside at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Statements, in written form, may be submitted to Ms. Leslie before the meeting or within 10 days after the meeting.

Dated: March 27, 2009.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-7454 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P