



Photo: AP

NERVE GAS EXPOSURE

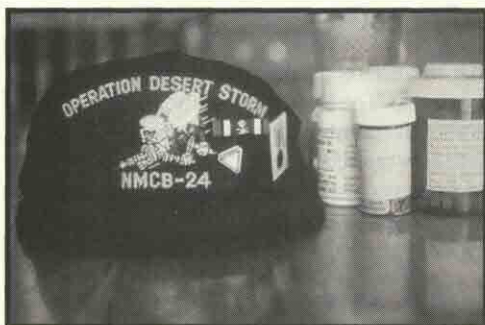
20,000 Gulf Troops At Risk

Amid a growing controversy, the Department of Defense (DoD) has announced it is notifying 20,800 U.S. Gulf War troops they may have been exposed to low levels of chemical weapons in the destruction of an Iraqi ammunition dump. And to help speed the notification process, the military has teamed up with the VA and veterans' service organizations to help find soldiers who may have been near Kamisiyah, Iraq, during the period March 4-15, 1991.

The Kamisiyah munitions complex, also known as Tal al-Lahm, is approximately 15 miles southeast of An Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

[To assist in this effort, Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman has sent a notice to all DAV National Officers, Department Commanders and Adjutants, the National Interim Legislative Committee, Supervisory National Service Officers, Hospital Service Coordinators, and State Directors of Veterans' Affairs. A notice also has been published on the DAV's Internet Home Page (<http://www.dav.org>).]

Photo: Michael Schwarz/Comma-Itelson



Concerns continue to mount about Gulf War veterans' health.

This massive notification effort has two purposes: to find out more about the health effects of suspected low-level exposure to nerve gas and to reconstruct events relating to the destruction by U.S. troops of the ammunition dump in southern Iraq at the end of the Persian Gulf War.

According to recent DoD estimates, 20,800 American soldiers were within 30 miles of the sprawling ammunition storage site at Kamisiyah when U.S. forces began demolition in March 1991. When evidence surfaced five years later that chemical weapons may have been among the munitions destroyed on March 4 and 10, 1991, it triggered an intensified effort on the part of the DoD to reconstruct the events at that time.

In addition, the DoD is investigating the possibility of a detonation at the Kamisiyah complex on March 12, 1991. However, officials say, it is not known if such a demolition occurred or if chemical munitions were involved.

U.S. officials apparently knew soon after the March 1991 detonation that the deadly nerve agents sarin and cyclosarin were stored at Kamisiyah. That discovery was made only after a United Nations team drilled into a rocket, releasing some of the nerve gas.

The DoD has repeatedly stressed that there is no evidence that any Americans had suffered acute exposure to nerve gas, either in a blast cloud from rockets or artillery shells destroyed at Kamisiyah or from other sources.

"This latest acknowledgment that thousands more American servicemembers could have been affected by chemical weap-

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DAV Appeals Officer Named to Persian Gulf Illness Panel

VA Secretary Jesse Brown has appointed DAV National Appeals Officer Jeffrey C. Hall to serve on an expert panel investigating illnesses among Persian Gulf War veterans.

Issues being explored by the VA's Persian Gulf Expert Scientific Committee include findings that Persian Gulf War veterans have more health problems than other veterans and whether Iraqi chemical weapons and other chemical agents are to blame for many of their ailments.



Jeffrey C. Hall

Mr. Hall's appointment offers the committee added perspective on issues related to Persian Gulf illnesses.

"As a Persian Gulf War veteran myself, I share a great many of the same concerns among these men and women who have fallen ill for unexplained reasons since their return home from the Persian Gulf," said the combat-disabled Army veteran.

Issues such as undiagnosed illnesses, whether they are caused by depleted uranium, diseases endemic to Southwest Asia, vaccinations, anti-nerve agent pills and inoculations, as well as environmental hazards, continue to be among the DAV's highest priorities.

As a DAV National Appeals Officer, Mr. Hall's experience representing Persian Gulf War veterans with their claims for service-connected disabilities also

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Coffee and Friendship in North Carolina

There's no shortage of coffee on the wards of the Asheville, N.C., VA Medical Center (VAMC) thanks to a coffee cart donated and staffed by volunteers from Chapter 89 in Waynesville. Associate VAMC Director Dorothy Fish accepts donation of the coffee cart from the Chapter's ambassadors of friendship, from left, Deputy DAV VAVS Representative Robert Miller, Chapter Commander Fowler Pilkington, and Senior Vice Commander Tom Hord.



Nevada Remembers the Troops in Bosnia
What else would the Department of Nevada send to the troops in Bosnia if not playing cards...boxes and boxes of playing cards...along with greetings from school kids in Las Vegas. Discussing the shipment of gifts with a TV newsmen from Las Vegas are, from left, Department Commander Tom Caenen, and members Pete Buell and Lee Mencarelli.

National Commander

(Continued from page 1)

peting for a shrinking pot of funds, we must drive home the fact that veterans' programs and services are important and unique. They are unique because disabled veterans have earned those benefits and services; they aren't just another government give-away program.

I know safeguarding veterans' programs and services is a tall order. But it's something we've been doing for more than 75 years.

We've done it because we have remained strong and committed to our founding principles.

We—you and I, all of us together—have our collective strength and our collective will to get the job done.

But we—you and I, as individuals—must do our part to write those letters, to make those phone calls, to make our voices heard. Why? Because the best way to educate 535 members of Congress is the same way they all count votes—one at a time. ■



Gulf War Panel

(Continued from page 4)

will provide the panel with some insight into the adjudication and appeals processes.

"The DAV's membership has adopted resolutions supporting priority medical care and expeditious handling of Persian Gulf War claims by the VA and payment of fair and just compensation for their service-connected disabilities," noted National Service Director Kenneth D. Wolfe.

"We strongly maintain the VA has the responsibility to ensure these veterans are compensated for their illnesses without imposing a time limit," Mr. Wolfe said. "The need for an open presumptive period has now been heightened by the recent acknowledgment by the Department of Defense (DoD) that U.S. troops were likely exposed to chemical warfare agents.

"It is clear to the DAV that the issues involving health care and compensation will never be resolved without the full disclosure and cooperation by all government agencies concerned," said Mr. Wolfe. "We strongly encourage continued efforts by the medical and scientific communities in cooperation with the DoD, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the VA to provide a full and complete accounting of the possible exposure to chemical warfare agents and environmental hazards American forces faced in Southwest Asia." ■

Say you need help but your NSO isn't there!

We hope it never happens. But what if public support of the DAV's service program dried up? We'd have to close up shop. Thousands of vets like you would suffer, unless there's enough in the DAV National Service Foundation to keep our National Service Offices open.

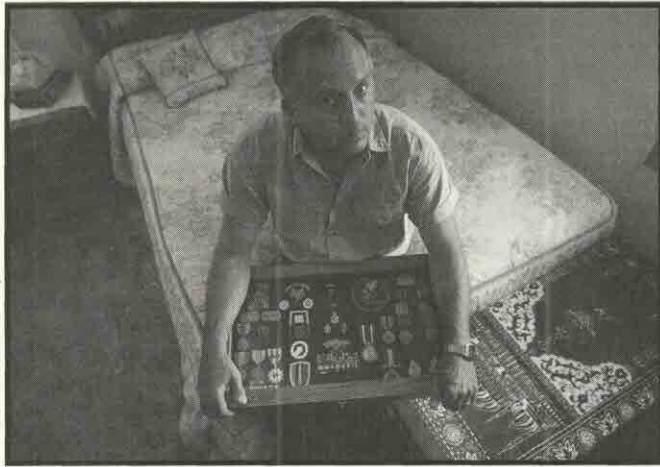
Through the DAV National Service Foundation, you can help guarantee the DAV's National Service Program will always be there—whenever you and your family need it.

Use the form below to make a donation to the DAV National Service Foundation. Gifts of \$100 or more are published annually in the Foundation's Honor Roll. If you can't afford that much, whatever you can give—\$5, \$10, \$20—will help so much.

I want to help keep the door to DAV service open!

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

If memorial gift, person honored: _____
Mail to: DAV National Service Foundation, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301



According to some informed estimates, more than 100,000 Americans may have been exposed to chemical warfare agents.

Gulf Chemical Weapons

(Continued from page 4)

ons in the Persian Gulf may shed some light on what many chronically ill Persian Gulf veterans have thought all along," said Mr. Gorman. "The DAV hopes that, finally, these veterans can begin to find the answers to what has been making them sick and they can get the proper medical care and other benefits they need and deserve."

The announcement in October 1996 that 20,800 U.S. Gulf War troops may have been exposed to chemical weapons greatly expands the search for possible victims from sarin and cyclosarin released from the Kamisiyah munitions dump. (The Defense Department has identified several military units that were within 30 miles of the munitions storage site when it was blown up in March 1991. See next column.)

Last June the DoD began notifying 150 soldiers with the Army's 37th Engineer Battalion who blew up rockets and shells at Kamisiyah. In September that figure was expanded to 5,000 troops who were within 15 miles of the site.

DAV National Commander Gregory C. Reed cited the Defense Department's belated acknowledgment that American forces were at risk of chemical weapons exposure and called for immediate congressional hearings into the matter. The DAV also strongly urged the VA to extend the eligibility period for service-connected disability compensation for Persian Gulf veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses. (See the September/October 1996 and November/December 1996 issues of *DAV Magazine*.)

VA officials told the DAV there still is no known link between chemical weapons and the undiagnosed Gulf War illnesses, so the two-year presumptive period for service-connected disability benefits remains in effect. However, the VA will continue providing priority health care to those veterans.

"From the outset, the DAV has strongly opposed a two-year limit until science finds out why these men and women are sick. Now, more than ever, we believe the presumptive period should remain open-ended," said Mr. Gorman.

"Conflicting information from the Defense Department about the presence of chemical weapons and the escalating number of possible exposures—almost on a weekly basis—has left a huge credibility gap," said Mr. Gorman. "And the men and women

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Persian Gulf Veterans

Members of the following units are being notified that they may have been exposed to low levels of nerve gas during the destruction of the Kamisiyah munitions depot in 1991.

Units associated with the 82nd Airborne Division

Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division
 Tactical Command Post, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne
 Tactical Operations Center, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne
 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry
 2nd Battalion, 504th Infantry
 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry
 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry
 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry
 4th Battalion, 325th Infantry
 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery
 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery
 1st Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry
 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor
 313th Military Intelligence Battalion
 307th Medical Battalion
 307th Engineer Battalion
 37th Engineer Battalion
 450th Civil Affairs Battalion



Units associated with the 24th Infantry Division

Main Command Post, 24th Infantry Division
 Headquarters, 197th Infantry Brigade
 2nd Squadron, 4th Cavalry
 24th Signal Battalion
 724th Combat Support Battalion
 1st Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery
 Headquarters, 36th Engineer Group
 3rd Engineer Battalion
 5th Engineer Battalion
 299th Engineer Battalion
 362nd Engineer Company



Units associated with the 101st Airborne Division

Rear Command Post, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
 Headquarters, 101st Aviation Brigade
 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery

Other Units

2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
 Headquarters, 265th Engineer Group
 Headquarters, 937th Engineer Group
 12th Engineer Battalion
 46th Engineer Battalion
 264th Engineer Company
 Tactical Command Post, XVIIIth Airborne Corps Artillery
 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery
 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery
 Headquarters, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade
 Headquarters, 12th Aviation Brigade
 9th Chemical Company
 36th Medical Detachment
 5th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
 41st Medical Hospital
 47th Combat Support Hospital
 47th Field Hospital



Members of those units are asked to call the DoD Persian Gulf Incident Hotline, 1-800-472-6719, or the VA's Persian Gulf Registry, 1-800-749-8387. For further information about veterans' benefits and services, contact the nearest DAV National Service Office for assistance.

Reunions...

Because of the increasing number of requests and the space limitations of our magazine, we must limit publication of unit reunions to one time only. Send such notices at least six months in advance to: Reunions, DAV Magazine, P. O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301 Thank you ... the Editors.

ARMY

ALL ARMY AMPHIBIANS (Revisit the Carrabelle, Lanark areas where you trained during WWII at Camp Gordon Johnston) - March 1-3, 1997. Contact Camp Gordon Johnston Association, P.O. Box 1334, Carrabelle, Florida 32322 or phone (904) 697-3246 or 2787.

"A" COMPANY, 25TH AVN. BN., CU CHI RVN - April 12-13, 1997, Pensacola, Florida. Contact Jim Kelly, phone (800) 326-8286.

COMPANY "A", 397TH INFANTRY ASSN. - April 7-11, 1997, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact William T. Blake, phone (910) 738-2834.

FS8605 (5TH ASA FS-HAWAII) - February 6-9, 1997, Orlando, Florida. Contact George Aherhien, phone (315) 682-9460.

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER, 88 D BLUE DEVILS - April 24-27, 1997, Greensboro, North Carolina. Contact James W. DeLoach, phone (803) 787-8861.

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION - June 24-29, 1997, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact Joe Frey phone (970) 3287279 or 75472.461@compuserve.com.

4TH ID (IVY) DIV ASSN (ALL) - June 29-July 5, 1997, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Contact Roger S. Barton, phone (301) 845-4168 or (301) 845-0044.

13TH ENG (C) BN (WWII/KOREA/PANAMA)(ALL YEARS) - October 30-November 3, 1996, Springfield, Missouri. Contact Lenoise Bowman, phone (904) 441-8951.

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION VIETNAM VETERANS - February 6-8, 1997, Sarasota, Florida. Contact Ed Harris, phone (941) 966-1485 or E-Mail: ed101vnet@aol.com.

746TH TANK BN - April 13-17, 1997, Pensacola Beach, Florida. Contact Robert Hamilton, phone (303) 364-6212.

OFFICERS OF THE 1ST DIVISION - April 26, 1997, Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Contact: Officers of the 1st Division, P.O. Box 3814, Arlington, VA 22203.

NAVY

NMCSB 40 U.S. NAVY MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 40 SEABEES (WWII TO PRESENT) - April 18-20, 1997, Biloxi, Mississippi. Contact Edward Holston, phone (609) 875-1300.

NAVAL BEACH GROUP ONE ASSN. INC. (WWII) (1941-45) - April 24-27, 1997, Reno, Nevada. Contact Floyd Swaim, phone (817) 295-0715 or (817) 295-3276.

NAVY MUSICIANS - April 16-19, 1997, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact B. A. Waltrip, phone (915) 572-3719.

USS ANCON (AGC-4) - April 26-30, 1997, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact John Tysor, phone (410) 254-4918.

USS BURTON ISLAND (AGB-1) - April 28-May 2, 1997, Reno, Nevada. Contact Michael Bonner, phone (619) 575-7980.

U.S.S. COLHOUN (DD 801) - April 1-4, 1997, San Diego, California. Contact: Robert Whitacre P.O. Box 1125, Lombard, IL 60148, phone (630) 620-4472.

USS FARGO (CL-106) - April 10-13, 1997, Pensacola, Florida. Contact Fred Huntington, phone (804) 499-5076.

USS GURHE (DD-783) - April 10-13, 1997, San Diego, California. Contact Dale Strine, phone (619) 465-6458.

USS HARRY F. BAUER (DM-26) - April 16-20, 1997, Savannah, Georgia. Contact Rip Ruopoli, phone (803) 766-2712.

USS HORACE A. BASS (APD-124) - April 17-19, 1997, Wilmington, North Carolina. Contact Horace E. Paul, phone (407) 322-7879.

USS JENKINS (DD/DDE 447) (WWII/KOREA/VIETNAM) (1942-69) - May 28-June 1, 1997, Silverdale, Washington. Contact John Ramsey, phone (206) 804-0922.

USS JOHNSTON (DD-821) - April 1997, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact Bob Guimarin, phone (209) 984-5138.

USS LUMEN (AKA 30) - April 1997, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact Charles D. Theobald, phone (410) 639-7530.

USS OCONTO (APA-187) - April 1997, Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact Eugene Garber, phone (406) 772-5772.

USS NOA (DD 841 & 343) - March 19-23, 1997, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Contact: Wilma B. Rascoe, 129 Willow Dr., Lake Helen, FL 32744-3121, phone (904) 228-3366.

USS PURDY (DD-734) - April 10-13, 1997, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Larry Di Pasquale, phone (610) 433-4787.

USS RENDOVA (CVE-114) AND AIR GROUPS - April 30-May 3, 1997, Denver, Colorado. Contact Eddie Frank, phone (303) 857-4248.

USS ROANOKE (CL-145) - March 13-16, 1997, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact Neil Long, phone (707) 644-9339.

USS SUMTER (APA 52) 1943-46 - April 1-3, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Herbert Van Alphen, phone (860) 688-1698.

USS TARAWA (CV/CVA/CV-40) - April 17-20, 1997, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact Rudy Marzano, phone (201) 762-5710.

USS TICONDEROGA & MAR DET (CV/CVA/CVS 14/CG 47) (ALL) (1944-PRES) - May 15-18, 1997, Seattle, Washington. Contact Charles F. Large, phone (617) 344-3461.

WEST REUNION ASSOCIATION - April 24-27, 1997, Jacksonville Beach, Florida. This reunion is comprised of the following ships: USS WHITE MARSH (LSD-8), contact Glenn A. Crabtree, phone (352) 753-7686, USS EFFINGHAM (APA-165), contact Wayne Peterson, phone (612) 822-1437, USS SHADWELL (LSD-15), contact Kenneth Graham, phone (804) 425-2756 and USS TALBOT (FFG-4), contact Ronald Carney, phone (201) 934-1974.

35TH SPECIAL SEA BEES - April 1997, Hickory, North Carolina. Contact Charles Johnson, Jr., phone (717) 722-1361.

133RD NCB (WWII) - February 17-20, 1997, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact Bill Konop, phone (612) 441-2554.

AIR FORCE

2ND AIR DIVISION, EIGHTH AIR FORCE - February 22, 1997, Orlando, Florida. Contact Colonel Lawrence Gilbert, phone (407) 647-2623.

2ND BOMB GROUP & 2ND BOMB WING - April 22-26, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Kemp F. Martin, (713) 464-0401.

7TH BOMB WING B-36 ASSN. - April 23-27, 1997, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Richard S. George, phone (817) 292-4932.

13TH JUNGLE AIR FORCE - 1997, Dallas, Texas. Contact Emile J. Beauregard, 3747 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 02745-4126, phone (508) 995-3698.

13TH AIR FORCE, PACIFIC THEATER, (WWII) including 72nd, 394th Bomb Squadrons, and 4th Recon Squadron. April 21-25, 1997, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Dag Larsen, 410 Church Rd. Ojai, CA 93023. (805) 646-8761.

392ND BOMB GROUP, 2ND AIR DIV., 8TH AIR FORCE, WWII, WENDLING, ENGLAND - February 23-24, 1997, Orlando, Florida. Contact Teddy Egan. (407) 644-5439.

449TH BOMB GROUP (WWII) - April 22-26, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Lee F. Kenney, phone (407) 242-8654.

465TH TROOP CARRIER WING - April 21-25, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Jim Strickland, phone (970) 282-0209.

6147TH TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP, "MOSQUITOS", KOREA - April 21-27, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact James F. Kelly, phone (702) 796-5554.

AERO MED EVAC ASSN. USAF-AAF (assigned or attached) - April 23-26, 1997, Las Vegas, NV. Contact John H. Stephens, 3910 E. Palfrey St., San Antonio, TX 78223.

PILOT CLASS 46C/47A - March 23, 1997, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Vic Cerelli, phone (941) 598-4803.

44TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON (SAC) Bossier City, LA April 18-20, 1997. Contact: Marvin Schavreim, 1809 Dennis St. Bossier City, LA 71112. (318) 741-3948

SEQUOIA, VISALIA, & RANKIN FIELDS, USAF CADETS, INSTRUCTORS, PERSONNEL Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA May 30-June 1, 1997. Contact: Bill Borrego, 17182 Barcelona Ln. Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (714) 842-2042

MARINES

BASIC CLASS 6-67 (VN) (1967) - 1997, Quantico, Virginia. Contact Jim Gard, phone (405) 321-5675 or (405) 364-2735.

MARINE DETACHMENT, USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128 (1947-53 Era) - May 9-11, 1997, Boston, Massachusetts. Contact Joe Connell, phone (508) 692-8284.

MARINE NIGHT FTR & AW SQDNS (WWII/KOREA) - May 14-18, 1997, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Tony Cangello, phone (302) 738-0878.

MOJAVE DESERT MARINE CORP ASSOC. - April 21-24, 1997, Pensacola, Florida. Contact Mojave Desert Marine Corps Assoc., Harold L. Knudsen, HCO-5, Box 186-A, Park Rapids, MN 56470.

ALL SERVICES

AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR - April 28-May 4, 1997, Kissimmee, Florida. Contact Charles L. Pruitt, phone (423) 337-5190.

IWO JIMA SURVIVORS OF TEXAS - February 20-25, 1997, Irving, Texas. Contact Cy Young, phone (817) 845-3261 or (817) 872-1342.

LIBERATOR & PRIVATEER (PB4Y) ALL SQUADRONS - 1997. Contact Ronald R. Sathre, phone (510) 487-7249, (408) 492-2538 or (510) 487-7249.

USCGC BURTON ISLAND-OPERATION DEEP FREEZE SUPPORT SHIP - May 1997. Contact Greg Reel, phone (816) 454-7991.

Inquiries...

This column is for inquiries submitted by DAV members and other interested persons attempting to locate persons to substantiate a claim for service-connected injuries. Your request will be processed through various means in an effort to find the person you are attempting to locate. Requests to locate persons will be published if all other attempts have failed. Thank you ... the Editors.

To Substantiate Claims...

658TH FAN (Attached to the Third Army in France and Germany - 1944-45) - Ernest L. Cunningham, Jr., 82 Depot Road, Apt. 1, Falmouth, ME 04105-1240 needs to hear from anyone to verify his claim.

USS WILLIAMSON (DE-370) February/March 1945 - E. T. Tarpley, Route 1 Box 98, Ivanhoe, TX 75447, phone (903) 664-2350 needs to hear from anyone who may remember the accident he had in the fireroom (WT 1C) at Iwo Jima which resulted in a skull fracture, especially the pharmacist mate who tended his wound.

Gulf Chemical Weapons

(Continued from page 30)

who did their patriotic duty only to have their health ruined by serious illnesses that medical and scientific experts can't account for are suffering because of it."

Since June the figure on possible exposures from the destruction of Kamisiyah has grown steadily, and officials have told the DAV that the DoD will be looking for indications that chemical weapons were stored at other Iraqi munitions dumps.

Of immediate concern, the DoD said, is to find out as much as possible about what happened at Kamisiyah and determine if health problems among soldiers in the area could be linked to low-level exposure to nerve gas. Funding for DoD research initiatives associated with this effort has more than doubled from \$12 million to \$27 million.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Defense Department have been working on a computer model using weather patterns and other factors to estimate the drift of the chemical cloud from Kamisiyah that could greatly expand possible exposures. Information on the dispersion of chemical warfare agents was to have been released in October 1996, but was delayed until a panel of outside experts, including meteorologists and other scientists, could verify its accuracy.

According to some informed estimates, more than 100,000 Americans may have been exposed to chemical warfare agents.

In the meantime, the VA and the DoD have joined forces to track down more than 20,000 men and women who, based on the military's "best guess," could have been exposed to nerve gas from Kamisiyah. Those who were involved in the demolition of Kamisiyah are urged to call the DoD Persian Gulf Incident Hotline, 1-800-472-6719, or the VA's Persian Gulf Registry, 1-800-749-8387. For further information about veterans' benefits and services, contact the nearest DAV National Service Office for assistance. ■