

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. entire folder	[Re: candidates for advisory committee, and medical records for gulf war veterans] (147 pages)	ca. 1995	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Vermeer
OA/Box Number: 20034

FOLDER TITLE:

Gulf War Syndrome - Gulf War Illness

2013-0534-S

ry1549

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**Files of Melanne Verveer,
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Box 18: Files**

Archived from OEOB 100 by Eric Woodard on Dec. 22, 2000

Gulf War Syndrome
- Gulf War Illnesses

Gulf War Syndrome
- Gulf War Illnesses

Gulf War Syndrome
- Gulf War Illnesses

Gulf War II
- Gulf War Illnesses

Gulf War

Gulf War II

Gulf War II

Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Syndrome II
- Gulf War Illnesses

Gulf War Syndrome II
- Gulf War Illnesses

Gulf War

Gun Control

Sheldon Hackney

Hadassah

Hague

Haiti

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS **20034**
NARA 17238

Hamburg Correspondence

GULF WAR SYNDROME

GULF WAR ILLNESSES

FILE TO COPY
PRESERVATION

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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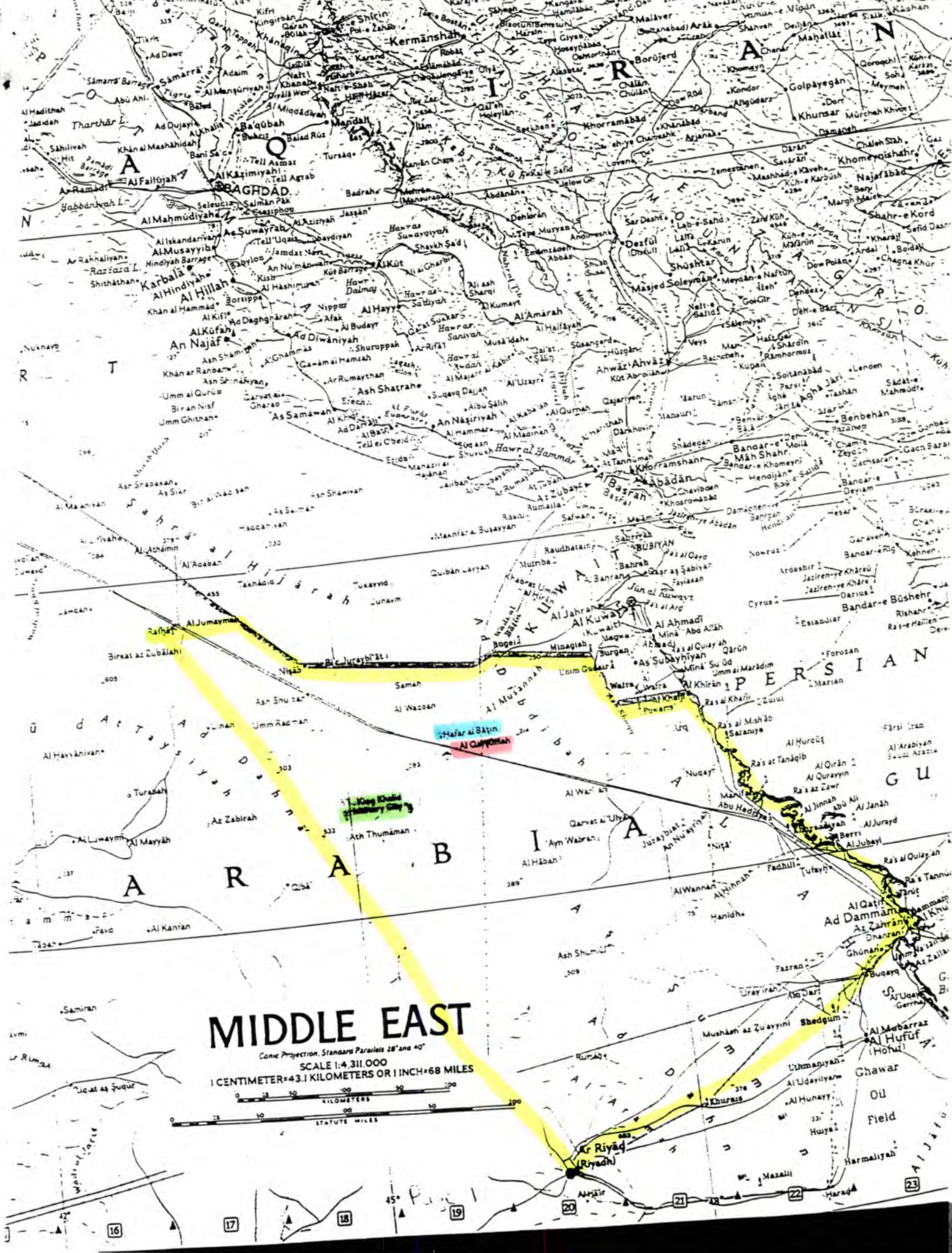
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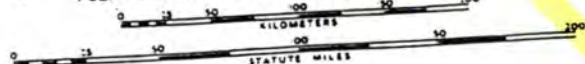
MEDICAL

RECORDS



MIDDLE EAST

Conic Projection, Standard Parallels 28° and 40°
SCALE 1:4,311,000
1 CENTIMETER=43.1 KILOMETERS OR 1 INCH=68 MILES



Pentagon admits chemicals found on gulf battlefield

Defense Secretary Les Aspin says small amounts of toxins were found three times in the war's opening days

By MARK THOMPSON
Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that chemical agents were detected during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, but said the trace amounts found could not be blamed for the ailments afflicting many veterans.

After four months of study, Defense Secretary Les Aspin said the Pentagon agreed with a Czech report that small amounts of chemical toxins — mustard gas and Sarin, a nerve agent — were found three times in the war's opening days.

The Pentagon acknowledgement comes after more than two years of military denials that such toxins were found on the battlefield.

The Czechs, who served alongside U.S. forces in the war, said the chemicals probably contaminated the area after allied forces bombed Iraqi weapons depots.

But Aspin disagreed, saying winds in the area should have blown any airborne agents away from the allied troops. "What we have here is another mystery," he said. "If the detections were valid, we don't know where the agent came from."

Aspin said there is no evidence that either the Iraqis or allied forces used chemical weapons during the conflict, contrary to the reports of some U.S. veterans who believe they were attacked by Iraqi missiles with chemically laden warheads.

Members of two U.S. units stationed near the Iraq-Kuwait border have said that in the first days of the war, they encountered an eye-burning, ammonia-smelling cloud that triggered alarm sirens after an Iraqi missile landed nearby. Since the war, nearly 200 of the 825 veterans in those units have become ill.

The defense secretary denied claims by some ill veterans that the Pentagon is hiding information linking their sickness to chemical agents. "You now know everything that the Pentagon knows," he told reporters.

The Pentagon is setting up a panel of outside experts — to be headed by Nobel prize winner Joshua Leder-



Defense Secretary Les Aspin discusses possible chemical warfare during the Persian Gulf War at a news conference Wednesday in the Pentagon.

berg of New York's Rockefeller University — to investigate the matter.

Last week, the Department of Veterans Affairs appointed a medical team to try to determine what's causing the veterans' illnesses.

Some on Capitol Hill remained dissatisfied with the Pentagon's assessment.

"We still don't know where these substances came from," said Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., chairman of the

House Veterans Affairs Committee's oversight subcommittee. "We've waited too long and received no information while thousands of veterans are suffering without knowing what ails them."

Many of the 641,000 U.S. veterans of the Gulf War have complained of a variety of illnesses including rashes, memory loss, aching muscles and joints, intestinal and heart disorders, fatigue and psychiatric problems.

"Nerve agents don't cause rash," said Defense Undersecretary John Deutch, a former MIT chemistry professor who ran the Pentagon investigation. "They cause you to die very promptly."

Army Maj. Gen. Ronald Blanck said the number of veterans afflicted with what's being called "Gulf War syndrome" range from "the hundreds to low thousands." A recent congressional report estimated that up to 4,000 vets may suffer from the syndrome.

Pentagon officials said that the illnesses may have been caused by a variety of toxins stemming from the war, including fumes released when huge petrochemical and fertilizer plants in the region were destroyed. "The

variety of things they could have been exposed to is great," Blanck said.

Pentagon officials continued to say that U.S. forces had not found any evidence of such toxins on their own.

But the chemical warfare officer of a U.S. Marine unit disputed that contention, saying that his outfit detected chemical agents on three occasions.

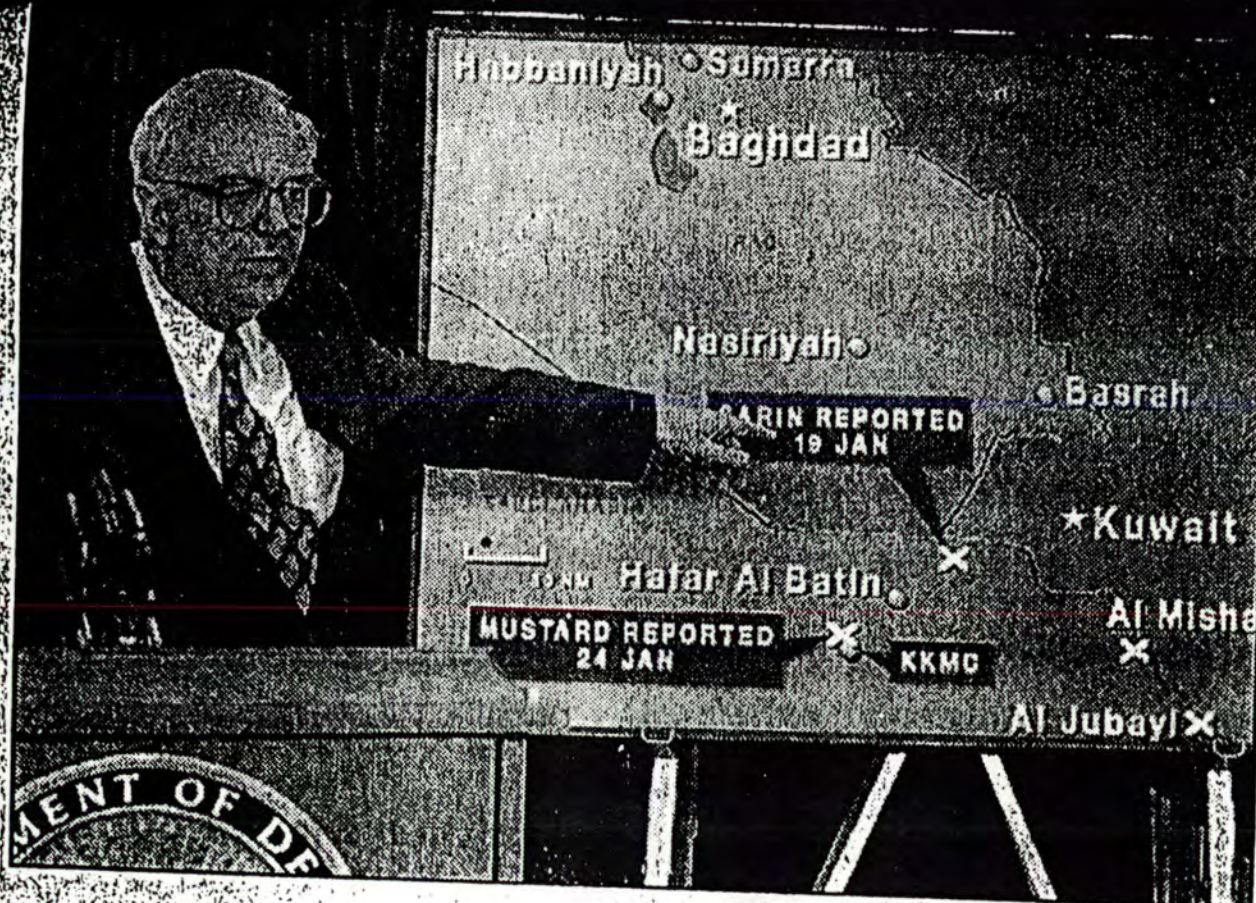
"I'm not following the party line, and the truth doesn't always win," said Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Cottrell, who was in charge of detecting chemical agents for the Marines' Task Force Ripper as it pressed north from Saudi Arabia to liberate Kuwait City. "But I have great respect for young Marines, and they deserve the truth."

He said he first told what he knew of the chemical incidents a month ago when queried by an ill veteran from his unit. No Pentagon officials have ever discussed the topic with him, he said.

Cottrell, a 16-year Marine veteran from Jackson, Mich., said that he also believes the agents probably were spewed into the air by allied bombing of Iraqi weapons depots.

NATIONAL

THE OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1993



Defense Secretary Les Aspin discusses possible chemical warfare during the Persian Gulf War at a news conference Wednesday in the Pentagon.

JOE MARQUETTE/Associated Press

8 NOV 90 VII CORPS & 207 MI BDE alerted for deployment to Saudi Arabia (Desert Shield).
 12 NOV 90 Bde CDR Reconnaissance.
 16 NOV 90 2MI Bn CDR & Bde S3 Recon & Search for an airfield for 2MI.
 22 NOV 90 Vehicles loaded on barges at Mannheim for shipment to ports at Bremerhaven, GE & Rotterdam, NL.
 6-13 DEC 90 ADV Party departs Germany.
 16-23 DEC 90 Main body departs Germany.
 22 DEC 90 Qaysumah Airfield confirmed as 2MI Bn airfield for intelligence collection operations.
 27 DEC 90 ADV party & quartering party departs to establish Base Camp Pegasus (38RPR029940).
 29 DEC-6 JAN 91 Main body arrives at Base Camp Pegasus.
 3 JAN 91 GSM arrives Qaysumah airfield.
 5 JAN 91 First SLAR mission flown from Qaysumah.
 7 JAN 91 GSM delivered to 2ACR & Corps Main.
 13 JAN 91 2MI moves to KKMC anticipating hostile action against Qaysumah.
 20 JAN 91 2MI (-) jumps from Riyadh to Qaysumah.
 22 JAN 91 2MI jumps from KKMC to Qaysumah.
 26 JAN 91 Coordination with 2ACR & 1ID begin for LRS teams insertion.
 26 JAN 91 LRS teams inserted.
 27 JAN 91 UAV ADV party arrives KKMC.