

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	Schedule for Hillary Rodham Clinton [partial] (1 page)	04/15/1993	b(6)
002. bio	re: Bruce Thiesen POB [partial] (1 page)	02/10/1994	b(6)
003. bio	re: Robert Spanogle POB [partial] (1 page)	02/10/1994	b(6)
004. memo	re: Visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center [partial. Pages 2-3 in full] (4 pages)	02/21/1995	b(6)
005. list	re: Walter Reed Medical Center patients (1 page)	02/22/1995	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC Gulf War Illnesses Binder [1]

2013-0534-S

rc1756

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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.

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

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]
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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 6: Issue Binders**

Archived from OEOB 100 by Eric Woodard on Dec. 4, 2000

Gulf War Syndrome #1

- Gulf War Syndrome

Foster Care & Adoption – Speeches & Columns

- Foster Care

Foster Care & Adoption – Speeches & Columns #2

- Foster Care

Foster Care & Adoption, 1992 – 1997

- Foster Care

Foster Care & Adoption, 1997 – 2000

- Foster Care

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

18539

NARA 15759

Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States

Gulf War Illnesses



Archive Binder

FLOTUS
Archive

Gulf War Illnesses



GULF WAR ILLNESSES

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Clinton
From: Diana Zuckerman
Re: Wednesday Meeting with V.A. on Gulf War Illnesses
Date: January 24, 1995

*2/2 Hotline
Dr. Gandy - Research; 2/13 Review; JAMM review;*

This memo will provide background information for your 1 p.m. meeting with V.A. officials. They include Dr. Ken Kizer, who is the new Under Secretary for Health; Kathy Jurado, who is Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs; Ed Scott, the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs; Dr. Robert Roswell, chief of staff at the Birmingham V.A. Medical Center (and Executive Director of the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board), who appeared on Nightline last month; and Dr. Frances Murphy, a doctor who is director of the V.A. environmental agents service.

Melanne may have mentioned to you that the V.A. is very angry at Jay Rockefeller because he has been critical of the V.A. response to Gulf War illnesses, and because he was not supportive of their proposed legislation regarding compensation for veterans with undiagnosed illnesses (Jay argued that V.A. already had the authority and shouldn't wait for legislation.) For example, Dr. Murphy says that V.A. is doing a great job and veterans are being well taken care of, and she resents Congressional criticism. Some of that anger has apparently been directed at me, although nobody at V.A. has openly expressed it to me. Melanne suggests that I say as little as possible at this meeting.

The goals of this meeting are similar to those of the DoD meeting on Monday:

1. Let them know that you and the President have received letters and personal appeals to "do something" to help Gulf War veterans, and that many veterans believe that the V.A. and DoD do not take their illnesses seriously.

34,000 on Register will receive letter re process;

2. Ask what progress has been made to respond to legislation that was passed late last year. They will probably focus on the bill that allows V.A. to provide compensation to Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. There are other provisions in the same bill that V.A. is less enthusiastic about, that Sen. Rockefeller initiated in response to veterans' complaints. These will be described in detail later in this memo.

3. Convey your concern that the message that "We care" is heard by veterans and the media, and that V.A. move quickly to implement new legislation that will show that

we really do care. Share your concern that the V.A. person who talks to the media be capable of getting that message across. [I thought you did a great job on that at the DoD meeting.]

Background Information

Most of the mail you have received on Gulf War illnesses are from veterans who complain about treatment in V.A. hospitals. Despite year old legislation that requires V.A. to provide free medical care to Gulf War veterans whose illnesses **may be** related to military service (it doesn't have to be proven), many of the 171 V.A. medical centers are not doing a good job. Many veterans complain that they are sent to the psychiatric ward, and then usually sent back to an internist who says "I don't know what's wrong with you, I can't help you."

PTSD, Stress, and Gulf War Syndrome. One of the controversies has been the extent to which Gulf War Syndrome is caused by stress. Veterans frequently complain that V.A. doctors think their illnesses are "all in [my] head."

Some DoD and VA doctors have suggested that Gulf War Syndrome is caused by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, the physical complaints of Gulf War Syndrome are very different from the symptoms of PTSD. For example, PTSD is characterized by flashbacks and anxiety symptoms, whereas Gulf War syndrome is usually characterized by extreme fatigue, rashes, hair loss, joint pain, and gastro-intestinal problems.

However, it is certainly possible that Gulf War Syndrome is stress-related. For example, it may be that the fear of chemical weapons and the stress of war made US troops more vulnerable to toxic exposures. However, if that is true, they still have physical illnesses that need to be treated as such.

Dr. Roswell believes that Gulf War Syndrome is stress-related. Although veterans agree that they are under a lot of stress, they believe the symptoms cause the stress, not the other way around.

V.A. is conducting some research on the relationship between stress, PTSD, and Gulf War symptoms.

Reproductive Problems. By law, V.A. can only provide medical tests and treatment to veterans, not their spouses or children. Many veterans complain that their spouses and children have no access to health care, even if their illnesses seem to be related to the veteran's military service. This is especially likely if the veteran and spouse are too sick to work and therefore have no health insurance.

In response to those complaints, Sen. Rockefeller and Sonny Montgomery initiated several legislative provisions that were signed into law in November. The provisions include:

1. V.A. must implement a 2-year pilot project to include wives and children on the V.A. Gulf War Health Registry starting in FY 1995. Currently, only veterans are included in the Registry. The Registry is intended as a source of information about the health of Gulf War veterans; inclusion is voluntary. Veterans who want to be on the Registry take a battery of tests. The V.A. now has to develop a battery of tests for spouses and children, and decide how to also include information about miscarriages, stillbirths, and birth defects in the Registry. Congress authorized \$2 million for this pilot project. The testing will not be done at V.A. facilities, but V.A. facilities will pay the costs.

Dr. Fran Murphy, who will be at the meeting, tried to sabotage this provision by providing outrageous estimates of the costs of including spouses and children in the Registry. V.A. really doesn't want to get involved in any medical care for dependents. We therefore need to be concerned that V.A. will not do a good job on this.

2. V.A. must develop a standard protocol of how to evaluate Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses, and this protocol must be made available at as many of the 171 V.A. medical centers as possible. (V.A.'s original plan was to do it at a handful of centers). Currently, the protocols used do not include reproductive testing and we have heard that V.A. doctors have refused to test semen samples despite reports that the semen causes a burning sensation, and despite concerns about birth defects. **The new law requires that the protocol must include tests of reproductive function, such as analysis of seminal fluid.**

3. V.A. is also authorized (but not required) to conduct a survey and epidemiological research on Gulf War Syndrome, but any such research should not be redundant with the research that DoD is required to support. Personally, I am more confident in the DoD grants to independent researchers, so I would not push V.A. to do this research (it was Rep. Montgomery's provision, and he didn't know about the DoD bill.)

4. V.A. now has the authority to provide compensation to Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. Thousands of such veterans have already been denied claims, and it is not clear what V.A. will do to notify them that the criteria have been eased and they may be eligible for compensation under the new regulations (not yet finalized). Changing this law is very important, and Jesse Brown clearly wanted to do this, but the real test will be how many veterans actually receive compensation under the new rules.

Gulf War Illnesses

Index

Primary Documents

April 15, 1993	Meeting with Veterans Service Organization Representatives and Veterans Affairs (VA) Officials
February 15, 1994	Speech to American Legion's Legislative Rally on Clinton Health Care Reform
January 25, 1995	Meeting with Veterans Affairs on Gulf War Illnesses
February 3, 1995	Meeting with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
February 16, 1995	Visit to the District of Columbia VA Hospital
February 21, 1995	Internal meeting regarding Gulf War Syndrome Commission
February 22, 1995	Visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center
August 14, 1995	First Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
January 7, 1997	Announcement of the Final Report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
January 7, 1997	'Talking it Over' column on Gulf War Illnesses

Supplemental Texts

Legislation/Policy

Executive Order 13034, Extension of Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, January 30, 1997

H.R. 4542, Persian Gulf War Veterans Health and Services Enhancement Act, June 8, 1994

H.R. 5193, Veterans Health Care Act of 1992,

H.R. 4386, Veterans' Persian Gulf War Benefits Act, August 4, 1994

Reports/Research

Presidential Review Directive on Troop Health background and status statement, Office of Science and Technology Policy

Executive Summary, The Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board Action Plan with Respect to the Findings and Recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Final Report

Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Programs for Gulf War Veterans, April 1998

Department of Defense, DoD Gulf War Illnesses Initiatives, November 1996

Department of Health and Human Services, Testimony on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses by Drue H. Barrett, Ph.D.

Final Report, The Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board Action Plan, The Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses (PAC)

Annual Report to Congress –1998, Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board – Research Working Group, June 1999

Health: Gulf War Illness

Objective:

To respond to the health concerns of Gulf War Veterans.

Accomplishments:

- Special Committee report release and Committee completion (10/97)
- ✓ • Formal presentation of Committee final report to the President (1/7/97) and announcement of continuation of the Committee
- ✓ • Testimony to the first meeting of Committee (8/14/95)
- Instrumental in establishing the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses, including memorandum to the President (2/10/95)
- Internal and interagency meetings and discussions (1994-95)/ Report to President on Gulf War health issues
- Visits to VA and DOD hospitals, listening to veterans concerns (1994)
- ✓ • Column: Special Committee Report (1/7/97)

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**04/15/93: MEETING W/
VSO AND VA OFFICIALS**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1993
DRAFT: FINAL

PREV RON

The White House

9:00 am-

9:20 am

RADIO CONFERENCE CALL
HRC's Office

Contact: Lisa Caputo
456-2856

NOTE: Lisa Caputo will meet HRC in her office.

9:25 am-

9:30 am

PRIVATE MEETING W/ Sec. Jesse Brown
Room 100-Maggie Williams's Office

9:30 am-

10:00 am

PRE-BRIEFING FOR VA MEETING
Room 100-Conference Room
OEOB

Participants:

- Sec. Jesse Brown
- Chris Jennings
- Cong. Montgomery
- Victor Raymond, Assist. Sec. for Policy and Planning
- Sen. Rockefeller
- Tamera Stanton, Sen. Rockefeller's Legislative Director
- Melanne Vermeer

10:00 am-

11:00 am

VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING
Vice President's Ceremonial Office
Room 272-OEOB
CLOSED PRESS

NOTE: There will be a WH Photographer and 2 photographers from Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office.

Format: Photo-Op upon arrival. Sec. Jesse Brown to intro. HRC and members of organizations. HRC to make brief remarks. Statements by veterans groups. Q & A.

Participants: Approx. 20 people to attend.
[See briefing for more info.]

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SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1993
PAGE 2

Staff Contact: Chris Jennings
456-2645

Melanne Verveer
456-6266

Contact: Victor Raymond, Assist. Sec. for
Policy and Planning
523-1802

11:30 am-
11:45 am

**PRIVATE MEETING W/ Maggie Williams and Patti
Solis
Maggie Williams's Office**

11:45 am-
12:00 pm

**PRIVATE MEETING W/ Maggie Williams
Maggie Williams's Office**

12:00 pm

(b)(6)

[001]

1:00 pm-
2:00 pm

**SATELLITE FEEDS
459 OEOB**

1:00 pm-
1:05 pm

KCNC/NBC/Denver

1:05 pm-
1:10 pm

KUSA/ABC/Denver

1:10 pm-
1:15 pm

KMGH/CBS/Denver

1:15 pm-
1:20 pm

KFBB/ABC/Grt Falls

1:20 pm-
1:25 pm

KULR/NBC/Billings

1:25 pm-
1:30 pm

SAFETY WINDOW

1:30 pm-
1:35 pm

KRTV/CBS/Grt Falls

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1993
PAGE 3

1:35 pm-
1:40 pm KETV/ABC/Omaha

1:40 pm-
1:45 pm KECI/NBC/Missoula

1:45 pm-
1:50 pm KMTV/CBS/Omaha

1:50 pm-
2:00 pm SAFETY WINDOW

2:15 pm-
3:00 pm **CONGRESSIONAL SPOUSES TEA**
State Dining Room
CLOSED PRESS

Format: HRC & MEG enter together. HRC to welcome audience and acknowledge MEG and Doris Matsui. HRC to make brief remarks. MEG to make brief remarks. HRC/MEG greet spouses as they go through receiving line.

NOTE: WH photographer to take pictures as HRC & MEG greet each guest.

Participants: 110 Democratic spouses from the House and Senate. [See briefing for more info.]

Contact: Doris Matsui, Public Liaison
456-2930

Staff Contact: Ann Stock
456-7136

3:30 pm-
4:00 pm **BERNIE MYERS TEA**
Yellow Oval Room, 2nd Floor
CLOSED PRESS

Format: HRC to make brief remarks. Meet and greet.

Participants: Approx. 10 people to attend.

Staff Contact: Ann Stock
456-7136

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1993
PAGE 4

4:15 pm-
6:00 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
Roosevelt Room

Staff Contact: Maggie Williams
456-1660

RON

The White House

April 14, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: Kim Tilley ~~K~~
SUBJECT: Briefings for Thursday, April 15th

Attached is the following information for tomorrow's events:

Meeting w/ Veterans Service Organization Representatives and VA Officials Briefing

- Participants List
- List of Probable Positions of Veterans Service Organization About VA's Role in National Health Care Reform
- Argument in Favor of the VA as a Choice for Health Care

Democratic Congressional Spouses Tea Briefing

- Participants List

April 14, 1993

MEETING WITH VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

DATE: April 15, 1993
LOCATION: OEOB/Maggie's Office
TIME: 9:25 a.m. (w/ Sec. Brown)
9:30 a.m. (pre-meeting briefing)
10:00 a.m. (Veterans meeting)
FROM: Kim Tilley

I. PURPOSE

This meeting was scheduled in response to a suggestion by Veterans Administration officials to have more outreach into the community regarding the Administration's health care reform plan.

II. BACKGROUND

The largest veterans service organizations will be present at this meeting. The goal of this meeting is to demonstrate a familiarity with veterans health care concerns (i.e. they're in a special category and need to be treated accordingly) and an understanding of the veterans desire to be a resource and to work closely with the Administration in developing a plan responsive to their needs.

Senator Rockefeller's office and Secretary Brown had specific points they recommended be kept in mind for the meeting. Secretary Brown believes the veterans groups need assurances that:

- 1) VA will remain an independent system as a participant in the reformed national system;
- 2) Service-connected veterans will continue to have their needs addressed, especially in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, spinal cord injury treatment and rehabilitation medicine;
- 3) Low income veterans will continue to have their needs addressed;
- 4) Other higher income veterans will be able to "buy in" to the system with their private insurance, their Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperatives (HIPC), medicare eligibility, or their own dollars, that is, that veterans can choose VA;

5) Secretary Brown also believes there is no need to decide right now about non-veterans in system. If, in the future, there is excess capacity, then dependents of veterans can be discussed.

Senator Rockefeller's office believes it is very important to the veterans groups that they not be surprised by the health care reform package when it's introduced. They recommend you make clear during the meeting that there will be final consultation before the package's unveiling.

His staff also mentioned that, as the targeted introduction date nears, Senator Rockefeller wants to meet with you to discuss Congressional strategy. He may bring this up at some point during the meeting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Participant list follows.

IV. PRESS PLAN

WH photographer
Veterans trade press photographers

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- o Private meeting w/ Secretary Brown (no staff);
- o Pre-briefing w/ Secretary Brown, Senator Rockefeller, Rep. Montgomery, Ira, Melanne, Chris J., Victor Raymond, Tamara Stanton;
- o Photo-op w/ veterans representatives;
- o During the full meeting, Sec. Brown introduces members of organizations and HRC;
- o HRC remarks;
- o Statement of views by veterans groups (5 minutes each);
- o Q&A

IV. REMARKS

It was recommended your statement contain the following:

- o National health reform and health care needs of country;
- o Clinton Administration's interest in veterans, particularly nation's obligation to service connected veterans;
- o Clinton Administration's interest in making VA a real part of national reform; want to learn what veterans groups think about general and veteran health care, especially their views about VA being a player in reform package in light of such changes as downsizing of the military, etc.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

Veterans Organizations

Roger A. Munson, National Commander
American Legion

John Summer, Jr.
American Legion

Joseph Zengerle, National Commander
Disabled American Veterans

Charles Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant
Disabled American Veterans

Robert L. Jones, National Executive Director
AMVETS

Richard Johnson, National President
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gordon Mansfield, Acting Executive Director
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Paul S. Egan, Executive Director
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Larry W. Rivers, Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Jesse Brown

Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober

Chief of Staff Gabby Hartnett

Victor Raymond, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning

Oliver Meadows (a member of the Clinton/Gore VA Transition team; former National Commander of DAV; 25 year staff director of House Veterans Affairs Committee; has had several personal talks with Senator Rockefeller.)

Congressional

Senator Jay Rockefeller

James R. Gottlieb
Staff Director, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

Tamara Stanton, Legislative Director for Senator Rockefeller

Congressman Sonny Montgomery

Mack G. Fleming
Chief Counsel and Staff Director
House Veterans Affairs Committee

(Congressman Rowland is out of town.)

**PROBABLE POSITIONS OF VETERANS SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT VA'S ROLE IN NATIONAL HEALTH
CARE REFORM**

Disabled American Veterans--Protection of benefits, including current health care services, for Service Connected veterans.

Paralyzed Veterans of America-- Accessibility to special services such as Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation Medicine for all veterans (not just Service Connected veterans).

American Legion--Accessibility for higher income veterans so they can choose or "buy in" to VA health care using private insurance (HIPC resources), Medicare, out-of pocket charges, etc.

Veterans of Foreign Wars--Give all veterans, regardless of income or service connection to VA health care services at no charge. Also has "hot point" of opposition to non veterans being treated in VA facilities.

American Veterans of W.W.II, Korea and Vietnam (AmVets)--Position similar to American Legion and VFW.

Vietnam Veterans of America--Views tend to differ sharply from other VSOs but supports care primarily for Service Connected veterans and specialized care accessibility for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Note: Senator Rockefeller has questions about Medicare reimbursement going to VA. Secretary Shalala understands that the idea is for Medicare reimbursement to go to VA for high income veterans who choose VA care under a reformed national system.

THE VA AS A CHOICE FOR HEALTH CARE

- The VA as an Accountable Health Plan (AHP) competing with other AHPs in a Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperative (HIPC) could have the following characteristics:

Veterans

- Service Connected veterans could choose VA as their AHP. This choice would mean they would get the same health services they get now (nothing taken away).
- Non Service Connected poor veterans could also choose VA as their AHP and likewise have nothing taken away.
- Non Service Connected higher income veterans could choose VA as their AHP and would bring whatever resources they have (e.g. employer contributions to their coverage) with them.

Non veterans

- For veterans who choose to receive their care from VA as an AHP, their families might receive care by VA acting as a purchaser of care.
- Other federal beneficiaries such as Department of Defense or Indian Health Service users might also receive their care from VA as AHP if resources were available after meeting the needs of all enrolled veterans.

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**02/15/94: SPEECH TO
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994
FINAL

Scheduling Desk: Julie Hopper
202-456-7561 office
202-456-2317 fax
202-544-4223 home
1-800-528-7528 WECA#4096

PREV RON The White House

10:35 am **DEPART** The White House South Portico
EN ROUTE The Sheraton Washington Hotel
[Drive Time: 15 minutes]
Travelling Staff:
Kelly Craighead
Lisa Caputo
Melanne Verveer
WH Photographer

10:50 am **ARRIVE** The Sheraton Washington Hotel
2660 Woodley Rd., NW

NOTE: Sec. Jesse Brown, Veterans Affairs will ride to the event with HRC.

NOTE: Kara McGuire will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters: Albert Bruce Thiesen; Natl Commander
Helen Holcomb; Pres. of the Auxiliary
Claude Carpenter; Natl Exec. Comm. from Arkansas

10:55 am - **OFFICIAL PHOTO** w/American Legion Leadership
11:00 am Hallway, Beside the Delaware Room
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 11 expected to attend

11:00 am - **AMERICAN LEGION EVENT**
12:00 pm Sheraton Washington Ballroom
Holding Room: Backstage
Phone: 202/328-2000
Fax: 202/234-0015
Attire: Business
OPEN PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 1500 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994
PAGE 2

FORMAT: Expanded format in briefing book

- Bruce Thiesen, Natl Commander of the American Legion intros Sec. Jesse Brown
- Sec. Jesse Brown gives brief remarks
- Bruce Thiesen, intros HRC
- HRC delivers remarks
- Bruce Thiesen gives closing remarks
- Chairman Pessio adjourns session
- Exit dias

Event Contact: John Sommer 861-2711
h-703/560-7516

12:00 pm DEPART The Sheraton Washington Hotel
EN ROUTE The White House
[Drive Time: 15 minutes]

12:15 pm ARRIVE The White House South Portico

12:25 pm GREET Mrs. Nazarbayev in the Diplomatic Reception Room

12:30 pm - TEA w/Mrs. Sarah Nazarbayev
1:00 pm Yellow Oval Room
CLOSED-PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:

- HRC
- Mrs. Sarah Nazarbayev
- Dariga Nazarbayev, daughter of Mrs. Nazarbayev
- Ms. Paula Feeny, wife of U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan
- Mrs. Gulistan Khamzaev, wife of ranking official at Kazakhstan Embassy in U.S.
- Akmaral Arystanbekova, Her Excellency & Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the U.S.
- Melanne Verveer

FORMAT:

- HRC will greet Mrs. Nazarbayev at the Diplomatic Reception Room Entrance at 12:25 pm.
- Proceed to the Yellow Oval Room

Staff Contact: Christine Hathaway-Protocol
647-4073

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994
PAGE 3

1:00 pm - PVT MTG w/Maggie Williams & Patti Solis
1:15 pm

1:15 pm - PVT MTG w/Maggie Williams
1:30 pm

1:30 pm- LUNCH
2:00 pm

2:35 pm DEPART The White House South Portico
EN ROUTE The Washington Hilton & Towers
[Drive Time: 8 minutes]
Travelling Staff:
-Kelly Craighead
-Lisa Caputo
-Melanne Verveer
-WH Photographer

2:42 pm ARRIVE The Washington Hilton Hotel
1919 Connecticut Ave, NW

NOTE: Kara McGuire will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters: Karen Ignagni; GHAA President
Pamela Mittelstadt; Dir. of Medical Affairs

2:45 pm - OFFICIAL PHOTO/MEET & GREET
3:00 pm w/GHAA Board of Directors
Cabinet Room
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 20 expected to attend
[See briefing book for complete list]

3:00 pm - 17TH ANNUAL HMO MANAGED CARE POLICY CONFERENCE
4:00 pm Health Care Reform: The Time is Now
International Ballroom
Holding Room: VIP Room
Phone: 202/483-3000
Fax: 202/265-8221
Attire: Business
OPEN PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 1700 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994
PAGE 4

FORMAT:

- HRC will be escorted into the ballroom by Karen Ignagni GHAA's President & CEO; James Walworth, Past Chairman; George Halberson, Chair Elect; Samuel Havens
- Samuel Havens; Board Chairman & Senior VP of The Prudential Insurance Co. intros HRC
- HRC delivers keynote address to GHAA
- Exit dias

NOTE: NO Q & A.

Event Contact: Mary Prunchak

202/778-3235
202/939-4090

4:05 pm **DEPART** The Washington Hilton Hotel
 EN ROUTE The White House

4:15 pm **ARRIVE** The White House South Portico

4:15 pm - **OFFICE/PHONE TIME**
5:00 pm

7:15 pm **DEPART** The White House South Portico
 EN ROUTE National Press Club
 [Drive Time: 5 minutes]

7:20 pm **ARRIVE** National Press Club
 529 14th Street, NW
 13th Floor

NOTE: Kara McGuire will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters in the Main Lounge:

- Fred Estrada; Chairman, Hispanic Publishing Corporation
- Terry Estrada; wife of Fred Estrada

7:30 pm -
8:00 pm

VISTA CORPORATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Vista Reception Honoring 50 Best Companies for
Hispanic Women
Ballroom
Holding Room: Main Lounge
Phone: 202/662-7500
Fax: 202/879-7512
Attire: Business
OPEN PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994
PAGE 5

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 300 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

FORMAT:

- 7:25 pm - Fred Estrada, Chairman, Hispanic Publishing Corporation intros HRC
- 7:30 pm - HRC delivers brief remarks & accepts special achievement award
- Exit stage, work ropeline ****OPTIONAL****

Staff Contact: Joe Velasquez 456-6257
Event Contact: Randy Belcher-Torres 682-3000

7:45 pm -
7:55 pm

OFFICIAL PHOTO w/Award Recipients & CEO's
Main Lounge Room
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 15 expected to attend
[See briefing book for complete list]

8:00 pm **DEPART** National Press Club
EN ROUTE The White House

8:05 pm **ARRIVE** The White House South Portico

RON The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:

-- Partly cloudy. Minimum temps 25 to 30. Maximum temps 48 to 53. Wind southwest at 5 to 10 knots.

February 14, 1994

SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN LEGION

DATE:	Tuesday, February 15
LOCATION:	Sheraton Washington Hotel
TIME:	
FROM:	Liz Bowyer

I PURPOSE

To speak to the American Legion's Legislative Rally on the Clinton health care reform approach and how it addresses the concerns of veterans.

II BACKGROUND

On April 15th of last year, you met with representatives of the largest veterans service organizations to discuss veterans health care concerns and health care reform. The meeting was scheduled in response to suggestions by VA officials to offer more outreach to the veterans community regarding the health care debate. Roger Munson, former National Commander of the American Legion, and John Sommer, Executive Director of the American Legion, were among those present.

You had a follow-up meeting with these representatives, along with key staff members of the veterans committees, on September 15th to brief them on the contents of the Health Security Act and attempt to solidify their support. John Sommer and John Hanson of the American Legion attended this meeting.

The American Legion Legislative Rally

The Legislative Rally is the only plenary session of the Legion's Mid-Winter Conference held this week, February 13 - 16. The purpose of the Legislative Rally is to update the senior leadership of the American Legion on front-burner issues. (Normally, representatives of the Legion are sent to Capitol Hill after the Rally to lobby members of Congress, but there are not enough Members in town to merit that this year.)

Earlier in the day, Colin Powell and Barbara Mikulski will be presented with the "Distinguished Public Service Award" to acknowledge their work for veterans. Mikulski will be receiving the award for 1994, Powell for 1993. On Wednesday, the WWII cartoonist Bill Mauldin will receive the "National Commanders Public Relations Award".

The American Legion

The American Legion, now in its 75th year, is the largest and fastest-growing veterans' organization in the country, with about 3.1 million members. The average age of Legion members is 62. Membership is dominated by World War II veterans (more than half the members served in that war), and includes veterans of World War I, the Korean War, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Lebanon and Desert Storm. Membership is restricted to men and women who have served the U.S. military during an official period of conflict.

The Legion has more than 15,000 local posts in communities around the country and in six foreign countries.

The American Legion has been a major advocate for America's veterans since 1919, as well as a sponsor of community-based programs for young people. The Legion is dedicated to improving America through volunteerism, and last year its members gave nearly 2.8 million hours in volunteer service to their communities. The Legion donates more blood than any other organization in the country. In 1991-92, Legionnaires donated more than \$27 million to Children and Youth programs. The American Legion is a long-standing sponsor of American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation, and the Boy Scouts.

The primary mission of the Legion, however, is to help veterans and their families. The Legion created the Family Support Network to provide an avenue of communication and assistance between soldiers fighting in the Gulf and their families. Today, the Network assists these veterans in their return to civilian life, particular with employment.

The Legion also drafted a "Desert Storm GI Bill", comprehensive legislation designed to increase education and training benefits for veterans of Desert Storm and ensure that they are on par with the benefits former veterans received for military service. The American Legion was the principal author of the original GI Bill in 1944.

The Legion has sued the government for benefits for disabled veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, and has kept pressure on the government to conduct more studies to examine the relationship between this chemical and various diseases. The organization is also studying unusual medical problems, such as chronic fatigue and sore joints, developed by some Gulf War vets.

The American Legion Auxiliary

Some of the participants at the Legislative Rally are members of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is a seventy-year-old organization of over one million women of all ages who are related to, or are themselves, war veterans. The Auxiliary is most widely known for its distribution of red poppies made for hospitalized

veterans, and is also active in communities around the country dealing with issues like substance abuse, homelessness, environmental protection concerns, crime prevention, disaster prevention and relief and literacy programs.

The American Legion and Health Care Reform

While the Health Security Act answers all of the American Legion's health care concerns, the Legion has not endorsed the plan because it does not want to be tied to the fate of the entire bill. As you know, none of the other proposals even address the veterans health system. A complete briefing on the American Legion's health care concerns from Kathy Jurado follows.

Budget Allocation for Veterans Affairs

The American Legion has expressed dissatisfaction with the appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 1995 budget. However, as Secretary Brown noted in his remarks to the American Legion today, it is important to emphasize that:

The VA was one of only seven cabinet departments to get an increase.

The 1995 budget of \$37.8 billion is an increase of 1.3 billion over this year.

The budget contains \$16.1 billion for medical care, which is a \$500 million increase.

In addition, the Health Security Act provides a Veterans Investment Fund of \$3.3 billion over three years to enable the VA to make the improvements it needs to be competitive.

Veterans Affairs Undersecretary for Health

Many veterans are concerned that an Undersecretary for Health has yet to be named at the Department of Veterans Affairs. A search committee, headed by Herschel Gober and composed of representatives of veterans service organizations, medical schools and medical professionals, had narrowed the field to three candidates last year but all three declined consideration. The search committee is reconvening and hopes to submit a new list by the end of February.

**As you know this is "Health Care Seniors Week". Attached is a ~~set of~~ briefing packet that was distributed to members of the Cabinet and other Administration officials for use at seniors events throughout this week.

III. PARTICIPANTS

HRC

Secretary Jesse Brown

Greeters:

Albert Bruce Theisen, National Commander, American Legion
Helen Dean Holcomb, National President, American Legion Auxilliary
Claude Brewer Carpenter, National Executive Committeewoman,

Official Photos:

Complete list of participants is attached.

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- * HRC arrives with Secretary Brown
- * HRC is greeted by Albert Theisen, Helen Dean Holcomb, and Claude Brewer Carpenter
- * HRC proceeds to Official Photo with American Legion Leadership
- * HRC proceeds to dais
- * Bruce Thiesen introduces Secretary Brown
- * Secretary Brown gives brief remarks
- * Bruce Theisen introduces HRC
- * HRC delivers remarks
- * Bruce Thiesen gives closing remarks
- * Chairman Pesso adjourns session
- * Participants exit dais
- * HRC departs

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks provided by Alexandra Robert.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

Date: 2/14/93

Memo To: Hillary Rodham Clinton

From: Kathy Jurado

Subject: Background on 2/15 Speech to American Legion

In a legislative priorities document, the American Legion stated that while they had not endorsed the Health Security Act,

"The Legion would support health care reform legislation which assures quality, accessible, available and cost-conscious health care for veterans. Such legislation must include some form of eligibility reform and assure that service-connected, poor and special-category veterans receive quality care with cost-sharing requirements. The legislation must open VA hospitals and clinics to all veterans with cost-sharing for those not exempted.

The American Legion wants the VA included in the national health care reform plans. VA should remain an independent provider of care and be allowed to compete in the marketplace for veteran patients. VA should be allowed to collect third-party and Medicare reimbursements and to provide the specialized care which only VA knows how to deliver.

America owes a debt of gratitude to its defenders and must not break its promise to continue to provide health care to them. Entitled veterans should receive care with no cost-sharing. Eligible veterans should receive care at a cost they can afford. VA simply cannot be allowed to go away, it is truly a national asset which must be preserved."

Although the Health Security Act responds positively to all American Legion concerns, it is typical for the Legion to avoid endorsing the plan and continue to shop around. This allows the Legion to remain in the political middle ground on health care reform.

Page Two

What must be brought home to the Legion is that no other health care reform plan, democrat or republican, even mentions the VA or veterans health care. The American Legion has already reached out to the republicans and other health care reform sponsors, but none have committed to include the VA in their health care reform efforts.

The Legion needs to hear that the President's plan was carefully constructed with the help of Secretary Brown and VA involvement at all levels. The President's plan is the best way to ensure the survival of the VA health care system.

Quality health care will be guaranteed under the President's proposal because the VA will be competing for veteran patients with other health care plans. The VA plan will provide the full package of benefits with in-patient and out-patient care.

The President and First Lady are well aware of the American Legion's efforts to reform the VA health care system, and we are happy to report that the Health Security Act incorporates many of the reforms proposed by the Legion.

Most important to the Legion and other veteran service organizations, the Health Security Act gets rid of VA's cumbersome eligibility rules, allowing VA's physicians and nurses to truly practice medicine instead of concerning themselves with how much health care each veteran is entitled.

Urge the American Legion to inform Congress that the President's bill is the only legislation that addresses the concerns of veterans. Legion members should ask their Congressional representatives to support veterans health care by supporting the Health Security Act.

OFFICIAL PHOTO PARTICIPANTS

Albert Bruce Thiesen, National Commander, American Legion
Graetion Elaine Theisen, Wife of the National Commander
Helen Dean Holcomb, National President, American Legion Auxiliary
Harvey Floyd Holcomb, Husband of the National President
Robert William Spanogle, National Adjutant
John Finley Sommer, Jr., Executive Director, D.C. Office
Charles C. Ragsdell, Department Commander, Arkansas
Linda Marie Newsome, Vice President, American Legion Auxiliary
William Donald Jackson, Executive Director, Indianapolis Office
Margaret Sappenfield, National Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary
Claude Brewer Carpenter, National Executive Committeeman, Arkansas

Members of the National Commander's Advisory Committee

Roger Munson, Past National Commander
Dominic Di Francesco, Past National Commander
George Derrick, National Executive Committeeman, Florida
John H. Geiger, Past National Commander
John p. Comer, Past National Commander
Honorable Daniel F. Foley, Past National Commander
Richard Pedro, Department Adjutant, New York
James Wagonsetter, Past National Commander
T. Les Galloway, National Executive Committeeman, Oregon
Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, Past National Vice-Commmander
E. Roy Stone Jr., National Executive Committeeman, South Carolina
Joe E. Matthews, Past National Commander

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PR Newswire

April 15, 1993, Thursday

SECTION: Washington Dateline

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL AND HEALTH/MEDICAL EDITORS

LENGTH: 424 words

HEADLINE: ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES TO KEEP VA MEDICAL SYSTEM IN MEETING WITH AMERICAN LEGION

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, April 15

BODY:

The Clinton administration's plan to overhaul the nation's health-care system will preserve a separate medical system for veterans, the national commander of The American Legion reported.

Roger A. Munson, leader of the 3.1-million member veterans group, said the pledge came in a meeting with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, chairperson of a special White House task force on health-care reform.

"Mrs. Clinton said that veterans deserve the specialized, priority medical care that's provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs," Munson said. "She said that nothing in the overall plan to overhaul the health-care system will take away from the VA."

Munson also discussed the need for reforming the rules that establish eligibility for VA care. A majority of the veterans groups at the meeting agreed. Further discussion on eligibility reform will take place at a future date.

Mrs. Clinton's pledge was believed to be the first commitment by the Clinton administration to maintain an independent network of VA hospitals and clinics as part of its effort to restructure the nation's health-care system.

"The VA was established to provide specialized care to our nation's veterans. It was part of the implied contract that the government made with all people as they went into the armed forces," Munson said.

"We're delighted the administration values the VA and that they're determined to keep it," Munson added. "I was extremely pleased with the personal concern that Mrs. Clinton has shown for the well-being of our veterans. She's a very intelligent,

knowledgeable person, who's addressed herself to the issues very thoroughly."

Munson also said that he volunteered to open up The American Legion's 16,000 local posts to serve as vaccination centers for the administration's proposed effort to inoculate every child in America against preventable childhood diseases.

"Legion posts have traditionally served their communities as places where people gather for the overall good. We're willing to play any part that will ensure that the children of this country receive the care they deserve," Munson said.

Also taking part in Munson's meeting with the special White House task force were the leaders of five other veterans groups, VA Secretary Jesse Brown and the chairmen of the Senate and House veterans affairs committees. CONTACT: Phil Budahn, 202-861-2790 or, after hours, 703-354-4475, or John Sommer, 202-861-2711 or, after hours, 703-560-7516, of The American Legion

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 16, 1993

Remarks
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
The Hon. Jesse Brown

American Legion
Mid-Winter Conference
Comment on
Appearance of the 1st Lady

February 15, 1994
Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, DC

Thank you for inviting me here this morning, to share this important moment with our gracious 1st Lady.

Before she is introduced to you, I first of all must tell you how vitally important it was to have VA deeply involved in the development of the President's Health Security Act.

I and more than 30 other experts from VA participated in the important work done by Mrs. Clinton's national health care reform task force.

It was because of her keen insight about the importance of VA health care to the nation, that VA was able to play this key role.

We are hearing a lot these days about alternatives to the President's plan. I am sure the 1st Lady will talk about that.

But let me, as someone who has worked in veterans affairs for more than 25 years, tell you how I view what is at stake for veterans.

First, a central fact: the President's plan is the only proposal that even mentions VA.

And beyond that, the plan would strongly sustain an independent system for veterans, with a number of new funding streams, to include a \$3.3 billion investment fund.

Why is that important?

There are those who say -- and may even believe -- that just because VA is left out of other reform proposals, it does not mean VA will be forgotten.

You need only look to our neighbors to the north to figure out what happens when no provisions are made for veterans.

Canada used to have a veterans health care system. Now it does not.

The reason is that, when Canada reformed its health care system, no role was specified for their veterans hospitals.

Veterans simply went elsewhere. And Canada's veterans hospitals gradually disappeared.

My friends, that is exactly what will happen here, unless a VA role is spelled out, as it is in the President's plan.

Unless VA is given an opportunity to thrive and flourish under health care reform, it will wither and die away.

As I see it, there is no second chance. Once this nation opens up universal access to all citizens, we will lose the VA as we know it today.

And with it:

- We will lose 50 years of experience in diagnosing and treating health problems unique to veterans;**
- We will lose the nation's foremost expertise in prosthetics, sensory aids and spinal cord injury.**
- We will lose the special attention we fought so hard to get for former POWs;**

- And we will lose the treatment and the monitoring of problems related to Agent Orange, PTSD, radiation and service in the Persian Gulf war.

We, as leaders in the veterans community, know how important these things are. We must reject the plans that do not incorporate the VA system.

Years from now, America's veterans will look back on these times as the most crucial moments in the history of veterans affairs.

The 1st Lady knows the importance of including the VA mission in health care reform, and looking out for the special needs of veterans.

That is why she is here today, to brief you on the Health Security Act -- so that, when you meet with your congressional delegations this afternoon, you can ask:

"Where's the VA in health care reform?"

Ask them where they stand. You know where the President and 1st Lady stand -- with America's veterans.

And now, it is my special privilege and honor to introduce your executive director, and my fellow Legionnaire -- John Sommer.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. bio	re: Bruce Thiesen POB [partial] (1 page)	02/10/1994	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC Gulf War Illnesses Binder [1]

2013-0534-S

rc1756

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- 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]

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- 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]
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- 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]

BRUCE THIESEN**NATIONAL COMMANDER
THE AMERICAN LEGION
1993 - 1994****(Biographical Sketch)**

Bruce Thiesen, 51, of Kingsburg, Calif., was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Sept. 9, 1993, during the closing session of the 75th Annual National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Thiesen, a U.S. Army Vietnam-era veteran, has been a member of The American Legion since 1966 at Kingsburg Post 191.

In 1980, California Legionnaires elected Thiesen Department Commander. Previously, he served in many other leadership positions including Post Commander and District Commander.

Thiesen was California National Executive Committeeman from 1988 through 1990. He has also served as National Chairman of the Economic Commission, was a member of the Americanism Commission, and previously served as chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Commission.

Thiesen also served on the Disaster and Emergency Fund Committee and the Vietnam Memorial Dedication Committee.

A native of (b)(6) Thiesen manages an extensive table grape business in California. He also is a member of the Fresno Scottish Rite, the Free and Accepted Masons, and the Evangelical Covenant Church. (002]

Thiesen and his wife, Graetian, are the parents of three children.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. bio	re: Robert Spanogle POB [partial] (1 page)	02/10/1994	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC Gulf War Illnesses Binder [1]

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ROBERT W. SPANOGLE

National Adjutant
The American Legion

Biographical Sketch

Robert W. Spanogle, Indianapolis, was appointed National Adjutant of The American Legion July 1, 1981, by National Commander Michael J. Kogutek.

Prior to his appointment as National Adjutant, he served as Executive Director of The American Legion's Washington, D. C. Headquarters and as Director of Internal Affairs at the Legion's National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Spanogle also served The American Legion in the positions of Director of Membership and Post Activities, Assistant Director of Internal Affairs, and as a Membership Consultant.

Spanogle, an Army veteran with service during the Vietnam War, has been honored with a Life Membership in Oldsmobile Post #237, The American Legion, Lansing, Michigan. In 1985, he was named an Honorary Post Department Commander of The American Legion of Michigan.

Following Army service, Spanogle was active in the veterans' movement while a student at Lansing Community College and Michigan State University. He holds a BA from Michigan State University in Economics and Mathematics.

While a student at Michigan State University, he was elected President of the National Association of Collegiate Veterans, a veterans' fraternity, in 1970. In 1971, he served as consultant to veterans' outreach programs for the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors.

Spanogle serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors of the "500" Festival Associates, Inc.; is a member of the Board of Directors, Indianapolis Athletic Club; is currently a member and past member of the Board of Directors, Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis; is a Past President and current member of the Board of Directors of the USO Council of Indianapolis, Inc.; and is a member of the USO World Board of Governors. He is a Past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis; serves as a member of the Indiana Regional Cancer Center Advisory Board; is a Council Member-at-Large of Crossroads Council Boy Scouts of America; serves as a member of the Individual Investors Advisory Committee of the New York Stock Exchange and Trustee of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. He is on the Board of Directors, and serves as Executive Committee Chairman for Haynes and Plattenger Direct, Inc. - Promotion Management, Inc. - a marketing and advertising firm and lettershop.

In 1979, he was named one of the Outstanding Vietnam Veterans in Indiana by the Honorable Otis Bowen, then-Governor of Indiana.

A native of (b)(6) Spanogle and his wife, Ruth Ann, have two sons and a daughter.

[003]



American Legion **AUXILIARY**

777 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 I (317) 635-6291/FAX: (317) 636-5590

B I O G R A P H Y



Helen Holcomb
1993-94 National President

Helen Holcomb, of Odessa, Texas, was elected 1993-94 National President of the American Legion Auxiliary at the 73rd annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, on Sept. 8 at the Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. A respected leader in her western Texas community and a lifetime member of Odessa's Earl S. Bailey American Legion Auxiliary Unit #430, Mrs. Holcomb heads the world's largest patriotic women's service organization, whose ranks include almost one million female family members of American combat veterans of all wars.

Mrs. Holcomb retired in 1987 from her position as executive secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Corporation for Sivals, Inc., an oil and gas process equipment company. Her husband, Harvey Holcomb, is a Legion member and Korean War-era veteran.

Mrs. Holcomb's distinguished record of Auxiliary service includes extensive volunteer leadership experience. She served most recently as the 1992-93 National Vice President of the Auxiliary, and has held positions as National Committee Chairman of Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Girls State, Junior Activities, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Mrs. Holcomb's theme this year, "Investing in Youth — Ensuring the Future," stresses her concern for the welfare of all children and her belief that young people are the nation's greatest asset. Responding to the growing crisis of crime and violence among young people in our communities, she is encouraging all Auxiliary members to emphasize programs for young people.

"One source of the problem lies in our current juvenile justice system," Mrs. Holcomb commented. "Children all too often fall through the cracks." Auxiliary Units throughout the country will introduce a relatively new concept of correction and rehabilitation . . . "Teen Court," an innovative project which was introduced in 1983 in Odessa, Texas. The program has been very successful there and attracted much national attention from the media. It offers a proven alternative to the formal court proceedings currently in use to prosecute juvenile misdemeanor offenders by encouraging young offenders to take full responsibility for their actions, providing a means of restitution to the victims and the community, and giving the community a more active role in solving its juvenile crime.

July 1, 1993

Biography of Mr. Charles Pessa
100 Daly Blvd.
Unit 803
Oceanside, NY 11572

Born in New York City September 11, 1923 and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He served in World War II from December 30, 1942 to December 25, 1945, receiving an honorable discharge from the US Army. His assignment was in the 81st Tank Destroyer Battalion. While serving in the European Theater of Operations he received four battle stars.

In 1948 he helped organize the New Lots Memorial Post 1698 of The American Legion in Brooklyn, New York. Elected as the first adjutant and second commander, he was elected as King's Brooklyn County Commander in 1960-61. He was elected New York State Vice Commander in 1971-72. Appointed a member of the National Legislative Commission of The American Legion in 1961, he served as Vice Chairman of the committee for four years and is presently serving as Chairman of the committee. 1993 marks the 33rd consecutive year he has served.

He is Vice President of Semple Rieger Company, a printing firm, located in Brooklyn NY, where he has been employed for the past 53 years. He is also an owner to two optical stores located in Long Island. Mr. Pessa is also involved in many other charitable organizations. He is a Past President of the Humanity Club (a Charitable organization) a member of the Board of Directors of the Sephardic Home for the Aged, and currently President of the Sephardic Temple of Cedarhurst.

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Remarks to the American Legion
15 February, 1994

Acknowledgements

It is my great pleasure to be here today. It is always a privilege to be amongst the distinguished members of the American Legion. All of you are a great source of pride to our nation. [**possible reference to American Legion Boy's Nation*]

Each of you, as members of the United States Armed Forces, fought to keep this country safe. You fought to uphold our most cherished ideals. You and your families made great sacrifices so that [other] Americans would be able to fulfil their dreams. You risked your lives to keep our nation secure.

When the security of our country was threatened by external threats, you fought. Well, now the threat is internal. A crisis in our health care system is radically undermining the security of the American people. And I am asking you to help us fight again. Help us ensure that every American has health security.

I can assure you that the battle for health security has tremendous popular support. In the past year, I have spoken to and received letters from people all over America-- veterans, farm families, small business owners, older Americans, and yes, medical professionals. I have heard one message loud and clear: our health care system is broken and it needs to be fixed.

And to those in Washington who still deny that we have a crisis in our health care system today, I say: Tell that to the single mother who wants to work but has to stay on welfare to get benefits for her child. Tell it to the older American who has to choose each month between food and medicine. Tell it to the family that hit the 'lifetime limit' on their insurance coverage and were forced into bankruptcy. Tell it to the nurse who is forced to spend more of her time on paperwork than on patient care.

Tell them there's no crisis. Because I won't-- and neither will the President. We're going to take on this challenge, we're not going to just tinker at the edges, and we're going to bring about real reform for the American people.

We want to phase in reform over a few years to make sure it's done right. But when we're done, insurance ought to mean what it used to mean. You pay a fair price for security, and when you get sick, health care's always there, no matter what.

The President's goal is this: guaranteed private insurance to every American. And I want to be clear about what that means because there's a lot of misinformation out there. Most people will get insurance the same way they do today, through their employer. Each consumer -- not their employer, not a bureaucrat -- will have a choice of health plans and doctors --and plans will enroll everyone who applies.

Once someone's picked a plan, if they need to go to the doctor for a check-up or get sick, they'll simply take their Health Security card, show it at the doctor's office or the hospital, and get the care they need. Then they'll fill out one standard form, and they're done. That way, we can go back to using doctor's offices as places of healing, not monuments to paperwork and bureaucracy.

The President's approach would guarantee a comprehensive benefits package that includes coverage for preventive care, home health care, hospice care, rehabilitation, treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, and prescription drugs.

The President's approach also provides special protections for older Americans -- something that's very important personally to the President and myself -- by preserving Medicare and by expanding it to add new coverage for prescription drugs and making a significant start toward long-term care.

Because of Medicare, older Americans have better protection than most Americans today. But there are still gaps. Nearly two-thirds of Americans over the age of 65 have no prescription drug coverage. Most older Americans want to stay at home with their families if they need long-term care. But in today's system, many are forced into nursing homes because they have no way of getting the help they need.

The President's approach offers prescription drug coverage as part of Medicare. For less than 10 dollars a month, older Americans will get protection against prescription drug prices that represent their highest out-of-pocket medical cost. An annual cap will be placed on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs. And above this amount drugs will be fully covered.

The President's approach also takes an important first step towards expanded coverage of long-term care by creating a new home and community based long-term care program. It will help Americans who need long term care live independently at home and in their communities.

I would like to talk for a moment about how the President's approach would work for you as veterans. We believe it is essential that the level of health care and services available remain constant for veterans [and people in active military service.]. The President shares your belief that the VA health-care system should remain independent AND that we must improve veteran's health care.

To make sure that these goals were achieved, we met with Secretary Brown and numerous veterans organizations (including--of course-- the American Legion) and we incorporated your ideas into our approach.

Our approach would strengthen the VA in a variety of ways:

All veterans can enroll in a VA health care plan and the VA will provide the comprehensive package of benefits to all veterans who enroll. Today veterans must contend with the VA's complex and confusing eligibility rules, the "means test" and inadequate resources, all of which too often lead to fragmented care and/or the denial of care. Under the President's comprehensive package, the means test and all the other complicated rules will be eliminated. VA doctors will treat patients on the basis of medical judgement, not complicated, outdated statutes.

If they enroll in a VA health plan, service-connected veterans, low-income veterans and ex-POWs get the comprehensive package totally free; they will pay no premiums, no co-payments and no deductibles. This is a tremendous improvement for most veterans.

By giving VA access to new funding streams, the President's approach gives VA a bright, stable financial future. Under the Health Security Act for the first time, the VA will receive employer premium contributions and Medicare payments. In addition, the Act creates a Veterans Investment Fund of \$3.3 billion over three years to help the VA make the improvements it needs in order to become competitive.

The VA will continue to provide "Chapter 17" benefits beyond the comprehensive benefits package to all veterans who are currently eligible to receive them.

We must make sure that those of you who served our country are now served by our country's health care system. We must make sure that this country remains a place that makes all of us feel secure about the future so that we can go forward together. It is your morale, your determination and strength that has kept America safe. Your courage has allowed this country to remain strong. If anyone asks why the United States of America is the leading nation in the world, I will point to you. And together--the Clinton Administration and the American Legion-- will make our country even greater. Because all of us must continue to work together to make this nation safe. We must provide health security for all Americans.

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**01/25/95: MEETING
W/ VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Divider Title: _____

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995
FINAL**

Scheduling Desk:	Kelcey Kintner
	202-456-5315 office
	202-265-6777 home
	202-456-2317 fax
	800-514-7823 WHCA#4059

PREV RON The White House

**10:30 am-
11:30 am**

**RADIO
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS**

**Contact: Lisa Caputo
 456-2960**

**Richard Strauss
456-5666**

**11:30 am-
1:00 pm**

**PRIVATE MEETING [OPTIONAL]
Conference Room 100 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS**

**Staff Contact: Evan Ryan
 456-6266**

12:40 pm

PROCEED to Room 450 OEOB

**12:45 pm-
12:55 pm**

**COUNCIL OF FASHION DESIGNERS OF AMERICA VIDEO
Room 450 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS**

**Staff Contact: Laura Schwartz
 456-5655**

**Contact: Fern Mallis
 212-302-1821**

12:55 pm

PROCEED Conference Room 100

**1:00 pm-
2:00 pm**

**PRIVATE MEETING
Conference Room 100 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS**

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present for first 5 minutes.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995
PAGE 2

Participants:

- HRC
- Melanne Verveer
- Diana Zuckerman
- Dr. Ken Kizer, Under Secretary for Health, VA
- Ed Scott, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs, VA
- Kathy Jurado, Assistant Secretary for Public & Intergovernmental Affairs, VA
- Dr. Robert Roswell, Chief of Staff, Birmingham VA Medical Center, Executive Director of the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board
- Dr. Fran Murphy, Director of the Environmental Agents Service, VA

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer
456-6266

Contact: Kathy Jurado
273-5750

2:30 pm-
3:00 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
Conference Room 100 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present for first 5 minutes.

Participants:

- HRC
- Melanne Verveer
- Steve Robertson
- John Sommer

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer
456-6266

3:15 pm-
3:45 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
Conference Room 100 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present for first 5 minutes.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995
PAGE 3

Participants:

- HRC
- Melanne Verveer
- Sandy McMurtrie
- Sister Sylvia Vazhathara
- Sister Priscilla Lewis
- W. Shepherdson (Shep) Abell
- Marna Tucker
- Debbie Pallock

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer
456-6266

3:45 pm-
4:00 pm

PRIVATE MEETING w/ Maggie Williams & Patti Solis
Conference Room 100 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS

4:00 pm-
4:15 pm

PRIVATE MEETING w/ Maggie Williams
Conference Room 100
CLOSED PRESS

4:15 pm-
5:45 pm

PHONE/OFFICE TIME

5:45 pm-
6:00 pm

PRIVATE MEETING [OPTIONAL]
Conference Room 100 OEOB
CLOSED PRESS

Participants: Approx. 11 expected to attend.
[See briefing book for more information].

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer
456-6266

RON

The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:
Partly cloudy. Low 25 to 30. High 40 to 45.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Clinton
From: Diana Zuckerman
Re: Wednesday Meeting with V.A. on Gulf War Illnesses
Date: January 24, 1995

*2/2 Hot Line
Dr. Gandy - Research; 2/13 Review; JAMA review;*

This memo will provide background information for your 1 p.m. meeting with V.A. officials. They include Dr. Ken Kizer, who is the new Under Secretary for Health; Kathy Jurado, who is Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs; Ed Scott, the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs; Dr. Robert Roswell, chief of staff at the Birmingham V.A. Medical Center (and Executive Director of the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board), who appeared on Nightline last month; and Dr. Frances Murphy, a doctor who is director of the V.A. environmental agents service.

Melanne may have mentioned to you that the V.A. is very angry at Jay Rockefeller because he has been critical of the V.A. response to Gulf War illnesses, and because he was not supportive of their proposed legislation regarding compensation for veterans with undiagnosed illnesses (Jay argued that V.A. already had the authority and shouldn't wait for legislation.) For example, Dr. Murphy says that V.A. is doing a great job and veterans are being well taken care of, and she resents Congressional criticism. Some of that anger has apparently been directed at me, although nobody at V.A. has openly expressed it to me. Melanne suggests that I say as little as possible at this meeting.

The goals of this meeting are similar to those of the DoD meeting on Monday:

1. Let them know that you and the President have received letters and personal appeals to "do something" to help Gulf War veterans, and that many veterans believe that the V.A. and DoD do not take their illnesses seriously.

34,000 on Register will receive letter re process; 14,000 vets receiving comp already
2. Ask what progress has been made to respond to legislation that was passed late last year. They will probably focus on the bill that allows V.A. to provide compensation to Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. There are other provisions in the same bill that V.A. is less enthusiastic about, that Sen. Rockefeller initiated in response to veterans' complaints. These will be described in detail later in this memo.

3. Convey your concern that the message that "We care" is heard by veterans and the media, and that V.A. move quickly to implement new legislation that will show that

we really do care. Share your concern that the V.A. person who talks to the media be capable of getting that message across. [I thought you did a great job on that at the DoD meeting.]

Background Information

Most of the mail you have received on Gulf War illnesses are from veterans who complain about treatment in V.A. hospitals. Despite year old legislation that requires V.A. to provide free medical care to Gulf War veterans whose illnesses **may be** related to military service (it doesn't have to be proven), many of the 171 V.A. medical centers are not doing a good job. Many veterans complain that they are sent to the psychiatric ward, and then usually sent back to an internist who says "I don't know what's wrong with you, I can't help you."

PTSD, Stress, and Gulf War Syndrome. One of the controversies has been the extent to which Gulf War Syndrome is caused by stress. Veterans frequently complain that V.A. doctors think their illnesses are "all in [my] head."

Some DoD and VA doctors have suggested that Gulf War Syndrome is caused by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, the physical complaints of Gulf War Syndrome are very different from the symptoms of PTSD. For example, PTSD is characterized by flashbacks and anxiety symptoms, whereas Gulf War syndrome is usually characterized by extreme fatigue, rashes, hair loss, joint pain, and gastro-intestinal problems.

However, it is certainly possible that Gulf War Syndrome is stress-related. For example, it may be that the fear of chemical weapons and the stress of war made US troops more vulnerable to toxic exposures. However, if that is true, they still have physical illnesses that need to be treated as such.

Dr. Roswell believes that Gulf War Syndrome is stress-related. Although veterans agree that they are under a lot of stress, they believe the symptoms cause the stress, not the other way around.

V.A. is conducting some research on the relationship between stress, PTSD, and Gulf War symptoms.

Reproductive Problems. By law, V.A. can only provide medical tests and treatment to veterans, not their spouses or children. Many veterans complain that their spouses and children have no access to health care, even if their illnesses seem to be related to the veteran's military service. This is especially likely if the veteran and spouse are too sick to work and therefore have no health insurance.

In response to those complaints, Sen. Rockefeller and Sonny Montgomery initiated several legislative provisions that were signed into law in November. The provisions include:

1. V.A. must implement a 2-year pilot project to include wives and children on the V.A. Gulf War Health Registry starting in FY 1995. Currently, only veterans are included in the Registry. The Registry is intended as a source of information about the health of Gulf War veterans; inclusion is voluntary. Veterans who want to be on the Registry take a battery of tests. The V.A. now has to develop a battery of tests for spouses and children, and decide how to also include information about miscarriages, stillbirths, and birth defects in the Registry. Congress authorized \$2 million for this pilot project. The testing will not be done at V.A. facilities, but V.A. facilities will pay the costs.

Dr. Fran Murphy, who will be at the meeting, tried to sabotage this provision by providing outrageous estimates of the costs of including spouses and children in the Registry. V.A. really doesn't want to get involved in any medical care for dependents. We therefore need to be concerned that V.A. will not do a good job on this.

2. V.A. must develop a standard protocol of how to evaluate Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses, and this protocol must be made available at as many of the 171 V.A. medical centers as possible. (V.A.'s original plan was to do it at a handful of centers). Currently, the protocols used do not include reproductive testing and we have heard that V.A. doctors have refused to test semen samples despite reports that the semen causes a burning sensation, and despite concerns about birth defects. **The new law requires that the protocol must include tests of reproductive function, such as analysis of seminal fluid.**

3. V.A. is also authorized (but not required) to conduct a survey and epidemiological research on Gulf War Syndrome, but any such research should not be redundant with the research that DoD is required to support. Personally, I am more confident in the DoD grants to independent researchers, so I would not push V.A. to do this research (it was Rep. Montgomery's provision, and he didn't know about the DoD bill.)

4. V.A. now has the authority to provide compensation to Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. Thousands of such veterans have already been denied claims, and it is not clear what V.A. will do to notify them that the criteria have been eased and they may be eligible for compensation under the new regulations (not yet finalized). Changing this law is very important, and Jesse Brown clearly wanted to do this, but the real test will be how many veterans actually receive compensation under the new rules.

Chemicals in oil fires
Air analyses in May
SCUD - ammonium
dead animals (Col. Smith)

To: ^{4) no files} Mrs. Clinton

From: Diana Zuckerman

Re: Wednesday Meeting with American Legion

Date: January 24, 1995

rocket fuel
pesticide spray; diesel fuel
refuses: SCUD ^{thruster} ^{nozzle}

This memo will provide background information for your 2:30 p.m. meeting with the American Legion. You will meet with their Executive Director, John Sommer, and their Legislative Director, Steve Robertson. John Sommer was born in 1947 in Columbus, Ohio and is a Vietnam veteran. He has worked for American Legion since 1971. Steve Robertson served in the Persian Gulf War as a member of the DC Army National Guard. He also served in the Air Force from 1973-85. His wife is an Air Force captain. He has worked for the American Legion since 1988.

Wife is Major in USAF active duty
The American Legion is one of the largest and most conservative veterans' service organizations (VSOs), and they have been the most active VSO on Gulf War illnesses issues. That is probably because Steve and a member of his staff, Kimo Hollingsworth, both served in the Gulf War and have undiagnosed illnesses.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided a grant to the Association of Birth Defect Children to conduct a survey of birth defects among the children of Vietnam veterans and Gulf War veterans. In contrast, most veterans' groups are not interested in the issue of reproductive hazards.

Despite the American Legion's relative support of these issues, they are almost as concerned as the other veterans' groups about using V.A.'s already strained medical budget to provide health services to spouses and children. They think DoD or HHS should pay for any medical evaluations or treatment of dependents.

The main goal of this meeting is for you to listen to their concerns about veterans with Gulf War illnesses, and ask for their suggestions about what the Administration should do to help these veterans.

The American Legion does not have scientific expertise on this issue, and their understanding of the role of government agencies is not impressive. They have been supportive to Congressional efforts, including the compensation legislation, Sen. Rockefeller's hearings, legislation, and report, and Sen. Riegle's criticisms of DoD. They believe that the Pentagon is covering up evidence that veterans were exposed to biological and chemical weapons in the Gulf.

- ① Spouses & children
- ② Civilians w/ ARAMCO not reporting problems

Steve arrived 2/14 got sick 2/25
pb made him sick (2 pills)

- 11,000 active duty + reservists on DoD Registry

MEMORANDUM

- Gen Blank: 15%?; 25% CFS;

- IOM - Riegle reports? eye witnesses acc'ts

↳ biochem agents?

- pb no instructions re taking it

- anthrax inoc. - not annotated in shot records?

- botulinum inoc.; depleted Uranium rounds

★ precautionary measures re last deployment to Saudi/Kuwait
③ Saddam said Iraqis sick; amm. TIC re sick Kuwaitis

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**02/03/95: MEETING W/
VFW**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1995
FINAL

Scheduling Desk: Julie Hopper
202-456-7561 office
202-456-2317 fax
202-387-6842 home
1-800-528-7823 WHCA #4096

PREV RON The White House

9:30 am-
10:00 am

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: Maggie Williams

10:00 am-
10:30 am

OFFICE/PHONE TIME

10:30 am-
11:00 am

MEETING W/ Veterans of Foreign Wars
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:

-HRC
-Diana Zuckerman
-Mark Fox
-Dennis Cullinan
-James Currico
-Allen Kent

FORMAT:

- Informal meeting

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present the first 5 minutes.

Staff Contact: Diana Zuckerman
456-7265

11:00 am-
3:45 pm

LUNCH/OFFICE/PHONE TIME

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1995
PAGE 2**

3:50 pm-
4:00 pm

DROP BY / OFFICIAL PHOTO
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present first 5 minutes.

Staff Contact: Carolyn Huber
456-6635

4:15 pm-
5:45 pm

WELLESLEY RECEPTION
Diplomatic Reception Room: Photo Line
East Room: Remarks
CLOSED PRESS -- WH PHOTO ONLY

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 350 guests
[See briefing book for further info]

FORMAT:

- Class Photo with:
 - *Karen Williamson, President
 - *Nancy Shilling Pasquali, Vice President
 - *Betty Demy Hutcheon, Secretary
 - *Crandall Close Bowles, Treasurer
 - *Jean Garnett Moore, Class Rep.
- Following class photo, begin photo line in the Diplomatic Reception Room
- Proceed to the East Room via Main Staircase; HRC and Karen Williamson are announced
- HRC delivers remarks and welcomes everyone
- Karen Williamson; President of Wellesley Class of '69 gives brief remarks and presents HRC with a gift from the class
- HRC departs

Staff Contact: Ann Stock

RON

The White House

Y RODHAM CLINTON
1995

OP BY / OFFICIAL PHOTO
p Room
CLOSED PRESS

pher will be present first 5 minutes.

aff Contact: Carolyn Huber
456-6635

WELLESLEY RECEPTION

plomatic Reception Room: Photo Line
st Room: Remarks
CLOSED PRESS -- WH PHOTO ONLY

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 350 guests
e briefing book for further info]

MAT:

Class Photo with:
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ty Demy Hutcheon, Secretary
*Randall Close Bowles, Treasurer
*Jean Garnett Moore, Class Rep.

Following class photo, begin photo line in the
plomatic Reception Room.

Proceed to the East Room via Main Staircase;
C and Karen Williamson are announced

C delivers remarks and welcomes everyone

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'69 gives brief remarks and presents HRC
h a gift from the class

departs

Contact: Ann Stock

te House

ast at 5 to 10 knots.

bing Shop

MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Clinton
From: Diana Zuckerman
Re: Friday Meeting with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Date: February 1, 1995

This memo will provide background information for your 10:30 a.m. meeting with the VFW. You will meet with "Gunner" Kent, who is Commander-in-Chief for 1994-95; Bob Currieo (pronounced Cure e o), who is Executive Director of the Washington Office, ; and two members of their legislative staff, Dennis Cullinan and Mark Fox. Gunner Kent was in the Marines from 1958-82, and served in Vietnam. He currently lives in Arizona and is flying to DC to see you. Bob Currieo is a Korean War vet who retired from the Army after 23 years in 1973. He worked for Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and at the VA in the 1980's, and has worked at VFW since 1989.

The VFW has 2.1 million members (of 27 million US veterans), and is one of the largest and possibly most conservative veterans' service organizations (VSOs). The VFW staffers working on this issue did not serve in the Gulf War, and Mark Fox is one of the few non-veterans on their staff.

The VFW conducted a survey of more than 2,000 Gulf War veterans, and they have summarized the results in a report. The report is not scientific but provides a good overview of the kinds of complaints that veterans are making. Most (76%) of the respondents reported that they are ill, mostly with the symptoms that are typical of "Gulf War Syndrome" such as fatigue, rashes, muscle/joint pain, respiratory problems, and memory loss. Since this survey is not a random sample, it is not surprising that such a high proportion are ill with these symptoms.

Many of the veterans in the VFW survey said they were exposed to oil fires and parasites, and 35% believe they were exposed to chemical or biological weapons. They were not asked about use of pyridostigmine in the survey.

Less than one-third of respondents who used VA hospitals described their treatment as either good or excellent. Only 47 say that the treatment they have received (by VA or elsewhere) has cured them. Nearly one out of seven believe that their illness has affected the health of their spouse or child.

The main goal of this meeting is for you to listen to their concerns about veterans with Gulf War illnesses, and ask for their suggestions about what the Administration should do to help these veterans. VFW is generally supportive of VA.

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**02/16/95: VISIT TO THE
D.C. VA HOSPITAL**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995
FINAL

Lead Advance:

VA Hospital

Michael Lufrano
1-800SKYPAGE

#883-5773

Press Lead:

Ashley Bell

Lead Advance:

Library of Cong.:

Lisa Villareal
202-720-6571/2798
202-797-9054

office
home

Scheduling Desk:

Sara Grote
202-456-2922
202-456-2317
202-363-3484
1-800-528-7823

office
fax
home
WHCA #4363

PREV RON

The White House

9:40 am

DEPART White House South Portico
EN ROUTE Washington, DC VA Hospital
[drive time: 20 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST:

LIMO: HRC

STAFF VAN: CRAIGHEAD, CAPUTO, VERVEER, FARMER

10:00 am

ARRIVE Washington, DC VA Hospital, 50 Irving
St., NW 20422

NOTE: Michael Lufrano will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters: Sec. Jesse Brown

Dr. Ken Kizer, Under Sec. of Health, Dept. of VA
Affairs

Pedro Garcia, Deputy Director of Washington, DC VA
Hospital

10:00 am-

10:15 am

VISIT VETERANS

Nursing Home Ward [WWII]

Holding Room: 1 J 106

Phone: 745-8379

Fax: 745-8530

POOL PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995
PAGE 2

Format: HRC and Sec. Jesse Brown to meet and greet with veterans.

Participants: Approx. 30 veterans. [See briefing for more info.]

10:20 am **PROCEED TO Discussion**

10:25 am-
11:25 am **DISCUSSION WITH VETERANS**
 1 J 145
 OPEN PRESS

NOTE: HRC to be seated next to 2 veterans [see briefing].

Format:

- Sec. Jesse Brown to deliver remarks and introduce HRC
- HRC to deliver remarks
- Open discussion

Participants:

- HRC
- Sec. Jesse Brown
- 5 veterans
- Dr. Ken Kizer, Under Sec. for Health at Dept. of VA Affairs
- physician from VA Hospital [see briefing]

Staff Contact: Diana Zuckerman
 456-7265

Contact: Kathy Jurado, Dept. VA Affairs
 273-5750

Contact: Pedro Garcia, Deputy Director of Hospital
 745-8101

11:25 am-
11:30 am **PRESS MOVE OUT OF ROOM**

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995
PAGE 3

11:35 am-
11:45 am

DISCUSSION WITH VETERANS CONTINUES
1 J 145
CLOSED PRESS

Format: Informal discussion.

Participants: Same as above.

11:50 am-
12:05 pm

PRIVATE MEETING W/HC Professionals
1 K 167
CLOSED PRESS

Format: Informal meeting.

Participants: Approx. 10 people to attend.
[See briefing for more info.]

12:10 pm

DEPART Washington, DC VA Hospital
EN ROUTE Library of Congress, Madison
Building
[drive time: 15 minutes]

NOTE: Carpet car #44 will be available for Lisa Caputo and
Melanne Verveer to return to White House after VA event.

MOTORCADE MANIFEST:

LIMO: HRC

STAFF VAN: CRAIGHEAD, FARMER

12:25 pm

ARRIVE Library of Congress, Madison Building,
Independence Ave.

NOTE: Lisa Villareal will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters: Dr. James Billington
Norma Asnes

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995
PAGE 4

12:30 pm-
2:00 pm

LUNCH
Room 608
Holding Room: Chief of Staff's Office
Phone: 707-6090
Fax: 707-1714 [not in holding room]
CLOSED PRESS

Participants:

-HRC
-Professor Vyacheslav Ivanov [VYAH-chuh-slaff
ee-VAH-nuff]
-Dr. James Billington
-Norma Asnes

Contact: Janet Chase, Dr. Billington's ofc.
202-707-5205

2:05 pm

DEPART Library of Congress
EN ROUTE White House
[drive time: 10 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST:

LIMO: HRC

STAFF VAN: CRAIGHEAD, FARMER

2:15 pm

ARRIVE White House South Portico

2:30 pm-
3:00 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: John Emerson
456-5100

3:00 pm-
3:30 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: John Sutton
456-2459

3:30 pm-
3:45 pm

PRIVATE MEETING W/Maggie Williams and Patti
Solis
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995
PAGE 5

3:45 pm-
4:00 pm

PRIVATE MEETING W/Maggie Williams
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

4:00 pm-
4:25 pm

MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: Marge Tarmey
456-6266

4:30 pm-
5:30 pm

MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: Marge Tarmey
456-6266

5:45 pm-
6:30 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer
456-6266

Chris Cicio
456-9481

7:30 pm-
7:45 pm

PHOTO SHOOT WITH People Magazine
Blue Room

NOTE: WH Photographer will be present.

Staff Contact: Neel Lattimore
456-2960

8:00 pm-
10:00 pm

TRUSTEES DINNER
State Floor
Attire: Black Tie
CLOSED PRESS

NOTE: Guests arrive at 7:30 pm for cocktails in Residence.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995
PAGE 6

Format:

- Greet guests in Cross Hall
- Dinner in State Dining Room
- Discussion in Blue Room

Participants: Approx. 80 people to attend.
[See briefing for more info.]

Staff Contact: Ann Stock
456-7136

RON

The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC:

-Cloudy with rain ending by the afternoon. Low 40 to 45. High 50 to 55.

02/13/95 15:18 GRAPHIC/POSTLINE 7 4300244 NO. 000 002

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
OPENING REMARKS FOR VETERANS HOSPITAL GULF WAR EVENT
FEBRUARY 16, 1995
WASHINGTON, DC

The men and women who serve our country in war risk their lives for us and ask little in return. But when veterans need our help, it is our duty to assist them. And now is one of those times.

In recent months, the President and I have heard from many veterans of the Persian Gulf War who are concerned about illnesses afflicting them or their families. In many cases, doctors cannot determine the cause of the illnesses or even prescribe treatments. In some instances, children of Gulf War veterans have been born with birth defects or other serious illnesses.

These veterans want to know if the illnesses afflicting them and their families are somehow related to their military service in the Gulf War.

The President asked me to come here today to talk to Gulf War veterans and health care professionals to learn more about their illnesses and medical experiences. The President wants all veterans to know that his Administration is committed to rooting out the cause of their health problems and making sure they get the care they need and deserve.

The Veterans Administration is working hard to shed more light on this special health problem. A national registry of Gulf War veterans will now include information about spouses and children afflicted with illnesses. And through better research, diagnostic testing and training of doctors we are confident that more progress can be made to ease the emotional, financial, and medical burdens now weighing on Gulf War veterans who have given so much of themselves to defend our country.

###

LEVEL 1 - 77 OF 87 STORIES

Copyright 1995 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

February 17, 1995, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: Style; Pg. F03

LENGTH: 1056 words

HEADLINE: The Reliable Source

BYLINE: Lois Romano, With Mary Alma Welch

We've Heard That . . .

Hillary Clinton paid a visit yesterday to Washington's Veterans Affairs hospital to talk to vets suffering from the mysterious gulf war syndrome. President Clinton "asked me to spend some time looking into the concerns of gulf war veterans and file a report on what we're doing, and what we have left to do," Mrs. Clinton told five veterans who gathered to tell her about their symptoms. The first lady also handed out a few belated Valentine's Day roses. One patient, 59-year-old Donald Brown, told her he'd seen her on TV news shows. "Well, don't hold that against me," she fired back with a laugh.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**02/21/95: INTERNAL
MEETING ON COMMISSION**

Divider Title: _____

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995
FINAL**

Scheduling Desk:	Esther Watkins	
	202-456-5315	office
	202-456-2317	fax
	202-483-6050	home
	1-800-528-7823	WHCA #4188

PREV RON The White House

**9:00 am-
12:45 pm OFFICE/PHONE TIME/LUNCH**

**12:45 pm-
1:00 pm BRIEFING
Diplomatic Reception Room
CLOSED PRESS**

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer 456-2538

**1:00 pm-
2:00 pm MEETING
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS**

**PARTICIPANTS:
[See briefing book]**

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer 456-2538

**2:15 pm-
2:30 pm PRIVATE MEETING w/ Julie Hopper
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS**

Staff Contact: Julie Hopper 456-7561

**2:30 pm-
2:45 pm PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS**

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995
PAGE 2**

PARTICIPANTS:

-HRC
-Melanne Verveer
-Carol Rasco

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer

456-2538

3:00 pm-
3:30 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:

- Chris Jennings
- Jennifer Klein
- Melanne Verveer

Staff Contact: Chris Jennings

456-5560

4:30 pm-
5:30 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:

-HRC
-Ira Magaziner
-Melanne Verveer

Staff Contact: Ira Magaziner

456-6406

8:00 pm-
10:00 pm

TRUSTEES DINNER
State Floor
Attire: Black Tie
CLOSED PRESS

Note: Guests arrive at 7:30 pm for cocktails in Residence.

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 80 people expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995
PAGE 3

FORMAT:

- Greet guests in Cross Hall
- Dinner in State Dining Room
- Discussion site tbd

Staff Contact: Ann Stock

456-7136

RON

The White House

February 20, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: Nicole Rabner
RE: Briefings for Tuesday, February 21

Internal Meeting re: Gulf War Syndrome Commission

--List of participants, briefing and materials to be provided by
Diana Zuckerman tomorrow morning

Trustees Dinner

--Sequence
--Guest list.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**02/22/95: VISIT TO
WALTER REED MED. CTR.**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995
FINAL

HRC Lead Advance:
Walter Reed Army
Medical Center

Kirk Hanlin
202-757-9297
1-800-528-7823
cellular
WHCA #4108

Press Advance:

David Neslen
1-800-528-7823
WHCA #4101

Scheduling Desk:

Esther Watkins
202-456-5315
202-456-2317
202-483-6050
1-800-528-7823
office
fax
home
WHCA #4188

PREV RON

The White House

9:30 am

DEPART White House South Portico
EN ROUTE Walter Reed Army Medical Center
[Drive Time: 25 minutes]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

LIMO: HRC

STAFF VAN: DEUTCH, CAPUTO, VERVEER, ZUCKERMAN, WH PHOTO

9:55 am

ARRIVE Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue
CLOSED PRESS ARRIVAL

Note: Official WH and DOD Photographers (including DOD video camera) will be present.

Curbside Greeters: Ron Blanck, Commander, Major General
Dr. Ray Chung, Clinical Director, Gulf War Health Unit
Dr. Sue Bailey, Deputy Asst. Sec. of Defense for Health Affairs

10:00 am

PROCEED TO ROOM 2H26
[Dr. Chung will escort HRC]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995
PAGE 2

10:05 am-
10:45 am

DISCUSSION

Room 2H26
Walter Reed Army Medical Unit
HRC's Hold: 202-782-6392
Fax: 202-782-0940
OPEN PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 8 people.
[See briefing for list]

FORMAT:

- Dep. Secretary Deutch intros HRC
- HRC gives remarks
- Open discussion

Staff Contact: Diana Zuckerman 456-6266

Contact: Gary Kristofferson, DOD Health Affairs
(703) 697-2111 (h)
(301) 699-3136 (w)

10:50 am-
11:10 am

PRIVATE MEETING W/ Health Care Professionals
Room 2A02
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 7 people attending.
[See briefing for more info.]

FORMAT:

- Dr. Chung and Dr. Roy give brief remarks
- Dr. Chung intros HRC
- HRC gives remarks
- Informal discussion

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995
PAGE 3

11:10 am-
11:30 am

DROP BY Research Committee Meeting
Room 2A08
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 24 people to attend.
[See briefing for more information]

FORMAT:

- General Blanck intros HRC
- HRC gives remarks
- Dr. Sphar and General Blanck give brief updates

Staff Contact: Diana Zuckerman 456-6266

11:35 am

DEPART Walter Reed Hospital
EN ROUTE White House
[Drive Time: 25 minutes]
OPEN PRESS

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

LIMO: HRC

STAFF VAN: DEUTCH, CAPUTO, VERVEER, ZUCKERMAN, WH PHOTO

12:00 pm

ARRIVE White House West Executive Basement
PROCEED to 459 OEOB

12:00 pm-
12:10 pm

TAPE VIDEO MESSAGE for National Council of Churches
459 OEOB

FORMAT:

--length: 7-10 minutes

Staff Contact: Dave Anderson

456-5663

Contact: Joan Campbell

404-577-1234

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995
PAGE 4

12:10 pm-
12:15 pm

TAPE AUDIO MESSAGE for Internet
459 OEOB

Staff Contact: Karen Finney

456-2960

12:15 pm-
1:00 pm

LUNCH

1:00 pm-
1:15 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS:

-HRC
-Melanne Verveer
-Carol Rasco

Staff Contact: Melanne Verveer

456-2538

1:30 pm-
1:45 pm

PRIVATE MEETING
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

2:00 pm-
2:15 pm

PRIVATE MEETING W/ Julie Hopper
HRC's Office
CLOSED PRESS

2:15 pm-
5:00 pm

PHONE/OFFICE TIME

RON

The White House

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. memo	re: Visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center [partial. Pages 2-3 in full] (4 pages)	02/21/1995	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC Gulf War Illnesses Binder [1]

2013-0534-S
rc1756

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- 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.

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

- 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]

February 21, 1995

VISIT TO WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

DATE: Wednesday, February 22
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Washington, DC
FROM: Diana Zuckerman

I. PURPOSE

To talk to Gulf War veterans who are still on active duty, and two wives, about their illnesses and their medical treatment, to discuss similar issues with Walter Reed health care professionals, and with members of the Interagency Gulf War Illnesses research and clinical committees, and to let the public know that the Administration is very concerned about these issues.

II. BACKGROUND

The Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC is one of the main regional centers for the treatment of Gulf War veterans who are still on active duty.

Discussion with Gulf War Veterans

All the Gulf War veterans who will be meeting with you are still on active duty and receive outpatient care at the Medical Center. However, they have been invited to the VA especially to meet with you; they do not have medical appointments.

The patients range in age from 24-42, and represent an interesting range of professions and symptoms. Two wives, both of whom are ill, will also meet with you. One, Nancy Kaplan, is very ill and her children are also ill. The other, (b)(6) has no children and is considering getting her tubes tied because she is afraid to have children because of the article about Gulf War veterans' offsprings' birth defects in People magazine.

(b)(6)

2004]

Nancy and their children were stationed in Germany during the Gulf War, and Barry sent his clothes back to them. They arrive within 24 hours, and were wet and dirty. She and the children washed them and their and other items from the Gulf were stored in the baby's room. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Questions for the Panel

These are the kinds of questions that can keep the conversation moving:

1. Can you each tell me about the kinds of symptoms and illnesses that you have had since returning from the Persian Gulf War?
2. Did you have any symptoms while you were in the Gulf?
3. Have you been diagnosed yet?
4. Do you have any thoughts about what might have caused your illnesses? Did you have any bad reactions to anything you were exposed to in the Gulf War?
5. Have you received medical treatment that is helping you?
6. Do any of you have spouses or children who have illnesses that seem to be related to your illnesses?
7. Is there anything else that you would like to tell me about your illnesses or medical care?

III. PARTICIPANTS

Greeters

- Deputy Secretary John Deutch
- Dr. Ray Chung

Gulf War Veterans

(b)(6)

- Nancy Kaplan (wife of Major Kaplan)

(b)(6)

Walter Reed Health Professionals

- Raymond Chung, M.D.	Co-Director, Gulf War Health Center
- J.D. Malone, M.D.	Co-Director, Gulf War Health Center
- John Follansbee, M.D.	Senior Psychiatric Consultant
- Michael Roy, M.D.	Clinical Director
- Gerald Poley, M.D.	Chairman, Pediatric Clinic
- Cynthia Heins, M.D.	Internist
- Gail Robinson, R.N.	Head Nurse

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. Brief opening remarks before your informal discussion with 5 Gulf War veterans and two wives (45 minutes; open to the press). John Deutch and Dr. Chung will also be there. The patients are expecting you to start off by asking them to describe their symptoms.

2. Discussion with Walter Reed Medical Center health care professionals (15-20 minutes; closed to press). This will give you the opportunity to ask them any questions that you have based on the previous discussion, and give them a chance to tell you what they think you should know.

3. Discussion with members of the Interagency committees on research and clinical treatment (15-20 minutes; closed to press). Gen. Blanck will introduce you. You will express your interest and concerns. Gen. Blanck and Dr. Sphar will briefly tell you a "point of interest" about research and treatment. If there is any time left over, you can ask questions; if not, you can thank them and leave.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. list	re: Walter Reed Medical Center patients (1 page)	02/22/1995	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 18539

FOLDER TITLE:

HRC Gulf War Illnesses Binder [1]

2013-0534-S

rc1756

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- 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.

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

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- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- 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]

LEVEL 1 - 74 OF 87 STORIES

Copyright 1995 Gannett Company, Inc.
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

February 23, 1995, Thursday

LENGTH: 886 words

HEADLINE: HILLARY CLINTON GETTING INVOLVED IN PERSIAN GULF SYNDROME ISSUE

BYLINE: JOHN HANCHETTE; NORM BREWER; Gannett News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Hillary Clinton, acting on her husband's request, visited extensively Wednesday with ailing Persian Gulf War veterans at the huge Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

She heard lots of personal health horror stories.

The session was significant for the public candor allowed on the part of active duty personnel - many have previously expressed misgivings about hurting military careers with any talk of their symptoms.

The first lady said the White House wants to trigger a "new thinking" - more openness, concern and diagnostic action in finding the causes of the mysterious Persian Gulf Syndrome symptoms that have afflicted about 55,000 veterans of the 1991 war with Iraq.

"This new thinking may not be immediately reassuring because we can't find causes right away," she told the military personnel. "But it is not going to be just the same cookie-cutter response like, 'Oh, you've got post-traumatic stress disorder.' I've heard that a lot from veterans I've talked to."

Meanwhile, at the Oval Office, President Clinton gave ailing veteran Michael Sills of Villa Park, Ill., his first monthly check of \$ 742. Sills is one of the first recipients to benefit from a new program that allows compensation for gulf veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses.

"When they are sick, we must do what is right," Clinton said.

White House sources said while no decision is imminent, the Clinton administration is considering setting up its own task force to investigate the Persian Gulf mystery illnesses, and to review the government's own sluggish early response to ailing veterans.

The Desert Storm vets had harrowing medical tales to tell the first lady.

Sgt. Bryan Hall, 29, now on "medical hold" at his home in Baltimore, was part of a cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Assigned to one of the very first units to engage retreating Iraqis, Hall's convoy advanced so fast toward the Euphrates River that orders to stop taking the controversial pyridostigmine tablet never caught up with him. The Pentagon originally thought pyridostigmine would protect against Iraqi biochemical warfare attacks, but so many severe reactions slowed American troops that its usage was cut back.

Hall was the NBC officer for his regiment - the Nuclear, Biological, Chemical weapons expert. He suspects American troops were subject to biochemical attacks. At one point, his convoy came across 117 dead goats and sheep, all facing the same direction, saliva and mucus dripping from noses and mouths, with very few flies buzzing about them. The chemical alarms went off.

"We detected mild nerve agents," he told Mrs. Clinton. Their unit was stalled

and decontaminated before moving forward.

Now he has severe chest pains, headaches, hard bumps all over his skin, aching joints, fatigue, a tendency to gain weight without eating, and his lungs are slowly collapsing from the bottom up. His officers want him to muster out as unfit. He and his wife have decided not to have anymore children because their 11-year-old son is now getting skin bumps: "We are really scared."

Mrs. Clinton recognized one afflicted veteran. Michelle Wright, a native of Rochester, N.Y., had met her at Monroe Community College during a 1992 campaign event.

Wright, 26, who served in an Army Reserve hospital evacuation unit in Oman, said she blames her upper respiratory ailments on pesticides - which the desert natives sprayed near her base daily, heavily and without warning. But Wright - now working as a reservist in the Walter Reed pharmacy - also has headaches and chronic fatigue, and trouble passing physical training exams.

"I used to be active in martial arts," she recalled wistfully.

Nancy Kaplan of New Britain, Conn., told Mrs. Clinton her whole family got sick after handling the laundry her husband mailed home. When he returned from Desert Storm, his bags were stored in the nursery. The baby fell ill and almost died.

Army Spc. James Taylor, 24, now at nearby Ft. Meade, was stationed 20 miles from the Kuwait-Iraq border with the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion. He suspects his unit was subjected to biochemical weapons attacks, also. He has skin nodules, fatigue, nausea, headaches, dizziness, bowel problems.

"I was diagnosed with three different things three different times," he told Gannett News Service. "The last was depression. It was a crock. I've seen this whitewashed before. She (Hillary Clinton) can do a lot of good as long as the concern is genuine."

President Clinton specifically asked his wife to get to the bottom of all the controversy, which Pentagon officials have only recently and somewhat reluctantly begun to probe with any zeal.

Democratic senators and representatives who carried the issue to public hearings on Capitol Hill in the past couple of years have found little interest among Republicans who moved into control following last fall's elections.

Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has long been a political ally of the first lady, and reportedly urged her to get the administration more heavily involved. Dianna Zuckermann, who had lost her job as Rockefeller's chief investigator on the issue when Republicans took power, now assists Mrs. Clinton as a volunteer on veterans' issues.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 1995

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**02/27/95: INTERNAL
MEETING ON COMMISSION**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1995
FINAL

Scheduling Desk: Esther Watkins	
202-456-5315	office
202-456-2317	fax
202-483-6050	home
1-800-528-7823	WHCA #4188

PREV RON

The White House

9:00 am-
1:00 pm

PHONE/OFFICE TIME

1:00 pm-
2:00 pm

INTERNAL MEETING on Gulf War Syndrome Commission
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS

Staff Contact: Nicole Rabner

456-6266

Note: The President will have nothing scheduled after 12:05 today.

RON

The White House

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC: Mostly sunny. Wind southwest at 3 to 8 knots. Low temp 30 to 35. High temp 50 to 55.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

**08/14/95: 1st MTG.
OF PRES. ADV. CMTE.**

Divider Title: _____

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST, 14, 1995
FINAL

Lead Advance

Gulf War Veterans Event: Kara McGuire
202-456-5312 Office
202-757-5000 Home
800-SKY-PAGE #207-4725

Press Lead: David Neslen
202-456-7560 Office
202-757-5000 Home
800-SKY-PAGE #207-4669

Scheduler: Holly Nichols/Sara Grote
202-456-7561 Office
202-456-5340 Fax
703-931-2483 Home
WHCA pager #5446

PREV RON The White House

9:25 am DEPART White House South Portico
EN ROUTE Capital Hilton Hotel
[Drive Time: 10 minutes]

9:35 am ARRIVE Capital Hilton Hotel
16th and K Streets, NW
No Hold
Phone: 202-639-5738
Fax: 202-639-5742

9:40 am- FIRST MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
9:55 am ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GULF WAR VETERANS'
ILLNESSES
Congressional Room
OPEN PRESS

NOTE: Chair of the Advisory Committee Dr. Joyce Lashof will
be seated to the right of HRC; Advisory Committee Board
Member Dr. David Hamburg will be seated to the left of
HRC.

Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Jesse Brown, Secretary
of HHS Donna Shalala, and Deputy Secretary of Defense
John White will be seated to the right of the
discussion table.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MONDAY, AUGUST, 14, 1995
PAGE 2

FORMAT:

- HRC escorted to meeting by Robyn Nishimi
- Dr. Joyce Lashof introduces HRC
- HRC delivers brief remarks
- HRC thanks the participants and closes
- HRC shakes hands with Secretary Jesse Brown, Secretary Donna Shalala, and Deputy Secretary John White
- HRC departs

NOTE: Possible photo with Cabinet Members upon departure.

PARTICIPANTS: 13 Advisory Board Committee Members. Audience approx 200 people.

Contact: Robyn Nishimi, Executive Director, Advisory Committee
202-761-0066
800-941-5195 (pager)

Staff Contact: Diana Zuckerman
202-456-6133/7265

10:00 am

DEPART Capital Hilton Hotel
EN ROUTE White House
[Drive Time: 10 minutes]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MONDAY, AUGUST, 14, 1995
PAGE 3

10:10 am **ARRIVE White House South Portico**

10:15 am- **PHONE/OFFICE TIME**
11:00 am **Residence**

11:00 am- **PRIVATE MEETING**
2:00 pm **Residence**
 CLOSED PRESS

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

-Partly cloudy. Wind northwest at 8 to 12 knots. Low 72-77.
High 92-97.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

August 14, 1995

Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
to the President's Advisory Committee on
Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses
Washington, DC

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. I am delighted to be here at this first meeting, and on behalf of the President, I want to thank the Chair and members of the President's Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses for your willingness to perform this public service. I also want to welcome all the veterans, their friends and families, who are here to talk about their personal experiences and to hear from the Administration officials who have been working diligently on the issues raised in the President's Executive Order creating this Committee.

I want to start by emphasizing again how proud we all are of our victory in the Gulf War. Because of the enormous skill and bravery of American troops, an end was put to Saddam Hussein's brutal and illegal occupation of Kuwait. Because of the strength of U.S. leadership, the international community came together to stop and reverse unprovoked aggression against an innocent nation.

This Presidential Advisory Committee is an important example of the President's commitment to leave no stone unturned in the Administration's efforts to understand Gulf War veterans' illnesses and to make sure that the government is responsive to veterans' needs.

In his announcement, the President assured Gulf War veterans that we are grateful for their bravery, and we are as proud of them today as all of us were when they returned victorious in 1991. And most important, the President made it clear that just as we relied on our troops when they were sent to war, we must assure them that they can rely on us now.

The President and I have heard from many Gulf War veterans and their family members about their illnesses. We have received letters from all over the country, and have had the privilege of meeting with many veterans and family members in person. Some of these men and women, such as Steve Robertson and Nancy Kaplan, will be speaking to you this afternoon.

Veterans have told me about their frustrating efforts to find out why they are ill and how their illnesses can be treated. They have shared moving stories of the devastating effects on families

when fathers and mothers become disabled and unable to work. They have described what it was like to serve their country in a desert land where oil well fires turned the day to night, and where sandstorms made it difficult to breathe. Some described scud missile attacks, or told of frequent use of insecticides to protect them from insect-born diseases.

Many Gulf War veterans have been outspoken in seeking and providing information about their illnesses. This Advisory Committee will determine whether the experiences these veterans describe in the Persian Gulf, and in receiving medical care, have been adequately addressed or whether there are additional actions that need to be taken.

When Secretary Jesse Brown and I met with veterans at the local VA Hospital here in Washington, and when then Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch and I met with active duty soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital, the stories we heard touched us deeply, and provided important information as well. I know you will be working closely with veterans, who will be an invaluable resource in your deliberations, and I am pleased you will begin by hearing directly from Gulf War veterans today.

I have also met with the physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals from the VA and DOD who have worked with Gulf War veterans who are ill. They too express great frustration about the difficulties they have faced in helping some of the veterans and their family members whose illnesses remain undiagnosed. I know you will also work closely with these dedicated men and women, and learn from their experiences.

When the men and women of the U.S. military, Reserves, and National Guard were called to war in 1990, our Nation knew that we could rely on them, and they served our nation honorably.

When we look back to the euphoric parades for returning U.S. troops in 1991, we can still remember a great feeling of relief. We had won the war, and most Americans had returned home safely.

But throughout 1991 and 1992, there was increasing concern about some of our Gulf War veterans. There were veterans who described symptoms that did not respond to treatment, and did not go away as expected. When my husband became President and learned that the numbers of veterans with chronic symptoms seemed to be increasing, he took an active interest in helping our veterans.

Because of the leadership and dedication of the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services, this Administration has already made unprecedented efforts to help Gulf War veterans. For example, never before has an Administration moved so quickly to conduct research aimed at helping returning soldiers who are ill. This year alone, the three Departments will

spend approximately \$15 million to study possible environmental hazards, to determine whether illnesses have been transmitted to spouses and children, and to develop improved treatment programs.

With the leadership of the VA, this Administration strongly supported laws to ensure that compensation is available to those who are disabled, even if the direct causes of the illnesses stemming from their military service are unknown. The VA is also providing priority medical care to Gulf War veterans, and both VA and the Defense Department have established special treatment centers to help veterans whose illnesses are particularly difficult to diagnose.

The Defense Department has also recently initiated a new program that will declassify documents and other information about the Gulf War, and make them available on Internet.

All these efforts will serve our veterans well, and most were accomplished with bipartisan support from the 103rd Congress, under the leadership of then Chairmen of the Veterans Affairs Committees, Sen. Jay Rockefeller and Rep. Sonny Montgomery, and their Committee members.

As President Clinton stated when he first announced this Advisory Committee, he is determined to do whatever it takes to respond to the concerns of Gulf War veterans.

This Administration has already convened several other panels of outside experts to examine various issues pertaining to Gulf War veterans' illnesses, but it came to realize that the issues are so complex they require a more comprehensive, sustained effort.

And so the President established this Advisory Committee, to be independent and appropriately staffed, with the relevant experience and expertise that the members represent. This Advisory Committee is unique because, as the President outlined in his Executive Order, you will review all aspects of the Federal governments' programs and policies that affect Gulf War illnesses, telling us what we are doing right and what we should be doing better.

The Executive Order specifies that you will provide "advice and recommendations" based on your review of the following: research; medical treatment; risk factors from service in the Gulf War, including possible environmental factors, and drugs and vaccines; reports of the possible detection of chemical and biological weapons; coordinating efforts that have been established by Federal agencies; external reviews by other expert panels; and outreach to veterans.

As you can see from that list, your mandate is broad. In your efforts to review all these programs and policies, the Secretaries

are pledged to assist you, and you will find their doors open to you. And the President has made it absolutely clear, in his Executive Order and in his announcement of this Advisory Committee, that when you consider your task, no issue is off limits and every reasonable inquiry should be pursued.

There are many opinions about how many Gulf War veterans are ill, what has caused those illnesses, and how they can best be treated. In talking to veterans and to those who are trying to serve them, it is clear that those opinions are as strongly held as they are diverse.

And so, your task is a difficult one. There are many unanswered questions, and we are counting on you to make sure that this Administration is doing all it can to catalog relevant questions and, in so far as possible, answer them.

For that reason, you were selected on the basis of your wide range of expertise in medical issues, scientific research, policy, and military matters. The veterans on the panel will contribute their invaluable perspectives from their military experiences, and it is particularly important that two of you served in the Gulf War. You all were selected because you do not have pre-conceived notions about the scope of the problem of Gulf War illnesses, or the causes and treatment.

None of us knows what the research now being conducted or called for in the future will tell us. So far, the research that the government has conducted indicates that thousands of veterans who were healthy when they left for the Gulf War are now ill. Many veterans believe that these symptoms cluster together into a "Gulf War Syndrome" that is unique. Based on the research to date, however, experts have concluded that there is not enough evidence to call this a syndrome. This is an issue that will continue to be studied as more research is completed.

There are disagreements about the likely causes and the best treatments for these symptoms. These issues also will continue to be studied as more research is completed.

The President has appointed this Advisory Committee because we do not yet have the answers to these important questions. These are complicated scientific questions that deserve careful scientific scrutiny.

In his Executive Order, the President has entrusted you to make sure that the Federal government is supporting appropriate research, and that, whenever possible, the results are being used to inform treatment, compensation, and priorities for future research. You are also entrusted to examine the wide array of Federal programs and policies to make sure that they not only make

sense, but also that they are being administered effectively and humanely.

I want to leave you with the image of an open door. Perhaps your most important tool as you serve on this Committee is your ability to be open-minded, to take advantage of our open-door policy to seek out the information you need to evaluate all existing programs and policies, and to make recommendations to ensure that this Administration will continue to be responsive and responsible to our veterans. We owe them that much, and more, and all of us are grateful for your willingness to take on this important public service. Thank you very much Madame Chairman.

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August 14, 1995 Monday, EVENING UPDATE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2; ZONE: C; EVENING. People.

LENGTH: 246 words

HEADLINE: CONCLUSION ON GULF-WAR DISEASE IS CRITICIZED

BYLINE: From Tribune wires.

BODY:

A Defense Department conclusion that there is no new or unique illness among Persian Gulf war veterans was described Monday as unjustified and unproved by a committee of medical experts who analyzed the work.

A committee of the Institute of Medicine, a private research organization associated with the National Academy of Sciences, said the Defense Department "made conscientious efforts" to evaluate 10,020 U.S. veterans who developed unusual and unexplained health problems after fighting in the Persian Gulf War. But the experts said the Defense Department failed to prove its conclusion that there was no such thing as a "Persian Gulf syndrome" among those troops.

The Institute of Medicine's report was released just before the first meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses. At the meeting, Hillary Rodham Clinton said the group was appointed because of her husband's determination to find final answers to the mysterious, unexplained illnesses reported by thousands of Gulf War veterans: "The research that government has conducted indicates that thousands of veterans who were healthy when they left for the gulf war are now ill. Many veterans believe that these symptoms cluster together into a Gulf War Syndrome that is unique."

A recent Defense report said a study of the 10,020 veterans found no clinical evidence of a new or unique illness responsible for a variety of symptoms reported by Gulf War veterans.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: (Hillary Clinton.)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 15, 1995

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August 15, 1995

SECTION: News; Pg. A7

LENGTH: 366 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton urges more attention to war illness claims

BYLINE: TODD S. PURDUM

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- Hillary Rodham Clinton urged a presidential commission on Monday to leave no stone unturned in investigating why thousands of veterans of the Persian Gulf war returned with various illnesses, even as a panel of independent medical experts suggested that the Pentagon might have been too hasty in concluding that there was no evidence of a "Gulf war syndrome."

"No issue is off-limits and every reasonable inquiry should be pursued," Hillary Clinton told the first meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses. President Clinton formed the commission to evaluate the undiagnosed illnesses that have afflicted many who served in the Persian Gulf during military operations in late 1990 and early 1991.

Symptoms have included chronic fatigue, memory loss, rashes, respiratory problems, insomnia, and recurrent infections. Some veterans have suggested that the ailments resulted from battlefield conditions, such as exposure to chemical pollutants from burning oil fields.

Hillary Clinton has taken an interest in the issue since she received complaints from veterans during her work on health care last year, and the commission invited her to speak. Addressing the group on Monday at the Capital Hilton here, she said that "thousands of veterans who were healthy when they left for the gulf war are now ill." She added: "Based on the research to date, however, experts have concluded that there is not enough evidence to call this a syndrome."

Even before Clinton spoke, the Institute of Medicine, a not-for-profit research group affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences, issued a report saying the Defense Department had not adequately explained its conclusion that the illnesses did not constitute a definable syndrome unique to Persian Gulf veterans.

The Institute of Medicine report said that the Pentagon had "made conscientious efforts" to evaluate the health of 10,020 American veterans of the gulf war who complained of unusual illnesses. But the report went on to say that the Pentagon had failed to support its preliminary conclusion that there was no single syndrome but rather a variety of illnesses.

GRAPHIC: Clinton

LOAD-DATE: August 15, 1995