



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

JAN 26 1993

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Veterans Health Care Act of 1992

The Army has served a crucial role in our efforts to monitor the health of our troops who served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, through the Office of the Army Surgeon General, the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, and the Environmental Support Group.

On 4 November 1992, Public Law 102-585, title VII, the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992, was enacted. This legislation directs the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide, respectively, for the establishment and integration of special Persian Gulf Registry examination programs for Persian Gulf active duty personnel and veterans. The law also requires DoD and the VA jointly to enter into an agreement with the Medical Follow-up Agency of the National Academy of Sciences to fund a scientific review of the health effects of Persian Gulf service (Attachment 1).

On 13 July 1992, the Deputy Secretary of Defense delegated the authorities and duties of the Secretary of Defense under Section 734(a), (b), and (e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 which required the establishment of a registry of certain members involved in the Persian Gulf conflict to the Secretary of the Army as the Executive Agent of DoD. In addition, the Secretary of the Army was designated as the Executive Agent of the Department to provide the assistance requested by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Attachment 2).

In consonance with this designation by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, you are hereby designated as the Executive Agent for the Department of Defense for the health related requirements specified in the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992. Please provide this office with quarterly progress updates on this project beginning 1 April 1993.

*Edward D. Martin*

Edward D. Martin, M.D.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense

Attachments:  
As stated

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