2010 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Veterans Affairs	2010

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans	34736

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/19/2008		12/31/2009

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
Yes	Secretary Decision	12/31/2009

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No	

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
Secretary Decision	04/19/2008	Ad hoc	No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	$0.00	$0.00
18d. Total	$0.00	$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee submitted its final report in September 2009 which included 6 recommendations. The Committee identified 6 prevailing health care and benefits themes raised during the course of their work. They are: 1) health care priority; 2) access to care; 3) undiagnosed illnesses; 4) classification of Gulf War I records; 5) outreach; and 6) timeliness. The Committee provided advice on the full spectrum of health care and benefits issues that confront Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the 1990-1991 period of the Gulf War. To carry out these duties, the Committee assessed both the effectiveness of existing benefits and services and determined the need for new

initiatives and/or policies that relate exclusively to this population of Veterans. The Committee was terminated 12/31/2009, and administrative wrap up duties were conducted in this reporting cycle.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee's membership offered a wide range of perspectives, experiences and expertise. Membership included VA and non-VA medical professionals with expertise in disabilities prevalent among Gulf War Veterans, environmental health experts, Gulf War Veterans, Veterans service organizations officials, members of groups with expertise in chronic multi-symptom illnesses, and professionals familiar with VA benefit claims processing.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee met as needed in order to provide a final report and recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs determined that the Committee was in the public interest and essential to the conduct of the Department's business. Although there is an active VA advisory committee (a statutory panel) which deals with Gulf War Veterans' issues, its jurisdiction is limited to research issues. This Committee's duration was limited to 18 months.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Meetings were generally open to the public unless meeting directly with Veterans which closing was

necessary to protect patient privacy and in compliance with requirements of 5 U.S.C. section 552B(c)(6).

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Laura O'Shea Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Cragin, Charles	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Senior Government Affairs Counselor, Maine Street Solutions, LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Douthit, Martha	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Surviving Spouse; Gold Star Wives	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Falk, Henry	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Medical Expert, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Garner, Mark	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Gulf War Veteran; USMC, Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Goldman, Lynn	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Medical Expert, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hart, John	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Medical Expert, Center for Brain Health at The University of Texas at Dallas	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jones, William	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Gulf War veteran; U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Love, Kirt	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Gulf War veteran; Director, Desert Storm Battle Registry	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Ortiz, Daniel	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Gulf War veteran; Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept. Svc. Director for CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pinedo, Daniel	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Gulf War Veteran; Active Duty, Col., IMEF Comptroller	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Plewes, Thomas	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	LTG, U.S. Army Reserves (Retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Randall, Valerie	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Gulf War veteran; SFC, U.S. Army (Retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reese, Randy	04/10/2008	12/17/2009	Veterans Service Organization representative	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Robertson, Steve	04/19/2008	12/17/2009	Legislative Director, The American Legion	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 14

Narrative Description

The Committee addressed Gulf War Veterans' concerns in areas such as the adequacy of VA benefits, access to VA medical treatment, and possible revision of certain VA clinical care standards.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	☑
Trust in government	☑
Major policy changes	☐
Advance in scientific research	☐
Effective grant making	☐

Improved service delivery	✓
Increased customer satisfaction	✓
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	
Other	

Outcome Comments
N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	✓
Unable to Determine	
Under $100,000	
$100,000 - $500,000	
$500,001 - $1,000,000	
$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	
$5,000,001 - $10,000,000	
Over $10,000,000	
Cost Savings Other	

Cost Savings Comments
N/A

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?
16

Number of Recommendations Comments
The Committee submited its final report to the Secretary in September 2009.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?
0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☑

Agency Feedback Comments

N/A

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☐
Reallocated resources	☐
Issued new regulation	☐
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☑

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	☑
Online Agency Web Site	☑
Online Committee Web Site	☑

Online GSA FACA Web Site	☑
Publications	☐
Other	☐

Access Comments

N/A