

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Veterans Hall, Seattle Center, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Portland, OR, site to be determined. The Advisory Committee will conduct town hall meetings at the three sites on Tuesday to collect information from minority veteran group representatives and individual minority veterans. All sessions will be open to the public, up to the seating capacity of the meeting room. On Wednesday, May 21, the Committee will reconvene as a whole at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle Division, room 104, to discuss findings from the three Subcommittee town hall meetings. The Committee will meet with the Northwest Interagency Policy Council for American Indian Veterans and the African American PTSD Group. Preliminary drafting of the annual report will begin during this meeting. It will be necessary for those wishing to attend to contact either of the following: Mr. Anthony Hawkins, Department of Veterans Affairs (phone (202) 273-6708); Mr. Jim Bouley, VA Regional Office Seattle, (phone (206) 220-6125); Ms. Frankie Manning, VA Puget Sound (phone (206) 764-2626); or Ms. Deborah Williams, VA Medical Center Portland (phone (503) 402-2903) prior to May 15, 1997. The Committee will accept appropriate written comments from interested parties on issues affecting minority veterans. Such comments should be referred to the Committee at anytime at the following address: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Center for Minority Veterans (00M), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: April 11, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary:

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Persian Gulf Expert Scientific Committee, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with P.L. 92-463, gives notice that a meeting of the VA Persian Gulf Expert Scientific Committee will be held on:

Monday, June 16, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 17, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

The location of the meeting will be 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., Room 230.

The Committee's objectives are to advise the Under Secretary for Health about medical findings affecting Persian Gulf era veterans.

At this meeting the Committee will review all aspects of patient care and medical diagnoses and will provide professional consultation as needed. The Committee may advise on other areas involving research and development, veterans benefits and/or training aspects for patients and staff.

All portions of the meeting will be open to the public except from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on June 16 and from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on June 17, 1997. During these executive sessions,

discussions and recommendations will deal with medical records of specific patients and individually identifiable patient medical histories. The disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Closure of this portion of the meeting is in accordance with subsection 10(d) of P.L. 92-463, as amended by P.L. 94-409, and as cited in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

The agenda for June 16 will begin with a panel discussion on Infectious Diseases and Persian Gulf Illnesses, followed by an update on the Spouses and Children of Persian Gulf Vets Examination Program. The first day's agenda will also cover a follow-up on VA Epidemiological Programs and another panel discussion on the Approaches to Unexplained Illnesses.

On June 17 the Committee will hear updates on the DoD Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Investigative Team and on the VA Environmental Hazards Research Centers as well as the Committee's statements on Health Effects of Low-Level Chemical Warfare Nerve Agent Exposure.

Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Dated: April 3, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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