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My name is Paul Sullivan. I am a sick Gulf War veteran. I am also the executive director of Veterans for Common Sense.

Thank you Chairman Binns for allowing me to speak for a few minutes about this week's meeting. I also want to thank the RAC for their diligence for eight years. And I want to thank VA Chief of Staff John Gingrich, VA's highest ranking Gulf War veteran, for his new Gulf War Task Force. We hope he will add external stakeholders to his Task Force.

VCS has a few comments about this RAC meeting and VA's Gulf War Task Force. VCS supports VA's dramatic about-face on this effort to address our needs, 19 years after the Gulf War cease fire.

First, VCS urges VA to say 1-in-4 are ill plus confirm Public Law 103-446, where Congress found we were exposed. Yes, that means a prominent public statement by VA Secretary Shinseki.

Second, VCS urges VA to release the VHA and VBA training documents plus proposed regulations for claims that are mentioned in the Gulf War Task Force Report, please.

Third, VCS urges VA to set a timetable to implement the new policies to demonstrate urgency of issue.

Fourth, VCS urges VA to work with DoD and Congress to fund and support the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program searing for treatments.

Fifth, VCS urges VA needs to expand DU research to include inhalation. In a related matter, VCS urges VA needs to use the most sensitive depleted uranium exposure tests recommended by IOM.

Sixth, VCS urges VA to resume the Gulf War Veterans Information System – GWVIS – reports as soon as possible. VCS also asks that VBA expand GWVIS reports to include more robust items on costs and conditions. Please note that VBA can collect some of the data sought by the RAC. However, when I was at VBA from 2000 to 2006, VBA leaders fought against expanding data collection and analysis. Furthermore, VBA leaders knew that migrating data to VETSNET would cause problems for GWVIS reports. However, VBA leaders ignored warnings to improve GWVIS reports.

VCS urges VA to convert the University of Texas contract to a grant. VCS believes his research is essential. VA's Inspector General reported that a VA Central Office employees impeded the University of Texas research. Before the UT research is terminated, VCS urges VA leaders to investigate who impeded the contract.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak. After 19 years, I truly feel this Administration is starting to make progress. And VCS is cooperating fully so we can move forward with research, treatments, and benefits for our Gulf War veterans.