

## ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN DISCUSSION

### Charter and Statutory Mission

1. Review research findings and research plans regarding health consequences of GW service.
2. Evaluate research against the standard of whether it makes a difference to the health of GW veterans.

## 2010 Objectives

1. Advise re: establishment of effective new VA GWI research program, providing timely recommendations throughout year in light of past experience and review of proposed plans and RFA's.
2. Review and disseminate relevant new research literature.
3. Identify promising novel treatments, diagnostic markers, and possible mechanisms underlying the disease that constitute potential targets for treatment.
4. Provide annual report to Secretary not later than February 28, summarizing major new literature findings and new research opportunities identified in 2009.

## Detailed Objectives

1. Review of new literature on GWI research and other relevant areas.
  - by RAC staff (comprehensive)
  - speakers at meetings (for especially relevant studies)
2. Dissemination of new research literature
  - website posting
  - minutes of RAC meetings posted online
  - annual RAC report
3. Review of proposed VA research plans
  - discussions with key VA researchers to brainstorm possibilities
  - review of proposed general research plan and RFA's
  - recommendations
4. Review of VA research progress
  - individual researcher progress reports on promising studies at RAC meetings
  - annual meeting bringing together key VA researchers to facilitate discussion, refinement, and pace of research program
  - recommendations

## Priority Areas

### 1. Treatments

- identification of new treatment candidates found effective in treating overlapping conditions (eg, other multisymptom illnesses and neurological conditions) and in treating systems affected or likely affected) in ill Gulf War veterans (eg, CNS, autonomic nervous system, neuroinflammation)

- identification of mechanisms underlying GWI which may present targets for treatments

### 2. Biomarkers

- identification of biological markers, which may be candidates for diagnostic tests

## Other Topics

**Facilitation** - Identification of and status of opportunities for other areas of VA to assist the research program

- data collection regarding treatments prescribed and results, illnesses diagnosed, deaths and cause of death

- means to assist VA and DoD-funded researchers in recruiting subjects and controls

**Three meetings** - two in first half of year, to assist VA in establishing its new program expeditiously; two in Washington, one in Boston.