



PSYCHIATRY

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES
F. EDWARD HÉBERT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
4301 JONES BRIDGE ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4799



TEACHING HOSPITALS
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
NAVAL HOSPITAL, BETHESDA
MALCOLM GROW AIR FORCE MEDICAL CENTER
WILFORD HALL AIR FORCE MEDICAL CENTER

November 29, 1993

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
Professor
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021-6399



Dear Professor Lederberg:

I much appreciate your telephone call. Enclosed please find a copy of the Congressional testimony that was given by a member of my research team (Dr. Ann Norwood) who carried out the on-site assessments in Indiana on the first "outbreak" of the Gulf War Syndrome.

In addition, I have enclosed a copy of recent comments by Senator Inouye, reference USUHS, and a book chapter on the unique aspects of military psychiatry in particular. As I discussed on the phone, I believe the major question is whether there is military unique medical skills and knowledge. This is a fundamental issue to USUHS, graduate medical education in the military, and the military medical care system. Each of these are intricately interwoven to produce an education, research, and medical care system which allows us to be responsive to unique medical problems to which troops deployed worldwide in severe environments can be exposed. From infectious agents to traumatic events, the emphasis in military medical care is unique and focused to the problems of our population and the task of prevention. A further unique aspect of military medicine, which can easily be forgotten, is the important role of assuring troops assigned overseas that both they, no matter what happens to them, and their families will be taken care of. This is a major element in the maintenance of unit cohesion and morale and is a core reason for the military medical care system. I worry that unless the system is looked at in toto, the intricate relationships of its various components will not be recognized. You cannot ask troops to fight in Somalia, Yugoslavia, or the next hot area of the world without assuring them of their health and that of their families. The management of the stressors of deployment and separation are critically dependent on the cohesive nature of the military. The military family is more than a metaphor, it represents the social fabric of norms, laws, and interpersonal relationships in the military.

The school is also well positioned to address major national needs in health care. Its unique physical relationship to the National Institutes of Health offers substantial opportunities.



Re: Military unique medical skills and knowledge

-2-

If I can be of any further help, please let me know. I look forward to the opportunity to have you visit the school at a convenient time.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", written in a cursive style.

Robert J. Ursano, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

RJU:mg

Enclosures