

July 31, 2000
Captain Gregory C. Gray, MC, USN
Naval Health Research Center
DoD Center for Deployment Health Research
PO Box 85122

San Diego, CA, 92186-5122

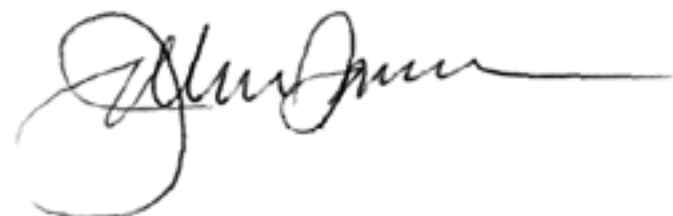
Dear Captain Gray:

The American Legion is supportive of the Millennium Cohort Study, which has been designed to evaluate the health of our service men and women after deployments. As part of our commitment to serving veterans, we continue to seek quality in-depth research that can help us understand their health and well-being.

Veterans are continuing to experience poor health after deploying to conflict areas. In the Vietnam War we faced the unforeseen health effects of Agent Orange and other herbicide exposure. More recently we have veterans of the Gulf War facing a mysterious set of illnesses and conditions without adequate answers and definitive causes. Therefore, long-term and exhaustive studies, such as yours, are critical to understanding the effects of deployments on physical and mental health.

We look forward to following the progress of this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Sommer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John F. Sommer
Executive Director, American Legion