

The seal of the Defense Health Board is a circular emblem. It features a central figure of a caduceus (a staff with two snakes and wings) superimposed on a globe. The globe shows the continents of North and South America. The words "DEFENSE" and "HEALTH BOARD" are written in a circular path around the central image. The seal is rendered in a light, semi-transparent blue and green color.

# **Public Health Subcommittee**

A Comprehensive Approach to the Assessment  
of Deployment Pulmonary Health

**RADM (Ret) H. Clifford Lane, MD**

Defense Health Board

June 3, 2014



# Overview

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# Membership

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## Public Health Subcommittee

- RADM (Ret) H. Clifford Lane, MD (Chair)
- Sonia A. Alemagno, PhD
- Gary P. Carlson, PhD
- John D. Clements, PhD
- Steven Gordon, MD\*
- John Groopman, PhD
- David Lakey, MD
- James E. Lockey, MD, MS
- Gregory A. Poland, MD
- Maj (Ret) Joseph Silva, Jr., MD

*\*Nominee Pending Approval*



## Background

“There is some evidence of acute respiratory symptoms possibly associated with in-theater inhalational exposures [in Southwest Asia], but assessment of possible long-term pulmonary disease is inconclusive.”

- Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) [USD(P&R)] Memo dated January 20, 2012



# Tasking

(2 of 2)

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## **Request that the Defense Health Board review evidence and recommend:**

- A comprehensive approach to the assessment and prevention of deployment-related pulmonary disease, including screening and clinical diagnostic tools
- A direction for future research and surveillance

- Acting USD(P&R) Memo dated January 20, 2012



# Timeline

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Meetings since previous Board meeting:

- December 5, 2013 – Meeting at DHHQ
- January 16, 2014 – Teleconference
- February 12, 2014 – Meeting at DHHQ
- April 7-8, 2014 – Meeting at DHHQ
- May 15, 2014 – Teleconference

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 11 – Meeting at DHHQ
- July 10 – Teleconference
- August 6 – Teleconference



# Meeting Highlights

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- **5 Dec 2013**
  - Vanderbilt Evaluations
  - National Jewish Health Evaluations and Research
  - NIOSH Perspective
  - Mayo Clinic Pulmonary Pathology Perspective
  - Joint Pathology Center Research Opportunities
  - Military Operational Medicine Research Program  
Deployment Pulmonary Health Activities



# Meeting Highlights

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- **16 Jan 2013**

- IRB Terminated Seabee Study

- **12 Feb 2014**

- FDNY 9/11 Responder Follow-up
- Northport VA Evaluations and Research
- Spirometry Surveillance and Quality Control Issues
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Ctr Pulmonology
- Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center
- Army Public Health Command: Epidemiology Update





# Meeting Highlights

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- **21 March 2014**
  - Report Outline Discussion
- **7-8 April 2014**
  - VA Epidemiology Program: Pulmonary Health Research
  - Toxicity of Iraq and Afghanistan Dust
  - Naval Health Research Center: Millennium Cohort
  - Naval Medical Center San Diego Pulmonology
  - Discussion of Findings and Potential Recommendations



# Meeting Highlights

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- **15 May 2014**
  - DoD Medical Research Prioritization and Coordination
  - Draft Chapter Discussion



# Recommendation Focus Areas

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## **At the level of the individual:**

- 1) Pre-deployment baseline pulmonary status
- 2) Screening for potential post-deployment chronic pulmonary disease
- 3) Clinical protocols for evaluation of post-deployment pulmonary disease

## **At the level of the force:**

- 4) Current and planned registries
- 5) Surveillance
- 6) Ongoing and future research
- 7) Prevention



# Way Ahead

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- Invitation for public comments at the June 11 subcommittee meeting at DHHQ
- Continue development and deliberation of findings and recommendations
- Draft report for August 2014 DHB meeting



# June 11 Federal Register Excerpt

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- *Purpose of the Meeting:*

“... to receive public comments concerning deployment pulmonary health during an open forum. The Subcommittee is reviewing evidence relevant to deployment-related pulmonary disease in Service members and veterans. Comments from the public range from insight on deployment-related pulmonary health issues to personal accounts and objective input.”

- *Agenda:*

“...subject to availability of space, the Public Health Subcommittee meeting is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on June 11, 2014. On June 11, 2014, the Public Health Subcommittee will receive public comments on deployment-related pulmonary health issues. The DFO, in conjunction with the Subcommittee Chair, may restrict speaking time per person.”