On March 2, the Committee will meet in open session from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Committee will hear from its chairman, the acting director of the VA Office of Rural Health, and the directors of the three Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers. The Committee will hold a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges of VA collaboration with rural community partners, and discuss its 2010 work plan and priorities. The Committee will convene a closed session from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in order to protect patient privacy as the Committee tours patient treatment areas at the Mountain Home VA Medical Center. Closing this portion of the meeting is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

On March 3, the Committee will receive a summary of the tour of the Mountain Home VA Medical Center, presentations on service delivery models for primary care and their application in the rural context from VA and Indian Health Service and discuss Committee priorities and action plans for fiscal year 2010.

Time will be allocated for receiving public comments at 1:45 p.m. Individuals who speak are invited to submit 1–2 page summaries of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record. For additional information, please contact Christina White, Designated Federal Officer, at rural.health.inquiry@va.gov or (202) 461–7100.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Vivian Drake,
Acting Committee Management Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses; Notice of Meeting

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, research plans and research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

The Committee will review VA program activities related to Gulf War veterans’ illnesses and updates on relevant scientific research published since the last Committee meeting. Additionally, there will be presentations and discussion of background information on the Gulf War and Gulf War Veterans’ illnesses, chronic pain, potential health effects of exposure to sarin, chronic fatigue syndrome, a planned survey of the health status of Norwegian Gulf War Veterans, and updates on a number of ongoing research at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the VA Related Illness and Injury Centers. There will also be discussion of Committee business and activities.

The meeting will include time reserved for public comments. A sign-up sheet for five-minute comments will be available at the meeting. Individuals who speak are invited to submit a 1–2 page summary of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record. Members of the public may also submit written statements for the Committee’s review to Dr. Roberta White, Chair, Department of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health, 715 Albany St., T2E, Boston, MA 02118.

Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Dr. White, Scientific Director, at (617) 638–4620 or Dr. William Goldberg, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 461–1667.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Vivian Drake,
Acting Committee Management Officer.