

Contact: KMR Communications, Inc.
P: 212.213.6444
F: 212.213.4699
info@kmrcommunications.com



Media Alert: Before Shipping Out Soldiers Are Bottling Their Future

New York, NY January 1, 2003 - With America on the brink of war, many troops don't know if they're coming back or if they're coming back with good quality sperm. An increasing number of military service men are reporting to one of the several large sperm banks in the US to freeze and store specimens of their sperm in anticipation of a possible war in the Middle East. According to Dr. Philip Werthman, Los Angeles urologist and director of The Center of Male Reproductive Medicine, "Storing sperm is one way to insure possible options if a troop becomes incapacitated or exposed to radioactive chemical warfare while serving overseas." Werthman adds, "If a tragedy should occur, families may have the option to produce a legal heir with the semen that has been frozen and stored.

In the past, many troops were given a combination of vaccinations to protect themselves against foreign deadly diseases and nerve gas. A new study funded by the Department of Defense, which appeared in the January 10th issue of "The Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, warned that the vaccinations given to troops during the Gulf War had caused extensive cell degeneration and cell death, which in turn caused infertility, sexual dysfunction and other genitourinary symptoms in some veterans.

With the threat of war any day now, Dr. Werthman suggests that storing sperm is a wise choice among troops departing for overseas. It has been clearly documented that troops are given chemicals to prevent insect-borne diseases and nerve-gas poisoning, which do cause deterioration in testicular structure and sperm production. As these chemicals are harmful to the reproductive system, they are definitely needed to keep the troops alive. That's where the option to freeze and store sperm makes for a valued choice.

Given the task of fighting for their country and freedom of the world, troops certainly have enough on their plate, without worrying about the future of their children. They can now focus on returning home safely to their families. For more information or for interview with Dr. Werthman please contact Shanna Summers at 212.527.7511 or shannas@kmrcommunications.com.

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