

## **Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing**

### **“The Exposure at Qarmat Ali: Did the Army Fail to Protect U.S. Soldiers Serving in Iraq?”**

Monday, August 3, 2009  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
628 Dirksen Senate Office Building

#### **Witness Biographies**

##### **Russell Kimberling**

Former Indiana Army National Guard Company Commander

Russell Kimberling served as an Indiana National Guard Company Commander in Iraq at the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant from June to August 2003. He was medevaced from Iraq to Germany during the summer of 2003 because he developed a “chrome hole” or perforation in his nose, which is a tell-tale sign of sodium dichromate exposure. He now suffers from aching joints and sinus problems. He is a resident of Louisville, Kentucky.

##### **Rocky Bixby**

Former Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sergeant

Rocky Bixby served as a Staff Sergeant with the Oregon National Guard and is a former U.S. Marine. He was exposed to sodium dichromate while serving at Qarmat Ali between April and June 2003. While serving in Iraq, Mr. Bixby experienced difficulty breathing, pressure in his chest, and an itching sensation in his lungs. He now suffers from shortness of breath and a constant cough. He is a resident of Hillsboro, Oregon.

##### **Russell Powell**

Former West Virginia Army National Guard Staff Sergeant

Russell Powell served as a Staff Sergeant and Battalion Medic with the West Virginia National Guard at Qarmat Ali from April to June 2003. While at Qarmat Ali, Mr. Powell coughed up blood, had nosebleeds, became nauseous, and had burns on his face. He now suffers from chronic shortness of breath and periodic nosebleeds and skin rashes. He is a resident of Moundsville, West Virginia.

**Glen Bootay**

Former Army (3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division) Combat Engineer

Glen Bootay served as a Combat Engineer for the Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Qarmat Ali in early April 2003. Since his exposure, he has suffered numerous health problems, including swelling around his heart, severe chest pressure, chronic vomiting, and collapsed lungs. He is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Herman Gibb, Ph.D.**

Former Environmental Protection Agency Associate Director for Health

Herman Gibb worked at the Environmental Protection Agency for almost 30 years, where he served as Senior Science Advisor and Associate Director for Health. He is the senior author of a definitive, award-winning study on the health risks associated with exposure to sodium dichromate.