ONE HUNDREDTH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA
JULY 20-21, 2018

Department Resolution No. 008: Military Use of Mefloquine for Maliaria Prevention

Origin: Bothell Post 127

Convention Committee:

Research derived from NM Maxwell, RL Nevin, S. Stahl, S. Shugarts, H Wu, MA Dominhy S. Solano-Blanco, S. Kappleman-Culver, C. Lee-Messer, J. Maldonado, AJ Maxwell.

WHEREAS, Mefloquine is an anti-malarial drug that has been commonly used in military settings since its development by the US Military in the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, The anti-malarial drug Mefloquine (commonly marketed as Lariam) had until recently enjoyed a long history of preferred use in certain military settings in the prophylaxis of chloro1uine-resisnt P. falciparum malaria; and

WHEREAS, Originally developed by the US Military in a Vietnam War-era drug development program and subsequently licensed for prophylactic use in the US in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mefloquine has, in the over quarter century since, been widely used by the US Military and by various international militaries during deployments in malaria-endemic areas, including the Horn of Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, particularly during recent large-scale operation in Ira and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Mefloquine was recognized as an idiosyncratic neurotoxicity that may cause permanent injury to the central nervous system. Very common side effects including insomnia and abnormal dreaming affecting greater than 10% of the prescription users and common side effects including anxiety and depression. Other side effects described as uncommon but reported in between 1 and 10 prescribed users per 1000 including agitation, aggression, restlessness, panic attacks, mood swings and confusion. Among susceptible individuals, such symptoms may progress to a potentially life-threatening condition; and

WHEREAS, With recent understand of the adverse neurological effects of Mefloquine on structures in the brainstem, research had emerged demonstrating that Mefloquine may impair motor learning during certain complex tasks, such as those comparable to marksmanship, with clinical implications for Mefloquine users; and

WHEREAS, Although not unique to military settings, concern of suicide associated with use of the drug has also been a pervasive concern, particularly in the US Military, dating at least back to the first large-scale deployment of troops to Iraq in 2003 during which use of Mefloquine was widespread; now be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Washington in Department Convention assembled in Spokane Valley, Washington, July 20-21, 2018, Military policies that permit continued use of Mefloquine as a second or third line antimalarial

drug should ensure the implementation of a number of precautions to properly comply with recent labeling guidance and to reduce the risk of more severe intoxication and its potentially chronic, permanent, or life-threating events; and be it further

RESOLVED, The National Organization of The American Legion present this summary of result to the medical officials of the U.S. Military; and be it finally

RESOLVED, The National Organization of The American Legion encourage the Veteran's Administration to consider effects of Mefloquine as a reviewable condition for mental health disabilities.

COMMITTEE: _____	
APPROVED_____ REJECTED_____	AMENDED: _____
FOR DEPARTMENT ACTION _____	CONVENTION:
FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____	DENIED _____
CONSOLIDATED WITH _____	APPROVED _____
OTHER ACTION _____	
SIGNATURE_____	(CHAIRMAN)