Chapter 12 – RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 THE PANEL

Recommends:

- That increased attention be paid to the monitoring of pulmonary function and association of long term health risks associated with particulate exposures (e.g. “Kabul cough”, use of oxidative stress markers; and leukotrienes in breath condensate);
- More international cooperation on key issues such as the safety of permethrin in uniforms;
- The development of comprehensive NATO/PfP database(s) on biomarkers and monitoring technologies, to assist in improved information sharing and standardization of methods (e.g. perhaps as an allied medical publication);
- Notice be taken of the fact that while biomarkers of exposure such as protein adducts of specific compounds can be highly effective approaches to monitoring toxic chemical exposure risks, biomarkers of effect are a problem – e.g. cholinesterase testing has no consensus on method or actionable thresholds; oxidative stress markers are not particularly useful in guiding medical decisions or predicting any health risks;
- More research to resolve the facts that acute and chronic effects of militarily-relevant solvent exposures are still poorly defined and good biomarkers of effect (behavioural, biochemical, and neurological) have not been determined; and
- That the need be recognised for translational research on the effectiveness of monitoring and interventions for the military health monitoring and surveillance tools.