

# WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE MILITARY

## 15. Introduction

**Bill Shelton, MD**

Board Member,

Children's Environmental Health Institute

DR. CARPENTER: I'd like to introduce Dr. Bill Shelton, who's going to chair the next set of speakers about what can we learn from the military.

DR. SHELTON: Good morning. I'm Bill Shelton, and I'm a radiation oncologist from Lufkin, Texas, in the best part of Texas, over in the Piney Woods. In our next period of the program we will be talking about what we can learn from the military.

People in my area of Texas are becoming concerned about their public health, what they're being exposed to, what their children are being exposed to, and the consequences of those environmental exposures. We know the problems associated with power plants and the mercury in their emissions and the effects on the neurological development of children, and concern about cancer also. As scientists, as people dealing with the public, we need to give more comfort to the average person than we are currently giving. Our surveillance techniques are improving.

So during the next presentations we'll talk about surveillance techniques as early warning systems for biological attacks. We'll look at special data needs for evaluating chronic diseases, reproductive health, and other aspects of public health surveillance.

We get so involved with the everyday practice of taking care of sick people that we don't realize what's going on around us, so to come to a meeting like this and to listen to these people that we've heard yesterday and today is a great, great opportunity, but we need to pass the information on to the other physicians in our community as well as to the lay public in our areas.

Our first speaker this morning is Adam Antwine. He is the senior representative for the Air Force Base Conversion Agency at what was formerly Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. He is the head of a team to assist the City of San Antonio in converting Kelly from military to civilian use. When he started this in 2001, there were over 1,800 acres and 600 facilities that would be transferred through long-term lease and deed to the Greater Kelly Development Authority. It's a pleasure for me to introduce Mr. Antwine.