

Environmental Health Registry Evaluations for Veterans



Are you concerned about environmental exposures during your military service and your health? Environmental health registry evaluations are free, voluntary medical assessments. They can help you learn about exposures to specific environmental hazards during military service and possible related health problems. Registry data also helps VA to better understand and respond to health problems related to environmental exposures for all Veterans.

Environmental health registries offer medical assessments that are:

- Free to eligible Veterans. No co-payment.
- Available regardless of enrollment in VA's health care system.
- Based on recollection of service, not on military records.
- Available for additional evaluations if new problems develop.
- Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits.
- Not available for family members of Veterans.

Learn about the six health registries offered by VA, including their focus, who can join, and where to learn more:

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

This registry includes an online questionnaire and an optional health exam. It focuses on exposure to airborne hazards such as burn pit smoke, sand, and dust.

For: Veterans and service members who deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations at any time on or after August 2, 1990, or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001.

Visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>

Agent Orange Registry

This registry reviews health problems related to Agent Orange exposure and includes a health exam.

For: Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962-1975, including Veterans who served aboard patrol boats that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam (Brown Water Veterans), Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia (Blue Water Navy Veterans), and certain Veterans who served in Korea or Thailand.

Visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Gulf War Registry

This registry offers a medical exam focusing on health problems related to service for Veterans who deployed from 1990 to the present.

For: Veterans who served in the Gulf during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn.

Visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Ionizing Radiation Registry

This registry covers health problems related to ionizing radiation exposure during military service and includes a health exam.

For: Veterans involved in tests on the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device or in radiation-risk activities; prisoners of war in Japan during World War II; and Veterans who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki from August 6, 1945, through July 1, 1946.

Visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/radiation/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program

This program provides screening and monitoring for health problems associated with exposure to depleted uranium, a byproduct of uranium used since the Gulf War for tank armor and some bullets.

For: Veterans of the Gulf War, Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn who may have been exposed to depleted uranium.

Visit: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/depleted_uranium/followup-program.asp

Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center

The Baltimore VA Medical Center offers medical surveillance for Veterans who have retained metallic fragments.

For: Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn who have retained toxic embedded fragments in their body after a blast injury.

Visit: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/toxic_fragments/index.asp

It's important to remember that a health registry evaluation is not related to claims for VA benefits. Information obtained during a registry exam may not confirm exposure to environmental hazards during military service. Veterans who want to be considered for disability compensation for exposure-related health problems must file a claim. These are considered on a case-by-case basis. More information is available at www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-disability.asp.

To schedule a registry evaluation, contact an Environmental Health Coordinator at a VA medical facility near you. A list of Coordinators is available online at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp>.

