



Exposures by Wars and Operations

Find specific information about possible military exposures by war or operation.



[Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan](#)

Oct. 7, 2001 to present



[Gulf War](#)

Aug. 2, 1990 to present



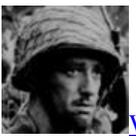
[Iraq War](#)

Also called Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn March 20, 2003 – Dec. 15, 2011



[Vietnam War](#)

Nov. 1, 1965 – April 30, 1975



[World War II](#)

Sept. 1, 1939 – Sept. 2, 1945



[Cold War Era](#)

1945 – 1991



[Korean War](#)

June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953

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Oct. 7, 2001 to present

Operation Enduring Freedom Exposures

Veterans who served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) may have been exposed to a range of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks. Join the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) to document your exposures and health concerns.

CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION



[Sand, Dust and Particulates](#)

Tiny airborne matter that can cause respiratory and other health problems



[Infectious Diseases](#)

Nine infectious diseases associated with Southwest Asia and Afghanistan military service



[Toxic Embedded Fragments](#)

Shrapnel and other metals that remain in the body after injury



[Traumatic Brain Injury](#)

Concussions and brain injury often caused by explosions



[Mefloquine - Lariam®](#)

Round, white pill taken to prevent and treat malaria

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[Cold Injuries](#)

Possible health problems from cold, mountainous climate



[Burn Pits](#)

Open-air pit waste disposal at military sites



[Depleted Uranium](#)

Uranium used in military tank armor and some bullets



[Noise](#)

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service



[Rabies](#)

Disease transmitted by bite or saliva from an infected warm-blooded animal



[Heat Injuries](#)

Health problems that could be caused by extremely hot temperatures



[Occupational Hazards](#)

Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service

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Gulf War, includes Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm
(August 2, 1990 to present)

Gulf War Exposures

Gulf War Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks. Join the [Gulf War Registry](#) and the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) to document your exposures and health concerns.

CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION



[Vaccinations](#)

Including anthrax and botulinum toxoid



[Oil Well Fires](#)

Oil or gas wells that caught on fire and burned



[Chemical & Biological Weapons](#) (Khamisiyah, Iraq)

Ammunitions storage depot containing warfare agents that was demolished



[Depleted Uranium](#)

Uranium used in military tank armor and some bullets



[Noise](#)

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service



[CARC Paint](#)

Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC) used on military vehicles to resist corrosion and chemical agents

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[Occupational Hazards](#)

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[Pyridostigmine Bromide \(PB\)](#)

Round, white tablet used as pre-treatment drug to protect against nerve agent soman



[Pesticides](#)

Substances used to repel or destroy pests such as insects and pathogens



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[Toxic Embedded Fragments](#)

Shrapnel and other metals that remain in the body after injury



[Infectious Diseases](#)

Nine infectious diseases associated with Southwest Asia and Afghanistan military service



[Heat Injuries](#)

Health problems that could be caused by extremely hot temperatures

Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn (March 19, 2003–Dec. 15, 2011)

Iraq War Exposures

Iraq War Veterans may have been exposed to a range of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks. Join the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) and the [Gulf War Registry](#) to document your exposures and health concerns.



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[Sulfur Fire](#) (Al Mishraq, Iraq)

Sulfur plant burned almost a month in June 2003; large amounts of sulfur dioxide released into the air



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[Chemical Warfare Agents \(OIF\)](#)

Exposure to mustard or nerve agents from demolishing or handling explosive ordnance in Iraq



[Chromium](#) (Qarmat Ali)

Hexavalent chromium in contaminated sodium dichromate dust; water treatment plant in 2003

For VA compensation purposes, Iraq War Veterans with qualifying service are considered Gulf War Veterans and may be eligible for disability compensation for [Gulf War Veterans' illnesses](#).

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Vietnam War (Nov. 1, 1965-April 30, 1975)

Vietnam War Exposures

Vietnam Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks. VA offers eligible Veterans a free [Agent Orange Registry health exam](#) for possible long-term health problems related to herbicide exposure.

CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION



[Agent Orange or
Other Herbicides](#)

Herbicides used to destroy foliage and crops



[Hepatitis C](#)

Vietnam-era Veterans are at risk for hepatitis C. Talk to your provider about getting tested.



[Noise](#)

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service



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World War II (Sept. 1, 1939-Sept. 2, 1945)

World War II Exposures

Veterans who fought in World War II may have been exposed to a range of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks.

CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION



[Noise](#)

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service



[Ionizing Radiation](#)

Exposures at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan and health problems from harmful radiation



[Occupational Hazards](#)

Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service



[Cold Injuries](#)

Health problems that could be caused by cold temperatures, such as during the Battle of the Bulge



[Mustard Gas](#)

Odorless, poisonous gas used during combat in World War I and II

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Cold War Era (1945-1991)

Cold War Era Exposures

Veterans who served during the Cold War Era may have been exposed to a range of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks.

CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION



[Ionizing Radiation](#)

Exposure from atmospheric and underground nuclear weapons tests



[Project 112/Project SHAD](#)

Military tests of chemical/biological warfare materials conducted in the 1960s to early 1970s



[Mustard Gas](#)

Military tests of mustard agents in the 1940s



[Atsugi Waste Incinerator](#)

Atsugi, Japan: Combustion waste disposal that burned industrial and medical waste



[Occupational Hazards](#)

Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service

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[Herbicide Tests and Storage](#)

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam, tested or stored elsewhere



[Edgewood/Aberdeen Experiments](#)

Classified medical studies of low-dose chemical agents conducted from 1955-1975



[Camp Lejeune Water Supplies](#)

Tap water contaminated by industrial chemicals at Marine Corps Base Camp in the 1950s to 1980s



[Fort McClellan](#)

Potential exposure to hazardous materials during military service at Fort McClellan



[Noise](#)

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service

Korean War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953)

Korean War Exposures

Veterans who fought in the Korean War may have been exposed to the following hazards that carried potential health risks.



[Cold Injuries](#)

Possible health problems from cold-weather injuries, especially during the Chosin Reservoir campaign



[Occupational Hazards](#)

Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service

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