

■ **Why does VA have registries?**

The health registries are one way VA tracks the special health concerns of veterans.

■ **How do veterans get on a registry and where are the examinations offered?**

All eligible veterans who want to be included in VA registries can get a health registry examination at most VA facilities and performed by a VA Environmental Health (EH) Clinician. Health examinations by a private physician may also be accepted as long as the VA registry examination protocol is followed.

Most VA facilities have EH Coordinators assigned to assist veterans in obtaining health registry examinations. Contact the EH Coordinator at the nearest VA facility to request the registry examination in which you are interested. The names and telephone numbers of these EH Coordinators are listed on the Environmental Agents Service (EAS) Web site www.VA.gov/EnvironAgents. Also, another resource is VA's toll-free special health issues helpline **1-800-749-8387**.

■ **How many veterans have received health registry examinations?**

As of April 2006:

HEALTH REGISTRY PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF VETERANS
Agent Orange	403,046
Gulf War/OIF	95,899
Depleted Uranium	557
Ionizing Radiation	23,541

■ **What does a veteran gain from having a health registry examination?**

Eligible veterans receive a free specialized and comprehensive health examination with blood work, urinalysis (EKG and chest x-ray where medically indicated) and answers to questions relating to any environmental exposures. The DU program involves only the DU urine testing. Following the examination they are given the results of the physical exam and laboratory tests both face-to-face and in a follow-up letter. The results of the health registry examination are maintained in the veteran's medical record. This health registry exam provides an opportunity to enroll in the VA healthcare system. However, veterans do not have to enroll to receive their registry exam. Veterans also automatically receive or have access to VA's newsletters with updates or special information on health care and other benefits for them.

■ **Can a veteran have more than one health registry examination?**

Eligible veterans may receive follow-up (2nd, 3rd, etc.) registry examinations based on any new health problems they may develop.

■ **Can veterans' family members receive health registry examinations?**

VA can only provide health care to veterans; hence, family members are not eligible for a health registry examination.

■ **Where can a veteran get additional information about the health registries and other VA programs designed to help veterans with health problems possibly related to environmental exposures encountered during military service?**

The following Web links can provide veterans with a wealth of information on these registries and related topics:

■ www.VA.gov/EnvironAgents for the following newsletters:

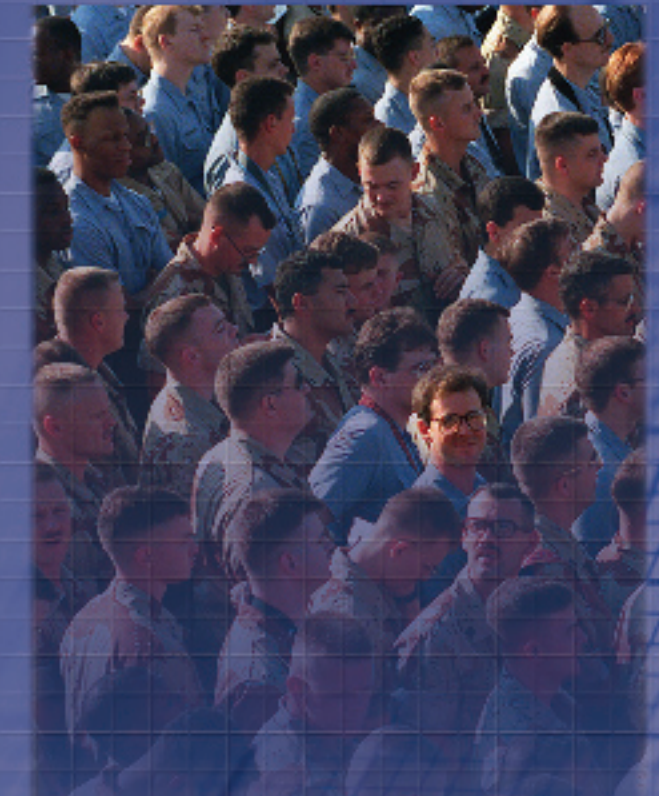
- Agent Orange Review*
- Operations Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Review*
- Gulf War Review*
- Ionizing Radiation Review*

■ www.VA.gov/VHI for printed versions of the Veterans Health Initiative (VHI).

VA also provides several hotlines and contact numbers for veterans covering these topics:

- VA's national toll-free telephone number, staffed by veterans service representatives, provides information about disability compensation benefits as well as vocational rehabilitation and education programs available to veterans: **1-800-827-1000**
- The **Special Health Issues Helpline** is also a source of valuable information: **1-800-749-8387**
- For VA Health Eligibility/Enrollment: **1-877-222-8387**.

Special Health Registry Examination Programs



Questions and Answers

Special Health Registry Examination Programs

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■ What is a health registry examination?

NOTE: It is not a claim, nor is it required, for VA benefits or compensation.

A health registry examination is a personalized and comprehensive examination which includes blood work, urinalysis, and, where medically indicated, a chest x-ray and EKG.

This exam is available to all eligible veterans with **no co-payment** requirement.

The demographic information (personal details), exposures, reported symptoms and diagnoses are all included in a computerized index or list of veterans located at the Austin Automation Center in Austin, TX.

YOU can learn more about these special programs online at www.VA.gov/EnvironAgents.

■ What health examination registries does VA have?

VA has the following registries:

Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans and others exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam and other military locations.

Gulf War/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) for veterans of the 1991 Gulf War or who served in OIF.

Depleted Uranium (DU) for veterans possibly exposed to DU.

Ionizing Radiation for veterans who participated in nuclear tests, the occupation of Nagasaki/Hiroshima, Japan and other radiation-risk activities or who received nasopharyngeal (NP) (nose and throat) radium irradiation treatments.

Agent Orange

Any U.S. male or female Vietnam era veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, regardless of length of service (i.e., 1 hour, 1 day, 1 month, 1 year, etc.).

Verification of service during the Vietnam era is required.

Any U.S. veteran who served in Korea during 1968 or 1969.

Any U.S. veteran who may have been exposed to dioxin, or other toxic substance in a herbicide or defoliant, during the conduct of, or as a result of, the testing, transporting or spraying of herbicides for military purposes.

NOTE: The Department of Defense (DoD) has provided a list (about 75% complete) of locations and dates where herbicides, including Agent Orange, were used.

For those sites that are not listed, the Vietnam veteran should provide some proof of exposure to be able to obtain a registry examination.

Gulf War/Operation Iraqi Freedom

Any veteran who served on active military duty in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War which began in 1990, and continues to the present including Operation Iraqi Freedom.

If you served in the following areas you are eligible for the lab test that measures DU in urine:

- Iraq
- The Neutral Zone (between Iraq and Saudi Arabia)
- Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- Qatar
- The United Arab Emirates
- Oman
- Gulf of Oman
- Gulf of Aden
- Waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea and Red Sea.

Depleted Uranium

Veterans who are identified by DoD because of possible DU exposure during military activities in:

- the 1991 Gulf War,
- Bosnia,
- Operation Iraqi Freedom,
- Operation Enduring Freedom,

or

Veterans who came to VA because they are concerned about potential exposure to DU,

are offered a Depleted Uranium Evaluation.

For more information, go to www.VA.gov/EnvironAgents.

Ionizing Radiation

Veterans with on site participation in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device, whether or not the testing nation was the United States.

Participation in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki from August 6, 1945, through July 1, 1946; or Internment as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Japan (or service on active duty in Japan immediately following such internment) during World War II which the Secretary of Veteran Affairs determines resulted in an opportunity for exposure to ionizing radiation comparable to that of veterans involved in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

In addition, VA regulations, provide that “radiation-risk activity” means service at:

- a. Department of Energy gaseous diffusion plants at Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, or the K25 area at Oak Ridge, TN, for at least 250 days before February 1, 1992, if the veteran was monitored for each of the 250 days using dosimetry badges to monitor radiation to external body parts or if the veteran served for at least 250 days in a position that had exposures comparable to a job that was monitored using dosimetry badges; or
- b. “Longshot”, “Milrow”, or “Cannikin” underground nuclear tests at Amchitka Island, AK, before January 1, 1974.

Veterans who received nasopharyngeal (NP) – nose and throat – radium irradiation treatments while in the active military, naval, or air service who are concerned about possible adverse effects of their NP radium treatments.