

VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit

Quick Reference Sheet

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA established the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit registry in 2014 to help us better understand the potential health effects of exposure to airborne hazards during military service. By joining the registry, you can provide information that supports ongoing research and helps VA provide better care to all Veterans.

The registry includes two parts: an online questionnaire and a free, optional environmental health evaluation. Keep this quick reference sheet handy to help you complete the questionnaire and schedule your exam.

Before you get started:

- **Plan to spend up to an hour completing the questionnaire.** Depending on how many deployments you have, it could take more or less time to complete the questions.
- **Please complete the questionnaire for all your deployments, even if they were to the same countries or regions.** Even though some questions may seem repetitive, providing information specific to each deployment will give us a more complete understanding of your exposures and experiences.

How to Complete the Questionnaire:

1. Visit the secure registry portal.

You can access the portal at:

<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/>

2. Use your Premium DS Logon Level 2 account to log in and check your eligibility.

If you already have a VA eBenefits or MyHealthVet premium account, you can use the same credentials for the registry.

Registry Eligibility

You are eligible to participate in the registry if you served in Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield (ODS), New Dawn (OND), or Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). This includes deployments to Southwest Asia after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001.

We encourage you to join even if:

- You don't think you were exposed to specific airborne hazards.
- You are not experiencing symptoms or illnesses you think are related to your exposures.
- You have not filed a VA claim for compensation and benefits or applied for VA health care.
- You are still an active-duty service member or have returned to active service.

Learn more about eligibility at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/airbornehazards>

If you need a DS Logon account, follow the directions on the registry portal page.

3. Ensure your personal contact information is complete.

VA may use the email or mailing address you provide to share additional information about airborne hazard exposure or contact you to participate in related research studies.

4. Verify that all your deployments are listed.

The registry will automatically pull your eligible deployment history from Department of Defense (DoD) records. If any of your deployments are missing, you can add them and submit for review.

Once VA reviews and approves your self-reported deployments, you will receive a notification via the contact information you provided. Reviews can take up to 30 days.

5. Complete the questionnaire.

Answer the questions for each of your deployments. You do not need any documentation to complete the questionnaire, but you can refer to your records if you choose.

If you need assistance completing the questionnaire, a family member, friend, or caregiver can help you.

6. Save or print your responses for your records.

When you have the finished questionnaire, make sure to save or print for your records. If you choose, you can submit a copy of your questionnaire to support your VA claim.

What if I don't see my eligible deployments?

If you were deployed before 9/11, were a part of special forces, or were re-deployed within three months, you may get a notification in the registry portal that you do not have an eligible deployment. This is due to technical constraints and does not mean you are not eligible.

To continue completing the questionnaire, click the blue banner that says, "Request Eligibility Review", then follow the additional steps.

What if I need more time to finish the questionnaire?

If you need to take a break, you can save your progress and come back later to complete it. When you are done, you can also log back in later to access your responses at any time.

When You Are Finished:

Schedule your registry health evaluation at your convenience.

Participating in the health evaluation is an opportunity to learn more about your own health, document your exposures, and talk to a VA health care provider about your health concerns. Even if you are not experiencing symptoms or illnesses you think are related to your exposures, the discussion can help you proactively monitor your own health. It is free, optional, and separate from both compensation and benefits evaluations and regular visits with your VA provider.

To schedule your evaluation, contact your local VA environmental health coordinator. There is no deadline to participate – you can schedule a visit any time after completing the registry.

You can find your facility's coordinator at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp

Updated January 2021