VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Karshi-Khanabad Community Forum

Stephanie Eber, MPH Health Outcomes Military Exposures 29 June 2023





K2 Communications

- Invitational letter mailed June 2, 2023
 - Provided information on:
 - This is the first forum
 - Depleted Uranium testing
 - VA's K2 surveillance program
 - Airborne Hazards Registry
 - Additional resources
- Future mailings to follow
 - Virtual meetings
- Yearly and ad hoc
 - Next 10 years
 - Ad hoc meetings for reports and updates of legislation or services



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) thanks you for your service and your sacrifice in the defense of our country. VA's mission is to serve American Veterans. We are writing to you because you have been identified as having served at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base (K2). We would like to update you on VA research and services for K2 Veterans.

K2 Community Forum

VA will be holding a half-day K2 Community Forum on June 29, 2023. This forum is the first in a series that will be held over the next 8-10 years to inform K2 Veterans about the progress of VA's efforts to better understand the health effects that may be associated with service at K2. Please follow this link (<u>https://www.eventbrite.com/elvirtual-karshi-khanabad-air-base-k2-forum-tickets-619914560137</u>) to register to attend this virtual forum. We have established a portal on RallyPoint (<u>https://www.rallypoint.com/answers/vetalkc-karshi-khanabad-air-base-k2-forum-tickets-619914560137</u>) to register to attend this virtual forum. We have established a portal on receive questions atom June 5-19, 2023. The most frequently asked questions and their responses will be posted on our K2 website at: <u>https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/karshi-khanabad.acp</u>. At the end of this letter, we have provided links where you can find additional information about K2, how to apply for healthcare from the Veterans Health Administration, how to submit a claim with the Veteran Benefits. Alternation (VBA) and the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act benefits. Please feel free to share this information with your K2 colleagues if they did not receive a letter.

Depleted Uranium (DU) Testing and Toxic Exposure Screening

Some K2 Veterans have voiced concerns about whether they may have been exposed to depleted uranium (DU) at K2. If you have those concerns, as a Veteran who served at K, you are eligible to receive a urine assay to test for the isotopic signature of DU. To schedule an appointment to be tested, please contact the Environmental Health Coordinator nearest to you at: <u>http://www.publichealth.va.gov/lexposures/coordinators.asp</u>. Please bring this letter with you to your appointment. There is no cost to you for the DU laboratory test. As of May 8, 2023, VA has done 128 K2 urine assays, and all have been negative.

A "Toxic Exposure Screen" (TES) is also available from a VA clinician to learn more about your exposures during your military service and to document this in your health care records. The TES can start the conversation about your health and deployment. Information on how to apply for VA health care is available at this website, <u>https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply</u>. If you feel that a medical condition you have may have been associated with your military service, we encourage you to submit a claim with the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) (link at the end of this letter).





Resources

- VA's K2 web page Information about exposures and research
- <u>https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/karshi-khanabad.asp</u>
 - Commonly asked questions and answers



RallyPoint

A social network for Veterans and service members <u>https://www.rallypoint.com/answers/vetalkx-karshi-khanabad-k-2-military-exposures-q-a</u>





