

**GULF WAR/SOUTHWEST ASIA THEATER VETERANS**

For VA benefit purposes, Gulf War service is active military duty in any of the following areas in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations starting August 2, 1990 through the present date:

**Iraq; Kuwait; Saudi Arabia; The neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia; Bahrain; Qatar; The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.); Oman; Gulf of Aden; Gulf of Oman; Waters of the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and the Red Sea; Airspace above these locations or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning 19 Sep 2001 to present.**

**EFFECTIVE 26 APRIL 2022:**

The following rare respiratory cancers to the list of PRESUMED SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

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| Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx; | Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea;    |
| Adenocarcinoma of the trachea;               | Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea; |
| Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung;         | Large cell carcinoma of the lung;          |
| Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;      | Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung;         |
| Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.  |  |

**EFFECTIVE 2 AUG 2021**

The following Presumptive Service-Connected Disabilities are recognized if you served in the Southwest Asia Theater OR Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning 19 Sep 2001 to the present. The **CHRONIC** medical condition must have manifested within 10 years of leaving active-duty service.

These conditions are: **ASTHMA, RHINITIS & SINUSITIS**

**EFFECTIVE Through 31 DEC 2026**

**The following Presumptive Service Connective Disabilities must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations or by December 31, 2026, and be at least 10 percent disabling.**  
**Countries NOT Included: Afghanistan and Turkey**

VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. 3 Categories:

1. **Undiagnosed illnesses:** symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances & pain.
2. **MUCMI: Medically Unexplained Chronic Multi-Symptom Illness:**
  - A. **Chronic Fatigue Syndrome,** a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
  - B. **Fibromyalgia,** a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
  - C. **Functional gastrointestinal disorders,** a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS); Functional dyspepsia, abdominal pain, vomiting, constipation, bloating, dysplasia, or gastrointestinal symptoms. DOES NOT Include: GERD, Crohn's Disease & other Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

**3. Infectious Diseases and Gulf War Veterans:** VA presumes the following infectious diseases are related to military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the first Gulf War starting August 2, 1990, through the current date. **On or after September 19, 2001, in Afghanistan.** Veterans must have the diseases within the time frames shown below and have a current disability as a result of that disease in order to receive disability compensation.

- **Malaria**  
An infectious disease caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. Symptoms include chills, fever, and sweats. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** from the date of military separation or at a time when standard or accepted treatises indicate that the incubation period began during a qualifying period of military service.
- **Brucellosis**  
A bacterial disease with symptoms such as profuse sweating and joint and muscle pain. The illness may be chronic and persist for years. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** from the date of military separation.
- **Campylobacter Jejuni**  
A disease with symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, and fever. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** from the date of military separation.
- **Coxiella Burnetii (Q Fever)**  
A bacterial disease with symptoms such as fever, severe headache, and gastrointestinal problems such as nausea and diarrhea. In chronic cases, the illness may cause inflammation of the heart. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** of the date of military separation.
- **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis**  
An illness that primarily affects the lungs and causes symptoms such as chest pain, persistent cough (sometimes bloody), weight loss and fever.
- **Nontyphoid Salmonella**  
A condition characterized by symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** of the date of military separation.
- **Shigella**  
A condition characterized by symptoms such as fever, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** of the date of military separation.
- **Visceral Leishmaniasis**  
A parasitic disease characterized by symptoms such as fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anemia. The condition may be fatal if left untreated. **No time period.**
- **West Nile Virus**  
A disease spread by mosquitoes characterized by symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle pain or weakness, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms may range from mild to severe. It must be at least 10 percent disabling **within one year** from the date of military separation.

#### **VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry**

- **Registry Eligibility:** You are eligible to participate in the registry if you were deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001. Regions and countries include: Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea, Operations and campaigns include: Desert Shield and Desert Storm (ODS/S), Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Enduring Freedom (OEF), and New Dawn (OND).  
**Website:** <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

#### **Gulf War Registry Health Exam for Veterans**

- VA's Gulf War Registry Health Exam alerts Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to environmental exposures during their military service. This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veteran and in a follow-up letter. Important points about registry health exams: Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment; Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits; Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary; Based on Veterans' recollection of service, not on their military records; Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop; Veterans' family members are not eligible for registry exams.
- **To Schedule an Appointment contact:** South Texas Veterans Health Care System- Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital 7400 Merton Minter Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78229 (210) 949-3981 Option 2 **STXEligibility&Enrollment@va.gov**