

GULF WAR/SOUTHWEST ASIA THEATER VETERANS Rev. JUN 2024

Honoring our PACT ACT 2022 (Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022)

IF YOU SERVED IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS & TIME PERIODS, YOU HAD EXPOSURE TO BURN PITS & OTHER TOXINS.

On or after August 2, 1990:

- Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia,
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE), The airspace above any of these locations

On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:

- Afghanistan; Djibouti; Egypt; Jordan; Lebanon; Syria; Uzbekistan; Yemen; The airspace above any of these locations

These cancers are now presumptive:

Brain Cancer; Gastrointestinal cancer of any type; Glioblastoma; Head cancer of any type; Kidney cancer; Lymphatic cancer of any type; Lymphoma of any type; Melanoma; Neck cancer of any type; Pancreatic cancer; Reproductive cancers: (FEMALE: Breast cancer, Cervical cancer, Ovarian cancer, Uterine cancer, Vaginal cancer, MALE: Testicular cancer, Penile cancer, Prostate cancer); Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type. ***NEW Effective JUNE 2024: Male Breast Cancer; Urethral cancer; Cancer of the Paraurethral glands.***

These Respiratory illnesses are now presumptive:

Asthma that was diagnosed after service; Chronic bronchitis; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); Chronic rhinitis; Chronic sinusitis; Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis; Emphysema; Granulomatous disease; Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis; Pulmonary fibrosis; Sarcoidosis

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 & Gulf War Registry Exam

You are eligible to participate in the registry if you were deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations: See above for locations and service dates.

WEBSITE FOR VA Airborne Hazards & Open Burn Pit & Registry:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>

- **RECEIVE A VA Gulf War Registry Exam:** Completed by your VA Health Primary Care Team. Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment; Not a disability compensation exam; Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary; Veterans' family members are not eligible for registry exams.
- To Schedule an Appointment with your Primary Care Team contact: VA COPAC Patient Scheduling (210)949-9702