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**DISCLOSURE**

- The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States government.
- There are no financial conflicts of interest to disclose.

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**HISTORY**

- Gulf War
  - Operation Desert Shield: 08/1990 – 01/1991
  - Operation Desert Storm/Inherent resolve: 01/17/91- 3/20/2020
  - Operation Desert Sabre
- Operation Southern Watch (OSW)
  - 8/26/1992 – 3/19/2003 in Iraq
- Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
  - 10/7/2001 – 12/31/2014 in Afghanistan
- Iraq War
  - Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)
    - 03/ 2003 – 11/31/2010 in Iraq
  - Operation New Dawn (OND)
    - 9/1/2010 – 12/18/2011 in Iraq
- In 2019 there were 9 sanctioned Burn Pits burning 3.6 – 4.5 Kg of waste per person per day

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**BURN PIT LOCATIONS**

- Water and Waste Management services were contracted out for Gulf War Operations to Houston-based defense contractor KBR, Inc
- Veterans have alleged multiple burn pits operated as routine practices
- At their peak Burn Pits 400 tons of waste were burned daily
- Joint Base Balad near Baghdad was largest

- Iraq – 152
- Afghanistan – 99
- Kuwait – 14
- Somalia - 4

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**BURN PIT LOCATIONS**

**Legend**

- A Burn Pit Locations
- B Balad Air Base

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**DEFINITION BURN PITS**

- Waste products commonly disposed of in open burn pits include:
- Chemicals, paint, medical and human waste
- Metal and aluminum cans
- Munitions and unexploded ordnance
- Petroleum and lubricant products
- Plastics, rubber, wood, and food waste

JET FUEL USED AS AN ACCELERANT

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**NUMBERS IMPACTED**

- ESTIMATES VARY, DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE
  - House Committee on Veterans Affairs estimates up to 3.5 million individuals were exposed to Burn Pits over course of almost 20 years



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**PARTICULATE MATTER AND COMBUSTION PRODUCTS**

- Hexachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin\*\*
- PARTICULATE MATTER
- POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS
- VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS
- CARBON MONOXIDE
- HEXACHLOROBENZENE
- ASH



\*\*Active agent in Agent Orange

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- Hexachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin\*\*
  - Hepatic Carcinomas (HCC) & adenomas
- PARTICULATE MATTER
  - Interstitial Lung disease, lung diseases
- POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (Paint, varnishes, butane, benzene etc.)
  - Lung, skin and bladder cancers and
  - Chronic headaches, liver, kidney and central nervous system damage
- VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS
  - Birth defects
- CARBON MONOXIDE
  - Nervous system, skin, thyroid, liver and developmental effects
- HEXACHLOROBENZENE
  - Chronic lung disease, lung cancers
- ASH

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## CONSIDERATIONS

- "KNOWN KNOWNS"
  - DATA IS CONTRADICTORY
  - ASSOCIATIONS WITH RESPIRATORY TRACT CONDITIONS
  - DEPENDENT ON LEVEL AND DURATION OF EXPOSURE
- "KNOWN UNKNOWNNS"
  - LIMITED DATA
  - SHORT- AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF EXPOSURES
- "UNKNOWN UNKNOWNNS"
  - AFFECTS OF BIO WASTE
  - AFFECTS OF SAND AND OTHER PARTICULATE MATTER

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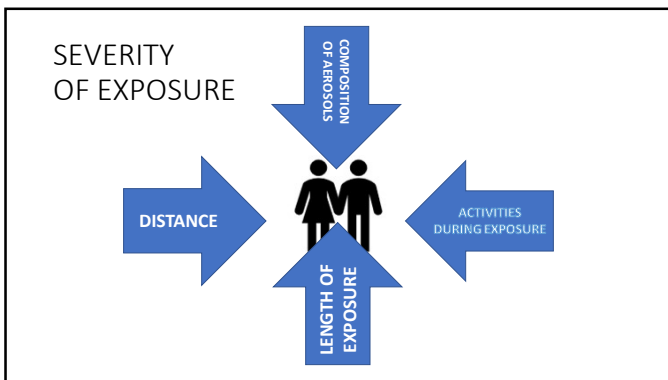
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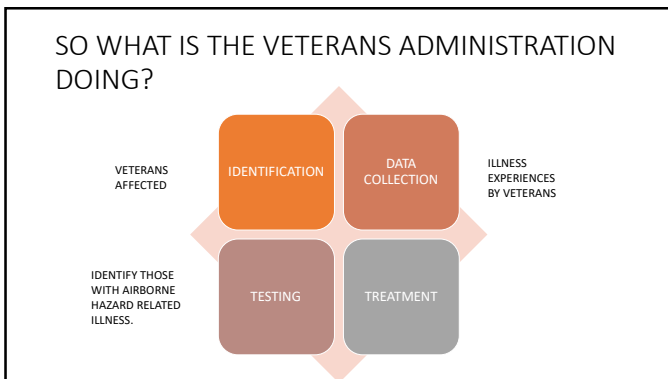
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**Airborne Hazard**

- "Airborne hazard" refers to any sort of contaminant or potentially toxic substance that we are exposed to through the air we breathe. While on active duty, military service members may have been exposed to a variety of airborne hazards including:
  - The smoke and fumes from open burn pits
  - Sand, dust, and particulate matter
  - General air pollution common in certain countries
  - Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes
  - Smoke from oil well fires



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**AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND BURN PIT EXPOSURES**

- The Veterans Administration has found the following conditions as presumptively qualifying for veterans with Burn Pits Exposures:
  - Asthma
  - Rhinitis
  - Sinusitis

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**AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND BURN PIT EXPOSURES**

- On April 25, 2022, VA announced that nine rare respiratory cancers are now presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter. These cancers include:
  - Squamous cell carcinoma 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

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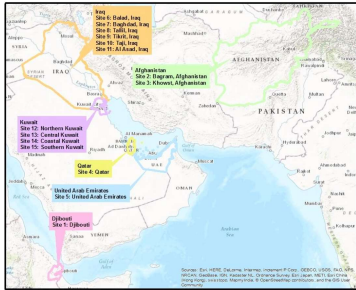
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### Area Of Operations

This will expand benefits for Veterans who served in:

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War, from September 19, 2001, to the present, or
- The Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present



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

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### Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act

- provide annual training to health care and benefits personnel with respect to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances;
- analyze total and respiratory disease mortality in veterans who served in specified locations on specified dates;
- conduct an epidemiological study on the health trends of veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001;
- conduct a study to determine trends in the rates of the incidence of cancer in veterans;
- publish a list of VA resources for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, families and caregivers of such veterans, and survivors of such veterans who are receiving death benefits; and
- report on the data quality of the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record and its usefulness in supporting veterans in receiving VA health care and benefits.

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BURN PIT  
REGISTRY

**Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry**

As designated by the Department of Defense, the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is a national database of burn pits and other sources of airborne hazards. The registry is used to track and monitor the health of veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present, or who served in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War from September 19, 2001, to the present.

To learn more about airborne hazards or how to receive care from VA, call 855-822-6226, option 2.

**Registry Help Desk**

Call: 1-877-435-0247

Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm EST

**Is this for me?**

You are eligible to participate if you served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present, or you served in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War from September 19, 2001, to the present.

We encourage you to join now if:

- You have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards.
- You have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards and you have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards.
- You have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards and you have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards.
- You have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards and you have not yet been exposed to burn pits or other sources of airborne hazards.

\*Include deployment to theater of the Southwest Asia theater of operations or the Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan theater of operations (September 19, 2001, to the present).

\*\*The registry is not a health care program. It is a database of burn pits and other sources of airborne hazards. It is used to track and monitor the health of veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present, or who served in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War from September 19, 2001, to the present.

**What does the registry involve?**

The registry involves an online questionnaire and an annual health assessment.

**Part 1: Health Questionnaire**

- The questionnaire will take 10 to 15 minutes to complete.
- You can track your progress and come back to complete the questionnaire when convenient.
- Questions include information about your deployment, health history, therapy, and other factors.

**Part 2: Health Assessment**

- The health assessment will be performed by a VA medical professional.
- The assessment is confidential and will be kept separate from your medical and benefits records.
- Results from your assessment will be used to support research.

**How do I get started?**

Follow the steps below to get started. You need a VA medical record number (MARN) to get started. You can find your MARN in the back of your ID card.

1. Use your Personal Health Record (PHR) account to log in to the registry, or create a new account.
2. Enter or print your questionnaire responses for your records. You can also print them to email or save them on your device.
3. Contact your local deployment health center (DLHC) to schedule your virtual medical assessment or your assessment.
4. You need a 2D scan account, 2D photo, and a 2D scan of your identification card.
5. Your results and assessment will be linked to your medical record and will be used to support research.

<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

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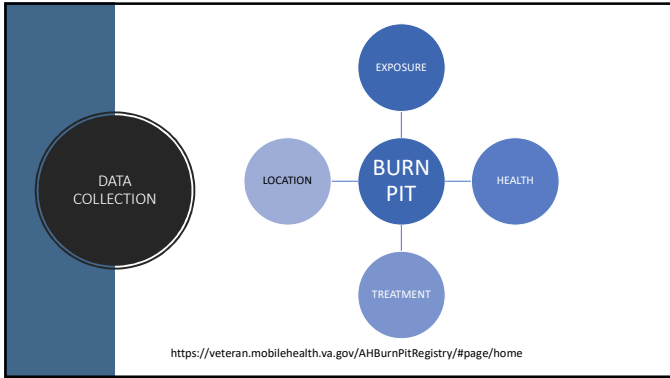
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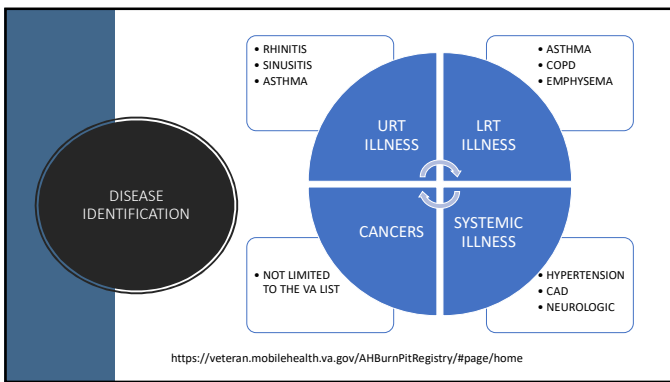
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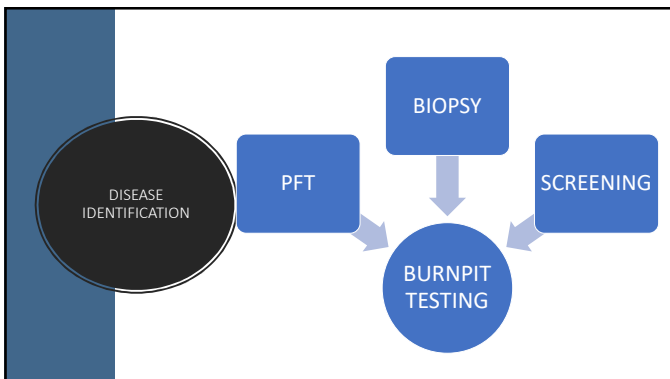
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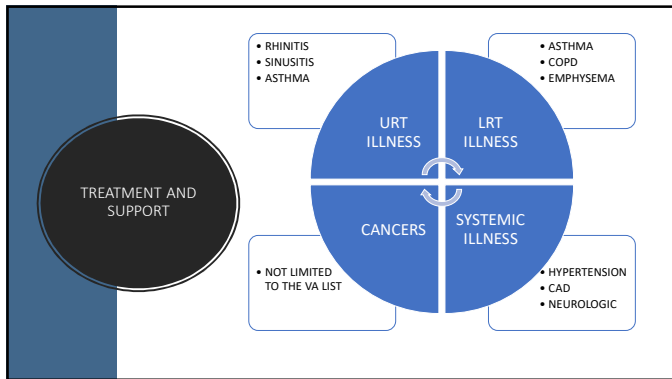
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- TREATMENT AND SUPPORT
1. Accurate history to identify veterans with burn pit Airborne Hazards Exposure
  2. Strongly Encourage engagement in the registry
  3. Early identification of symptoms
  4. Initiate screening exams
    1. LDCT Testing
    2. Liver Ultrasound
    3. PFT
    4. Cardiovascular testing
  5. Promote Healthy Lifestyle
  6. Early Entry into treatment

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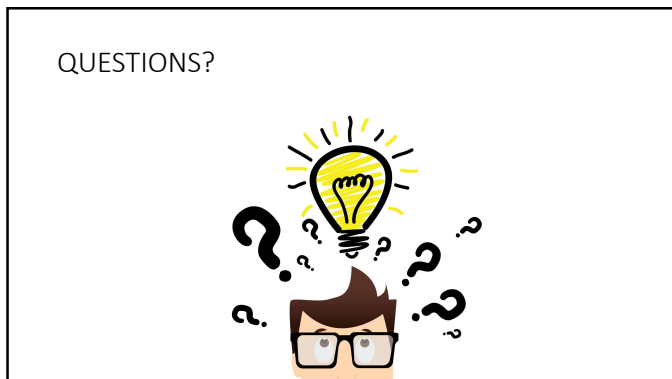
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