

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Frequently Asked Questions

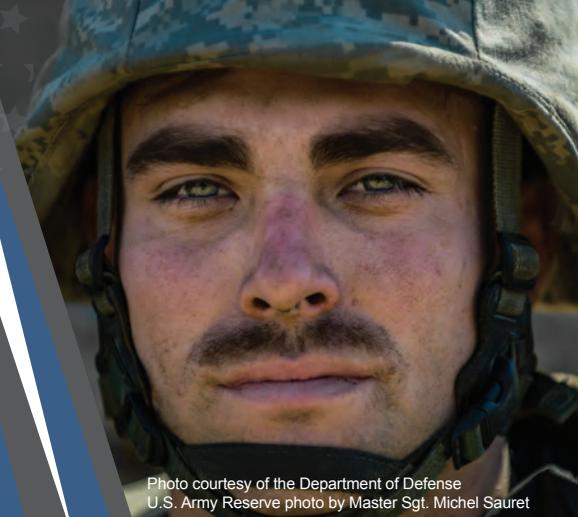


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General Information

Q1: What is the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

The registry is a database of health information voluntarily provided by service members and veterans that will help Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) collect, analyze, and report on health conditions that may be related to environmental exposures experienced during deployment. The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry consists of an online questionnaire and an optional, in-person medical evaluation.

In June 2014, Public Law 112-260, as described in the [Federal Register](#), mandated VA create an Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. The requirement was established in response to concerns that veterans were experiencing a range of respiratory illnesses possibly associated with exposure to burn pits while serving overseas. The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible veterans and service members to document environmental exposures, such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment, as well as record health concerns, through an online questionnaire. Information reported by participants is maintained in a secure database and may be used to inform future research studies.

The registry is completely voluntary and does not affect access to VA health care or compensation benefits. Upon completion of the questionnaire, registry participants may schedule a free medical exam to review their responses and health concerns with a medical provider. The registry helps participants become more aware of their health, while helping researchers to study the health effects of burn pits and other airborne hazards.

Q2: What is an airborne hazard?

Airborne hazards can be any number of airborne environmental contaminants that may cause short- and long-term health effects to exposed individuals. Examples of airborne hazards include burn pit smoke, oil well fire smoke, sand, dust, and particulate matter, among others.

Q3: What is an open burn pit?

The use of open burn pits, or open-air burn pits, was a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside of the U.S. such as in Iraq and Afghanistan. Burn pits may include airborne hazards, like smoke and other emissions containing an unknown mixture of substances, which could have short- and long-term health effects.

Q4: How do I participate in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry consists of an online questionnaire and an optional, in-person medical evaluation. You must have a Premium DS Logon (Defense Self-service Logon) Level 2 account to sign in to the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#). Once you log in, you will need to verify your deployment information is correct before you proceed to the questionnaire. Upon completion, click "Submit," then save and print the questionnaire for your records. If interested, service members may contact their local military hospital or clinic for a free, in-person medical exam to discuss exposures and health concerns with a doctor.



Q5: What is a DS Logon?

A DS Logon is a secure ID that is used by DoD and VA to allow individuals access to several websites with one user name and password. Service members must have a Premium DS Logon Level 2 account before attempting to complete the registry. You can obtain, update, or recover a DS Logon at the [Defense Manpower Data Center \(DMDC\) Identity Management](#) website. Once you have your DS Logon information, log in and complete the registry questionnaire. If you have trouble with DS Logon or have questions regarding the process for obtaining a DS Logon, visit the [DMDC Identity Management FAQ page](#).

To receive account assistance, you can also call the DMDC Support Center at 1-800-477-8227, option 2, and then select option 2 again. For technical support, call the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Help Desk from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time at 1-877-470-5947. The Help Desk can assist with any technical issue you may be having with this application.

Q6: Why is it important for service members to sign up for the registry?

If eligible, you can document exposures and learn more about potential health concerns, receive information about registry updates and ongoing health studies, contribute to valuable VA and DoD research, and create a “snapshot” of your health to guide discussions with your health care provider.

Q7: I'm a service member, but the registry link points me to a VA website. Am I in the right place?

Yes. The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry was developed by VA for both service members and veterans. While the registry is owned and managed by VA, DoD works closely with VA to support service member participation and efforts in ongoing exposure research and policy.

Eligibility and Deployment Verification

Q8: Am I eligible to participate?

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is open to service members and veterans who deployed to **contingency operations in the Southwest Asia theater of operations at any time on or after August 2, 1990 (as defined in 38 CFR 3.317(e)(2)) or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001.** These regions include the following countries, bodies of water, and the airspace above these locations: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates; and waters of the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Red Sea. When you log in to the registry using your DS Logon account, VA will use deployment data provided by DoD to verify your eligibility.

Q9: The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry says I do not have any eligible deployments, but I have deployed to locations that are listed as eligible. How can I correct this?

You must initiate a manual review of deployment information by selecting "Request an Eligibility Review." The registry will ask you to enter your contact information and eligible deployment information. VA will review the information you submit and, if necessary, ask you to provide documentation that indicates your eligible deployment(s). Please note that it may take up to 90 days for your deployment information to be verified. Upon verification, you may continue to the questionnaire.

The DoD's deployment database is the record source used to determine eligibility. It may be missing or inaccurately representing your deployment history, resulting in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry indicating you are not eligible. VA and DoD are working together to resolve this issue to help ensure all eligible service members and veterans can register without requesting an eligibility review. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Q10: What should I do if I cannot find the name of a base where I deployed?

When adding a deployment, choose the country and select the entry with a blank base name. Later in the questionnaire you can enter the base name. Please note the list of bases available to select from the drop-down menu in the questionnaire is not a comprehensive list. If you served during Desert Shield or Desert Storm, in Kuwait, or in Djibouti, your base name will likely not be available on the drop-down list. In the event you cannot find the name of the base which you served on, check the spelling and/or type in the missing base name.

Completing the Registry Questionnaire

Q11: How long will it take me to complete the questionnaire?

The online questionnaire will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. You can fill out the questionnaire in steps by saving your information and returning later to complete it.

Q12: What types of questions should I be prepared to answer?

You will be asked a series of questions in the following categories:

- Deployment timeframes and bases to which you were stationed
- Conditions and health issues that cause difficulty with daily activities
- Current and past health symptoms
- Residential history, or where you've lived
- Occupational history, or what type of work you do
- Dust, gas, vapors, or fumes exposures
- Home environment and hobbies
- Health care utilization
- Contact preferences

Q13: Why does the questionnaire ask questions about my current job and hobbies?

It is important for medical providers to have a complete picture of your health. The questionnaire asks a broad range of questions because an individual's health is greatly influenced by their lifestyle. Health conditions can worsen over time from additional or prolonged exposures experienced during work or recreation. Your current or past jobs, hobbies, civilian exposures, and lifestyle will not affect eligibility for benefits.

Q14: When I add personal information to the registry, will other people see my answers?

Your personal information will be secure and VA will review it for authorized purposes only. Unidentifiable information will be available to other government agencies, including DoD, as well as research institutions and the general public. You are responsible for protecting your personal information that you print out or download.

Q15: Will my doctor be able to access my completed questionnaire at my medical exam?

At this time, DoD health care providers can access a service member's completed Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry questionnaire in the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System. Until the questionnaire is available via the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record, **please print your completed questionnaire and to bring it to your in-person medical exam to avoid electronic access issues for the provider.**

Q16: Can I print or download a copy of my questionnaire?

Yes, everyone who registers for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry can download and/or print a copy of their completed questionnaire upon submission. You can also log back in to the registry to access it anytime.



Scheduling and Completing the Optional In-Person Medical Exam

Q17: I finished the questionnaire and would like to participate in an in-person medical exam. What do I do next?

DoD will provide a free, optional medical exam upon request. As a service member, you are responsible for scheduling an exam with your local military hospital or clinic.

Completing the registry does NOT cue DoD or VA to contact you to schedule an appointment.

Active duty service members, including activated Reserve and Guard, must contact their local military hospital or clinic to schedule an appointment for a voluntary medical evaluation. When you call, please state that you are requesting an appointment specifically to address health concerns related to Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry exposures.

Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Reserve members, whether discharged or still serving, are eligible for a no-cost medical evaluation provided by VA upon request. Veterans or inactive/separated National Guard members or Reservists enrolled in the VA health care system may contact their local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) to schedule a no-cost medical evaluation.

Q18: What can I expect from the in-person medical exam?

Your doctor will discuss your concerns about airborne hazards exposures and review your printed questionnaire results. They will also evaluate any symptoms you may have in a comprehensive manner. Further suggested testing, including specialty evaluations, will be based on your health concerns and symptoms, and may be ordered by your doctor. It is important for you to print and bring your completed questionnaire to the exam to review exposure history and health concerns with your doctor.

Q19: Do I need to finish the questionnaire to receive medical care related to airborne hazards or burn pit exposures?

If you are eligible, we strongly encourage you to complete the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry questionnaire to document your exposures in advance of a discussion with your provider. If you have any health or exposure concerns, you may contact your local military hospital or clinic to schedule an appointment for a voluntary medical evaluation. If you are experiencing any urgent symptoms, you should go to the nearest emergency room, call 911, or contact your primary care manager for instructions.

If you have questions regarding the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, you can find instructions for completing the registry at <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry> or visit the [registry's FAQ page](#).

For assistance with any technical issues, call the Registry Help Desk from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time at 1-877-470-5947.

Visit <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry> to access the registry

