

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

User Guide for Service Members



Photos courtesy of the Department of Defense
Photos by Master Sgt. Michel Sauret



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Overview

In June 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, found at <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>, 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 process allows eligible veterans and service members to document their exposures (such as smoke from open burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution) during deployment, as well as health concerns, through an online questionnaire and a voluntary, in-person medical exam.

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, optional medical exam with their local military hospital or clinic to discuss their exposures and review their completed questionnaire with their doctor. The registry helps participants become more aware of their health, while informing future VA and Department of Defense (DoD) research on the health effects of open burn pits and other airborne hazards.

The following guide is designed to help service members navigate the complete registry process. It describes the registry requirements; provides an in-depth, step-by-step guide for accessing, registering, and completing the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry questionnaire; and provides instructions for scheduling the optional, in-person medical exam.

Requirements

In order to register for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be either a service member or veteran who has deployed to contingency operations in the Southwest Asia theater of operations at any time on or after August 2, 1990, 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:

- 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
- You must have a DoD Self-service (DS) Logon Level 2 (Premium) account.

Registry Process

Log in to the Registry

1. Visit the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry at <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>.
2. Select **DS Logon Sign in** in the upper or lower righthand corner of the screen.

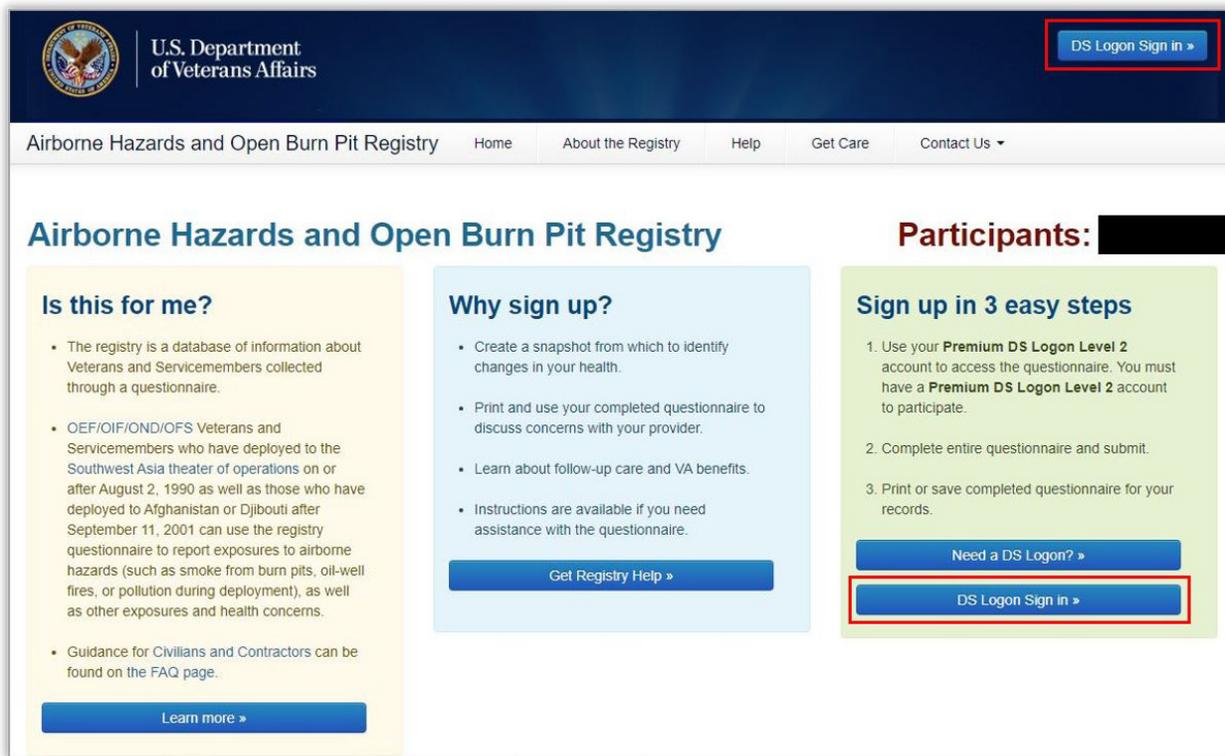


Figure 1: Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Homepage

3. Select **Use your DS Logon Level 2 account**.
4. Select **Accept**.



TIP: You can also access the registry page by visiting either:

- The [VA Launchpad](#) > Select **DS Logon Sign in** > Enter your DS Logon Level 2 account credentials > Select **Sign In**.
- Your [eBenefits](#) Account > Log in to your account > Select **Manage Health** > Under the “Health Studies” section, select **Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry**.

5. Enter your DS Logon username and password, and select **Login**.
 - a. If you need to register for a DS Logon account, select **Need an Account?** and follow the prompts. See the [DS Logon Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) for additional guidance, which can be found at the top right hand of the page.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Frequently Asked Questions

ATTENTION ALL USERS: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

ACTION NEEDED: Phone Numbers can be updated by yourself by logging into DS Logon account and going to "UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION." This will take you to a screen to update your own phone number and email. Please ensure your phone (e.g., cell, landline) and email address is accurate as future security features will be enabled soon and you won't have access to your DSL account if the phone number is not one you can access.

After visiting DS LOGON or one of our partner sites, CLOSE your browser window AND all open tabs. This will help protect your information and privacy. If you chose not to close your browser and all open tabs, this can enable third parties access to your PRIVATE HEALTH and BENEFIT INFORMATION.

DS Logon

DS Logon Username

DS Logon Password

Forgot Username?
Forgot Password?

Login

Need An Account?

Activate My Account

Upgrade To Premium Account

Change My Account

Phishing Alert: We do not initiate contact with beneficiaries via email or telephone to request private personal (Name, SSN, DOB) or sensitive DS Logon account information (username, password, challenge questions). If you think you provided personal or account information in response to a fraudulent email, website or phone call, be sure to change your password and challenge questions immediately.

Figure 2: DS Logon Title Screen

6. The first time you log in to the registry, confirm your consent to the End User License Agreement and Notice of Privacy Practices by selecting **I Consent, take me to the registry**.

Determine Eligibility

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry system automatically pulls deployment history from DoD deployment records to determine initial eligibility. If you are initially determined to be eligible (i.e., the records in the database show you were deployed in the qualifying countries and/or bodies of water), continue to page 8 to “[Verify Contact Information](#).”

However, if you are not initially determined to be eligible, but you know you do qualify for the registry, this may be the result of missing or inaccurate data in the deployment database. **You must initiate a manual eligibility review to be considered for the registry.**

! IMPORTANT NOTE: If you recently returned from a deployment, it may take up to 90 days for your recent deployment history to appear in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry system. If your initial registration attempt indicates no eligible deployment history, try logging in again more than 90 days after returning from deployment before requesting a manual eligibility review.

1. Select **Request an Eligibility Review**.

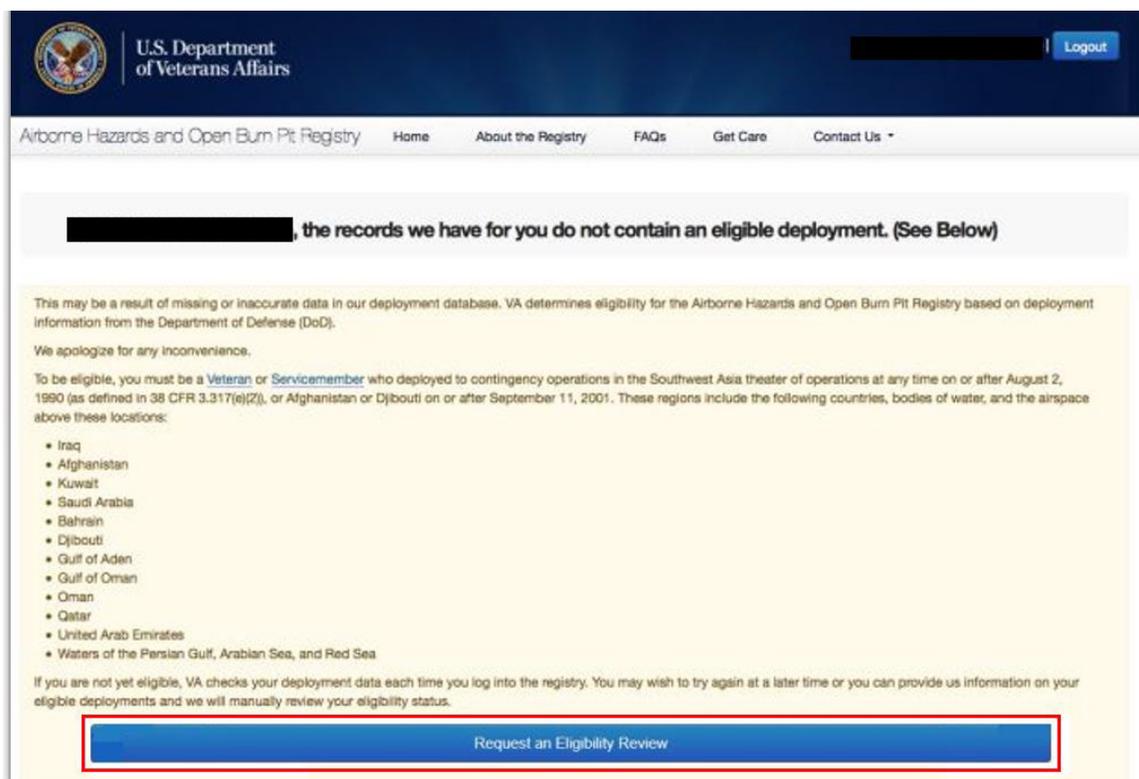


Figure 3: Request an Eligibility review

2. Verify and/or enter any missing contact information.

3. Add eligible deployment history by typing a base, country, or body of water in the search bar. Note, only eligible locations will appear in the search results.
4. Next to the deployment information that applies to your service, select **Add**.

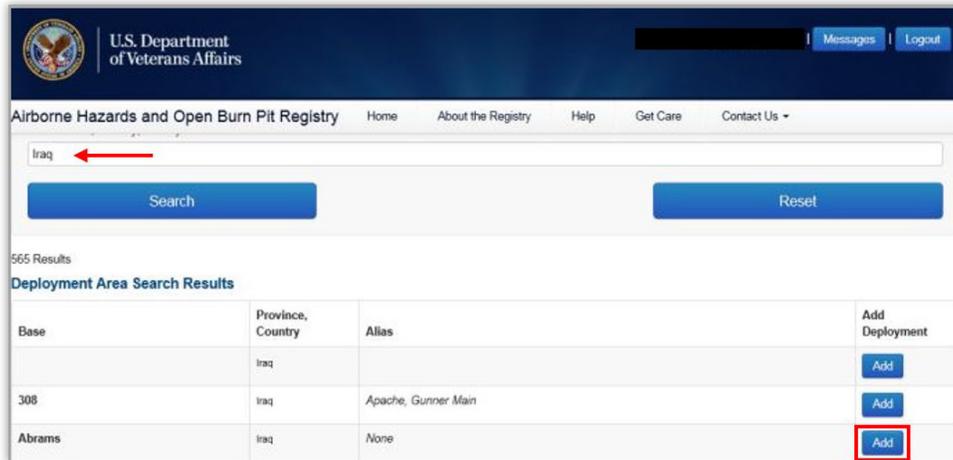


Figure 4: Deployment Area Search Result

5. Complete the displayed fields and select **Add**.
6. Ensure your deployment dates do not overlap.
7. Once you have entered all your eligible deployments and they appear in the “Deployment Periods” table, submit the manual eligibility request by selecting **Send My Information**.

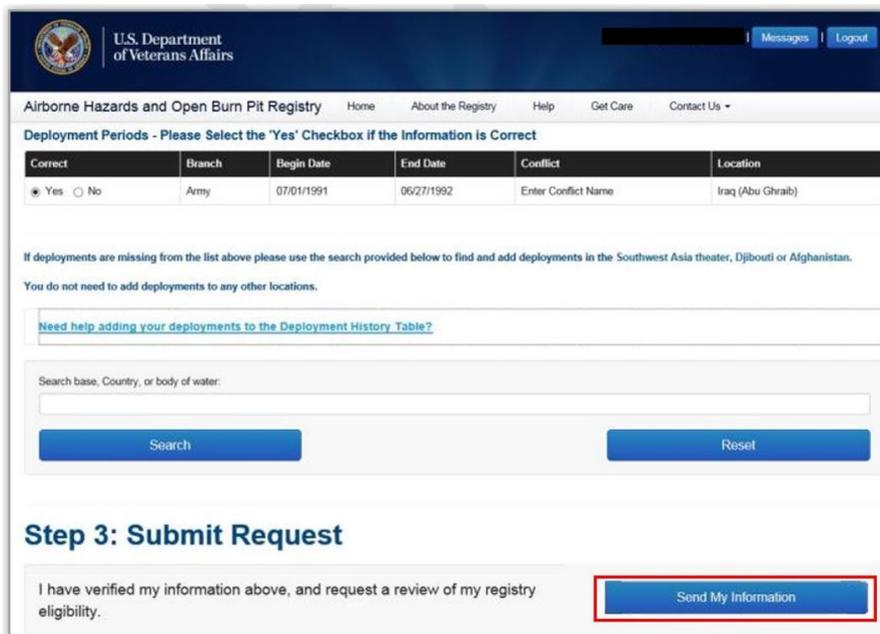


Figure 5: Eligibility Request Submission Screen

Your information will be submitted and is subject to a manual review. VA will review the information you submit and, if necessary, ask you to provide documentation that indicates your eligible deployment(s). The manual review process can take up to 30 days. You can call the **Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Help Desk (877-470-5947)** for assistance with accessing the registry and entering deployment dates.



Figure 6: Manual Eligibility Request Submission Verification Screen

You can track your eligibility status by logging in to the registry. Once VA has validated your deployment, you will receive an automated notification via email alerting you that you may proceed to complete the registration process and begin the questionnaire. ***It can take up to 30 days for the VA to manually review your eligibility (and up to 90 days if you recently returned from deployment).***



TIP: The VA Messaging System within the registry will send you a duplicate of the message you received via email. You can access your messages by selecting **Messages** in the upper right corner of the screen.

Verify Contact Information

Once you have been determined eligible for the registry, either initially or after submitting a manual eligibility review, you will verify and/or update your contact information. This is the first of three phases for completing the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry questionnaire, as indicated by the status bar above the questionnaire fields. You must confirm that your contact information is correct before you can begin the questionnaire.

1. If the information displayed is correct, select **My Contact Information is Correct**.
2. If the information displayed is incorrect, select **No. I Need to Update My Information** to update the information.

The screenshot displays the 'Verify Contact Information' page for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. At the top, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs logo and name are visible. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry' is shown. A progress indicator at the top left shows '1 Verify Contact Information' with a red arrow pointing to it. The main content area is titled 'Our Current Record of Your Contact Information' and contains a table with the following fields, all of which are redacted with black bars:

First Name:	[Redacted]
Last Name:	[Redacted]
Address:	[Redacted]
City/APO/FPO:	[Redacted]
State:	[Redacted]
Zip Code:	[Redacted]
Country:	[Redacted]
Phone:	[Redacted]
Mobile:	[Redacted]
Email Address:	[Redacted]

At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: a blue button labeled 'My Contact information is Correct' and an orange button labeled 'No, I Need to Update My Information'.

Figure 7: Verify or Update Contact Information Fields

! IMPORTANT NOTE: Keeping your contact information up to date is important. Service members who are exiting the service should update their contact information to include any new email address, home address, or phone numbers. You can return to the registry at any time to update your contact information.

Verify Deployment History

After verifying your contact information, you will begin the second phase of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry questionnaire, “Start the Questionnaire.” The first of eight sections asks you to verify your eligible deployment history, whether you were initially eligible or deemed eligible after submitting your manual eligibility review.

1. Review each deployment history entry in the “Deployment Periods” table for accuracy.
2. Select **Yes** to indicate the information displayed in the row is correct.
3. Select **No** to indicate the information displayed in the row is incorrect.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

1 Update Contact Information 2 Start the Questionnaire

Section was saved successfully

Save Changes Next Section →

1. Deployment History

1.1. Deployment Data from the VA Defense Information Repository (VADIR)

Deployment Periods

Correct	Branch	End Date	Conflict	Location
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Arm	05/1991	Desert Storm	Iraq
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Arm	05/1993	Provide Comfort	Iraq
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Arm	01/1996	Provide Promise	Bosnia and Herzegovina

Search Reset

Save Changes Next Section →

Figure 8: Deployment History Verification Screen

4. For both incorrect and missing deployments, use the search field to find and add information.
5. Type a base, country, or body of water in the search bar. Please note that only eligible locations will appear in the search results.
6. Next to the deployment information that applies to your service, select **Add**.

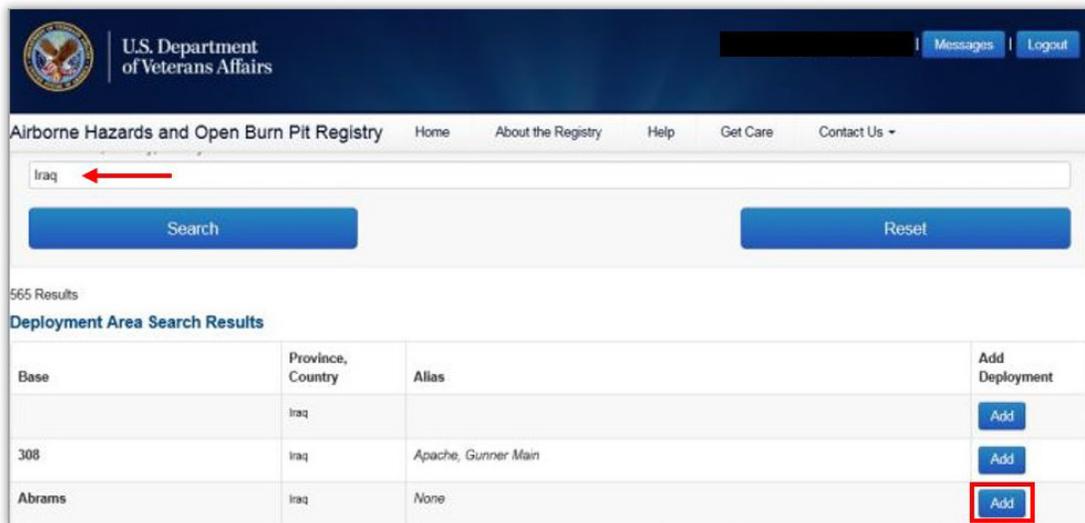


Figure 9: Deployment Area Search Result

7. Complete the displayed fields, and select **Add**.
8. Ensure your deployment dates do not overlap.
9. Once you verify and/or update your deployment history, select **Save Changes** and then **Next Section**.

! IMPORTANT NOTE: All self-entered deployment history changes and additions to the “Deployment Periods” table are subject to a manual review by VA. ***If you manually edited/added deployment information, you should wait to complete the questionnaire until your edited/added deployment information is reviewed and deemed eligible by VA.*** Once VA completes the manual deployment review, you will be notified via email and the VA Messaging System that your self-entered deployment history is either “Reviewed-eligible” or “Reviewed-not eligible.” ***You will only be asked questions about eligible deployments.***

Complete and Submit the Questionnaire

After verifying your deployment history, you can continue to complete the remaining sections and sub-sections of the questionnaire. The questionnaire covers eight major topics and asks primarily about your health history, deployment history, and work environment and lifestyle. Table 1 lists the section topics and sub-section topics, where applicable.

Table 1: Questionnaire Section and Sub-Section Topics

#	SECTION TOPIC	SUB-SECTION TOPIC
1	Deployment History	1.1 Deployment Data from the VA Defense Information Repository and Other Sources
		1.2 Location Specific Deployment Exposures
		1.3 General Military Occupational Exposures
		1.4 Environmental Exposures, Regional Air Pollution
2	Symptoms and Medical History	2.1 Functional Limitation and Reported Cause
		2.2 Health Conditions
		2.3 Height and Weight
		2.4 Cancer History
		2.5 Tobacco Exposure
		2.6 Deployment Smoking History
		2.7 12 Month Alcohol Use
3	Health Concerns	N/A
4	Places You've Lived	N/A
5	Work History	5.1 Current Occupation Status
		5.2 Main Occupation
		5.3 Dust Exposures
		5.4 Gas, Smoke, Vapors, or Fumes Exposure
		5.5 Asbestos Exposure
6	Home Environment and Hobbies	6.1 Home Environment, Community, and Hobbies (Environmental Exposures)
7	Health Care Utilization	N/A
8	Contact Preferences	N/A

The questionnaire will take approximately 40 minutes, and the questions are intended to provide a broad and complete picture of your health. A small sub-section of the questionnaire will repeat to address concerns specific to each verified and eligible deployment segment. Even if you do not think some of your deployment information is related to exposures or that your lifestyle affects your health, you should still provide as much information as possible.



TIP: You do not need to complete the questionnaire in one sitting. The next time you log in to the registry, you will automatically resume the questionnaire where you last saved.

As you complete the questionnaire, remember that:

- You must answer all the questions on the screen before proceeding to the next section, but you are able to return to previous sections at any time by selecting **Previous Section**.
- The questionnaire automatically saves when you select **Next Section**, but you can select **Save Changes** on each screen to save progress, as needed.
- You can monitor your questionnaire progress by viewing either of the following:
 - The section and highlighted sub-section you are working on within the questionnaire on the left side of the screen, or
 - The status bar at the top of the screen that shows you the percent of the questionnaire completed. The status bar becomes filled in gradually as you answer more questions.

The screenshot shows the 'Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs logo and links for 'Messages' and 'Logout'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Home', 'About the Registry', 'Help', 'Get Care', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main panel. The sidebar contains a list of sections: 'Deployment Data from the VA Defense Information Repository (VADIR) and other sources', 'Location Specific Deployment Exposures' (highlighted in blue), 'General Military Occupational Exposures', 'Environmental Exposures, Regional Air Pollution', 'SYMPTOMS AND MEDICAL HISTORY', 'HEALTH CONCERNS', 'PLACES YOU'VE LIVED', 'WORK HISTORY', 'HOME ENVIRONMENT AND HOBBIES', 'HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION', and 'CONTACT PREFERENCES'. The main panel features a progress bar at the top, followed by three buttons: '← Previous Section', 'Save Changes', and 'Next Section →'. The current section is '1. Eligible Deployment History', with a sub-section '1.2. Location Specific Deployment Exposures'. The instruction reads: 'Tell us about potential exposures while you were deployed'. Below this is a light blue box with the text: 'Please answer all questions for each deployment below.' A redacted name is shown. The first question is 'B. Where did you spend most of your time during these dates?' with radio button options: 'Afghanistan base' (with a text input field 'Enter base name or objective.' and an 'Answer Required' label), 'I do not wish to answer', and 'Don't know'. The second question is 'C. If you were at more than one base, where did you spend the second most amount of time during these dates?' with radio button options: 'Afghanistan base' (with a text input field 'Enter base name or objective.' and an 'Answer Required' label), 'I was not at any other bases', 'I do not wish to answer', and 'Don't know'. The third question is 'D. Were you near a burn pit during these dates (on the base or close enough to the base for you to see'.

Figure 10: Questionnaire Layout and Navigation Features

1. Proceed to answer the questions, and select **Next Section** until you reach the end of the questionnaire.

2. Once you have completed the questionnaire, select **Submit Questionnaire**.

The screenshot displays the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry interface. At the top, the VA logo and name are visible. Below the header, there are navigation links: Home, About the Registry, FAQs, Get Care, and Contact Us. A progress bar indicates the current step is '2 Continue Questionnaire'. A sidebar on the left lists various sections, with 'CONTACT PREFERENCES' and 'Contact Preferences' highlighted. The main content area shows a 'Submit Questionnaire' button highlighted with a red box, along with a 'Previous Section' button. Below the buttons, the section is titled '8. Contact Preferences' and includes a question: 'A. How do you prefer to receive updated information on burn pits and other airborne exposures?' with a dropdown menu showing 'Email from the VA'.

Figure 11: Questionnaire Submission Screen

Review Registry Documents and Resources

Upon submitting your questionnaire, you will be taken to the third and final phase of the questionnaire, “Next Steps and Resources.” The screen will congratulate you for completing the questionnaire and allow you to select four documents to download or print, including three for service members.

 **TIP:** You can also access your submitted questionnaire and the resources any time online by logging in to the registry > Select **Next Steps and Resources** along the status bar > Select **Questionnaire**.

1. Select **Questionnaire** to download and/or print a copy of the questionnaire for your records.
2. Select **New Participation Letter** to view details on how to schedule your optional medical exam.
3. Select **DoD Fact Sheet for Servicemembers and Retirees** for registry information specific to service members and retirees.

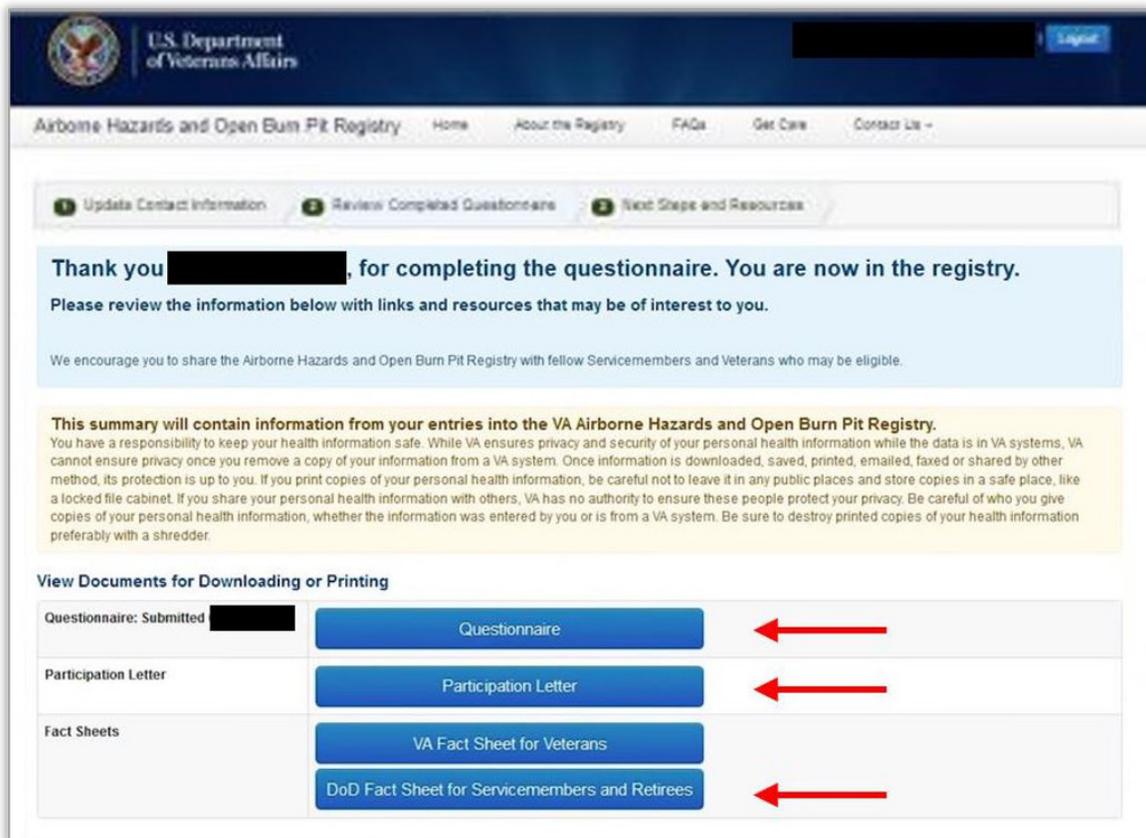


Figure 12: Registry Completion Screen and Available Resources

! IMPORTANT NOTE: If you download or print the questionnaire, ensure that you are taking steps to protect your personal information. Be cautious about with whom you share your personal health information and be sure to destroy printed copies of your health information after use, preferably with a shredder.



Schedule Your Free Medical Exam

DoD will provide a free, optional medical exam to active duty personnel upon request. ***Please note that the completion of the questionnaire does NOT cue DoD or VA to contact you to schedule this exam.***

- If you are an active duty service member (including activated Reserve or Guard members), contact your local military hospital or clinic to schedule an appointment.
- If you are a National Guard or Reserve Component member (separated or still serving), VA will provide your free, optional medical exam. Contact a [local VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) to schedule an appointment.
- Remember to note that your appointment is specifically to address “health concerns related to the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry exposures.”
- Prepare for your medical exam by ***printing a copy of your questionnaire to bring with you*** and writing down any questions that you may have.

Additional Service Member Resources

DS Logon Resources

- [DS Logon FAQs](#)
- Defense Manpower Data Center Contact Center: 800-538-9552

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Resources

- [VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#)
- [Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry \(Service Member Fact Sheet, FAQs, and more\)](#)
- [VA Mobile Demonstration Video for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#)
- Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Help Desk: 877-470-5947

Medical Facility Resources

- [Military Hospital or Clinic Locator](#)
- [VA Facility Locator](#)
- [Local VA Environmental Health Coordinator Directory](#)