

Changes in Qualifying Conditions

Three health conditions suffered by some Gulf War Veterans are presumptively (automatically) recognized by VA for service connection. These are...

- *Fibromyalgia,*
- *Chronic fatigue syndrome, and*
- *Irritable bowel syndrome*

In 2001, Public Law 107-103, expanded the definition of “qualifying” chronic disability to include these three conditions.

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How To Find Out More Information About Benefits

The VA Gulf War Information Helpline also provides information and assistance.

The toll-free number is:
1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387).

Visit this Web site for more information on Gulf War Veteran health care and other benefits:
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/.

Gulf War Veterans in need of marital/family counseling should contact the nearest VA medical center or VA Vet Center, also listed in the phonebook under Department of Veterans Affairs in the “U.S. Government” listings.

For general information about VA Health Eligibility/Enrollment, call 1-877-222-8387.



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Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Executive Secretary
Washington, DC 20420

Gulf War Veterans Overview
July 2010



Overview

Benefits & Programs Gulf War Era VETERANS



Qualified Veterans

If you are a Veteran who served on active military duty in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War from 1990 to the present, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, you are eligible for a Gulf War Registry Examination. Military duty covered includes service in one of the following areas:

- *Iraq*
- *The Neutral Zone (between Iraq and Saudi Arabia)*
- *Saudi Arabia*
- *Kuwait*
- *Qatar*
- *The United Arab Emirates*
- *Oman*
- *Gulf of Oman*
- *Gulf of Aden*
- *Waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea*

Qualifying Conditions Changes to Come

In 2009, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki directed an internal task force to identify improvements that VA can make in services, education, and outreach related to Gulf War Era Veterans. That task force was led by VA's Chief of Staff, John R. Gingrich, and the findings and recommendations of that task force will be published in 2010. The preliminary areas identified for analysis and improvement are:

- ***Outreach:*** *Improve our ability to obtain positive support from internal and external stakeholders through collaborative engagement.*
- ***Partnerships:*** *Institutionalize our interagency relationship with the DoD to receive timely by-name transfer of data on potential environment exposures of military personnel.*
- ***Benefits:*** *Reevaluate VA performance with respect to compensating Veterans with Gulf War-related disabilities.*
- ***Clinician Education and Training:*** *Update Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses training to VA's primary care physicians, compensation and pension examiners, environmental health clinicians, mental health professionals and social workers.*
- ***Population Based Surveillance:*** *Continue funding long term Gulf War reviews, and the study of Post War Mortality from Neurological Disease in Gulf War Veterans.*

Important Information

The VA Gulf War Information Helpline

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