**How to Enroll in the Gulf War Registry**

**What: Enrollment in the Gulf War Registry**

**Service Officer Notes:** Certain illnesses are associated with Gulf War service in the [Southwest Asia theater of military operations](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/military-service.asp) from August 2, 1990 to present. [Medically unexplained illnesses](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp) (also commonly referred to as Gulf War illness or Chronic Multi-symptom illness) are a significant concern for some Veterans who served during the Gulf War. VA offers eligible Veterans a free [Gulf War Registry health exam](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/benefits/registry-exam.asp) to find possible long-term health problems related to Gulf War service. VA’s Gulf War Registry Health Exam alert Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to environmental exposures during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

**Web Sites:**

[**https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/gulf-war/gulf-war-spring-2015/gulf-war-registry.asp**](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/gulf-war/gulf-war-spring-2015/gulf-war-registry.asp)

**https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/benefits/registry-exam.asp**

**Who Qualifies:** Veterans who served in the Gulf during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn are eligible for the Gulf War Registry exam.

You do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to take part.

**Information:** This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veteran and in a follow-up letter.

Important points about registry health exams

* Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment
* Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits
* Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary
* Based on Veterans’ recollection of service, not on their military records
* Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop
* Veterans' family members are not eligible for registry exams

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