

FINAL DRAFT REPORT, MARCH 29, 2010, FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

environmental health clinicians, mental health professionals and social workers about the health effects of service in the 1990 – 1991 Gulf War.

2. Direct War-Related Injury and Illness Study Centers (WRIISC) to coordinate with Patient Care Services, the Office of Academic Affairs, Veterans Integrated Service Networks, and VA Medical Centers to ensure full participation in training on the unique exposure concerns of 1990 – 1991 Gulf War Veterans as well as returning OEF/OIF Veterans, and provide educational and clinical tools for evaluation of exposure risk and the health outcomes relevant to these risks.

Ongoing Scientific Reviews and Population Based Surveillance:

1. Continue funding three long term reviews:
 - Gulf War and Health: Effects of Serving in the Gulf War.
 - Long Term Consequences of Exposure to Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - Gulf War Update 2010.
2. Collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to add de-identified Veteran-specific data collection and analyses in two ongoing CDC projects, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and the National Health Interview Survey.
3. Include de-identified Veteran-specific data collection and analyses on the Millennium Cohort Study to evaluate the impact of military service, including deployments and other occupational exposures, on long-term health.
4. Conduct a *National Study for a New Generation of U.S. Veterans* on the health status of 60,000 Veterans who have separated from active duty, Guard, or Reserves, half of whom served in either Iraq or Afghanistan and half who did not; and oversample women Veterans to permit appropriate comparisons.
5. Explore with DoD the feasibility of using health records of Military Working Dogs deployed and non-deployed to the Gulf to determine if there are clinical conditions or post mortem diagnoses related to environmental exposures. The use of Military Working Dog health records may add information to the potential long-term adverse health effects among Veterans exposed to the same environmental hazards.
6. Continue to fund the study of Post War Mortality from Neurological Disease in Gulf War Veterans through 2013.
7. Conduct a follow-up study of an established permanent panel of 30,000 deployed and non-deployed Veterans from the 1990 – 1991 Gulf War period. Baseline and follow-up data have been previously collected. This study will provide health trends over time and the current status of the health of 1990 – 1991 Gulf War Veterans close to the twentieth anniversary of the end of 1990 – 1991 Gulf War.

Enhanced Medical Surveillance of Potential Hazardous Exposures:

1. Provide periodic medical surveillance to Veterans who performed duty at Qarmat Ali, Iraq, and were potentially exposed to hexavalent chromium. Hexavalent chromium has numerous acute and sub-acute health affects. It is also a known human carcinogen (primarily causing lung cancer).