### Veterans’ Health Concerns

#### Environmental Exposures
- Asbestos
- Burn Pit Smoke
- Contaminated water (benzene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride)
- Endemic Diseases
- Hexavalent Chromium
- Ionizing & Non-Ionizing Radiation
- Jet Fuel
- Lead
- Mustard Gas
- Nerve Agents
- Particulate Matter
- Pesticides
- TCDD & other dioxins

#### Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND)
- Animal Bites/Rabies
- Combined Penetrating Blunt Trauma
- Burn Injuries (Blast Injuries)
- Dermatologic Issues
- Embedded Fragments (shrapnel)
- Leishmaniasis
- Mental Health Issues
- Multi-Drug Resistant Acinetobacter
- Reproductive Health Issues
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Traumatic Amputation
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Vision Loss

#### Gulf War
- Chemical or Biological Agents
- Depleted Uranium (DU)
- Dermatologic Issues
- Immunizations
- Infectious Diseases (i.e., Leishmaniasis)
- Oil Well Fires
- Reproductive Health Issues

#### Vietnam, Korean DMZ & Thailand
- Agent Orange Exposure
- Hepatitis C

#### Cold War
- Nuclear Weapons Testing (Atomic Veterans)

#### WWII & Korean War
- Cold Injury
- Chemical Warfare Agent Experiments
- Exposure to Nuclear Weapons (Including Testing or Cleanup)

### Military Health History

#### Pocket Card for Clinicians

**Asking Veterans these questions...**

...will provide you with information helpful in understanding patients' medical problems and concerns, and in establishing rapport and therapeutic partnerships with military service members and Veterans. Answers may also provide a basis for timely referral to specialized medical resources.

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**Office of Academic Affiliations**
[www.va.gov/oaa/pocketcard/](http://www.va.gov/oaa/pocketcard/)

**Office of Public Health**
[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures)

**War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center**
[www.warrelatedillness.va.gov](http://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov)

**Veterans Health Initiative Independent Study Courses**
[www.publichealth.va.gov/vethealthinitiative/](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/vethealthinitiative/)

**Information for Veterans: Compensation and Pension Benefits**
[www.vba.va.gov/bln/21](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21)
Ask these questions of military service members and all Veterans

General Questions
- Tell me about your military experience.
- When and where do you/did you serve?
- What do you/did you do while in the service?
- How has military service affected you?

If your patient answers "Yes" to any of the following questions, ask:
"Can you tell me more about that?"
- Did you see combat, enemy fire, or casualties?
- Were you or a buddy wounded, injured, or hospitalized?
- Did you ever become ill while you were in the service?
- Were you a prisoner of war?

Exposure Concerns
- What... were you exposed to?
  - Chemical (pollution, solvents, etc.)
  - Biological (infectious disease)
  - Physical (radiation, heat, vibration, noise, etc.)

- Precautions were taken? (Avoidance, PPE, Treatment)
- How... long was the exposure?
- Concerned are you about the exposure?
- Where... were you exposed?
- When... were you exposed?
- Who... else may have been affected? Unit name, etc.

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection
- Have you ever had a blood transfusion?
- Have you ever injected drugs such as heroin or cocaine?

Living Situation
- Where do you live?  
  - Is your housing safe?
- Are you in any danger of losing your housing?
- Do you need assistance in caring for dependents?

Stress Reactions/Adjustment Problems

Call VBA at 1-800-827-1000

Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Trauma
- Have you ever experienced physical, emotional, or sexual harassment or trauma?
- Is this past experience causing you problems now?
- Do you want a referral?

Tell your patient about VA’s

Personal Health Journal
Online Rx refill
VA benefits & resources
Manage your health

www.myhealth.va.gov