



MILITARY EXPOSURES

RADIATION
WAR FARE AGENTS

CHEMICALS
AIR POLLUTANTS
OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS



CHEMICALS

AGENT ORANGE OR OTHER HERBICIDES

Herbicides used during the Vietnam era to destroy foliage and crops

BURN PITS

Open-air pit waste disposal at military sites

SULFUR FIRE

Sulfur plant burned almost a month in June 2003; large amounts of sulfur dioxide released into the air

CAMP LEJEUNE WATER SUPPLIES

Tap water contaminated by industrial chemicals at Marine Corps Base Camp in the 1950s to 1980s

INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS

Usually liquid, used to dissolve, degrease, clean, strip paint, etc.

PESTICIDES

Substances used to repel or destroy pests such as insects and pathogens

DEPLETED URANIUM

Uranium used in military tank armor and some bullets

CHROMIUM

Hexavalent chromium in sodium dichromate dust; water treatment plant in 2003

PCBS

Polychlorinated biphenyl used as coolant and insulating fluid

PFAS

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in products, including fire-fighting foams

RADIATION

Non Ionizing and Ionizing radiation.

AIR POLLUTANTS

BURN PITS

Open-air pit waste disposal in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas of the Southwest Asia theater of military operations, open-air combustion of trash and other waste in burn pits was a common practice.

OIL WELL FIRE (GULF WAR)

Oil or gas wells that caught on fire and burned during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm

SULFUR FIRE (AL MISHRAQ, IRAQ)

Sulfur plant burned almost a month in June 2003; large amounts of sulfur dioxide released into the air

SAND, DUST AND PARTICLES

Tiny airborne matter that can cause respiratory and other health problems

ASTUGI WASTE INCINERATOR

Atsugi, Japan: Combustion waste disposal that burned industrial and medical waste

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

ASBESTOS

Mineral fiber used in older buildings and ships; if inhaled deeply into the lungs can cause health problems

INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS

Usually liquid, used to dissolve, degrease, clean, strip paint, etc.

LEAD

Metal that can be toxic for certain uses

RADIATION

Dental technicians, nuclear weapons technicians, and others with routine and usually safe exposure

FUELS (Petroleum, Oils, Lubricants)

Fuels such as diesel and JP-8 used to operate vehicles in the military

PCBs

Polychlorinated biphenyl used as coolant and insulating fluid

VIBRATION

Periodic back and forth movement that if severe, can cause health conditions

NOISE

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service

CARC PAINT

Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC) used on military vehicles to resist corrosion and chemical agents

WARFARE AGENTS

CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Use of biological toxins or infectious agents in Gulf War with intent to kill or incapacitate

CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS

Exposure to mustard or nerve agents from demolishing or handling explosive ordinance in Iraq

MUSTARD GAS

Military tests of mustard agents in the 1940s

EDGEWOOD/ABERDEEN EXPERIMENTS

Classified medical studies of low-dose chemical agents conducted from 1955-1975

NERVE AGENTS

Toxic chemicals that attack the body's nervous system

PROJECT 112

Military tests of chemical/biological warfare materials conducted in the 1960s to early 1970s

HERBICIDE TESTS AND STORAGE

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam, tested or stored elsewhere