

Department of Veterans Affairs

Gulf War Veterans Information System

November 2003



December 11, 2003

Gulf War Veterans Information System

November 2003 Report

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Section One

Overview

Purpose

The Gulf War Veterans Information System (GWVIS) provides accurate and timely data and information reports identifying the Gulf War service member population and monitoring their compensation and pension benefit utilization.

Report Preparation

GWVIS reports are prepared every three months (February, May, August, and November) by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). VBA uses four steps to prepare GWVIS reports.

1. Every three months, the Department of Defense (DoD) sends VBA an updated list identifying all past and current military service members since August 2, 1990, the start of the Gulf War.
2. The DoD list of service members is compared with VBA compensation and pension benefit information systems.
3. VBA uses the results from the comparison to prepare reports about Gulf War veterans and their compensation and pension benefit utilization sorted by unique Gulf War cohorts.
4. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides VBA the “Gulf War Mortality Data” and the “Gulf War Inpatient and Outpatient Health Care Utilization” for inclusion.

History

In 1997, VA’s Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness, working with VBA, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and other VA organizational elements, created GWVIS to identify Gulf War service members and monitor, in part, their compensation and pension benefit utilization.

GWVIS reports are consistent with the “Veterans Health Care Act of 1992” (Public Law 102-585) in identifying Gulf War service members and reporting on various aspects of their benefits claims and related outcomes. VBA is working in cooperation with the following organizations to enhance GWVIS: DoD’s Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and

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the Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD), VA's Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness, VA's Office of the General Counsel, and VHA.

Limitations

GWVIS reports do not contain information about individual veterans. GWVIS does not provide information on how claims are adjudicated. Questions raised on this matter should be referred to VBA's Compensation and Pension Service.

GWVIS reports do not cite statutes or regulations for terms and definitions. Questions about terms and definitions should be referred to VA's Office of General Counsel or VBA's Compensation and Pension Service, as appropriate. The terms and definitions in this document are intended for this report only, and they should not be relied upon for any other purpose, such as the presentation of claims for VA benefits.

This report contains "Gulf War Mortality Data." Please contact VHA's Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards for more information regarding Gulf War mortality data. The GWVIS statistical reports, containing death counts, do not constitute a Gulf War veteran mortality study.

VBA is working closely with DoD to identify service members recently deployed to Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Data about these service members provided by DoD to VBA is incomplete and it may be delayed while DoD updates their computer system. VBA will release the data as soon as it becomes available.

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Section Two

November 2003 Reports

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Gulf War Service Member Statistics November 2003

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed	Era	Total
Service Members	696,841	432,464	1,129,305	4,781,781	5,911,086
Service Member Separations	595,904	303,906	899,810	4,071,648	4,971,458
Active Duty Separations	481,001	298,317	779,318	2,479,620	3,258,938
Activated Reservist Separations	114,903	5,589	120,492	271,223	391,715
Reservists, Service-Connected¹	0	0	0	94,633	94,633
Non-activated Reservist Separations	0	0	0	1,226,172	1,226,172
Veteran Deaths²	9,429	2,856	12,285	36,214	48,499
Estimated Living Veterans	586,475	301,050	887,525	2,809,262	3,696,787

¹ VBA identified 94,633 Non-Activated Reservists who are service-connected or pensioners as "veterans." VBA identified 6,471 deaths among the 94,633. The 6,471 deaths are included in the count for Deaths reported under "Era." The 88,162 remaining living veterans are included in the count of "Estimated Living Veterans" reported under "Era."

² These counts reflect raw data that has not been subjected to any statistical analysis nor has it been adjusted in any way to make it a mortality study. There has been no adjustment to account for age, gender, race, and other items required for a valid mortality study. In addition, the data will not reflect deaths that occurred after November 2003. The use of these data to draw conclusions regarding mortality rates will result in inaccurate conclusions. For analysis of Gulf War veteran mortality, see "Mortality among US Veterans of the Persian Gulf War: 7-Year Follow-up," Han K. Kang and Tim A. Bullman, American Journal of Epidemiology, 2001, 154(5): 399-405. A summary of the data in the VA Gulf War Mortality study is shown on page 9 of this report.

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Compensation and Pension Statistics November 2003

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed	Era	Total
Service Members	696,841	432,464	1,129,305	4,781,781	5,911,086
Estimated Living Veterans	586,475	301,050	887,525	2,809,262	3,696,787
Claims Filed	221,020	90,716	311,736	821,653	1,133,389
Claims Processed	201,149	81,852	283,001	762,779	1,045,780
Claims Granted	174,768	75,061	249,829	672,218	922,047
Claims Denied	26,381	6,791	33,172	90,561	123,733
Claims Pending	19,871	8,864	28,735	58,874	87,609
Service-Connected 10% or Greater, Receiving Compensation or Pension.	126,426	56,530	182,956	483,181	666,137
Service-Connected 0%, Receiving Compensation or Pension	3,407	1,561	4,968	12,799	17,767
Service-Connected 10% or Greater, No Compensation or Pension	4,496	1,392	5,888	22,203	28,091
Service-Connected 0%, No Compensation or Pension	40,439	15,578	56,017	154,035	210,052
Non-Service Connected - Receiving Pension	788	132	920	2,446	3,366
Non-Service Connected - No Pension	25,593	6,659	32,252	88,115	120,367

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Undiagnosed (UDX) Compensation and Pension Statistics November 2003

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed	Era	Total
Service Members	696,841	432,464	1,129,305	4,781,781	5,911,086
Estimated Living Veterans	586,475	301,050	887,525	2,809,262	3,696,787
UDX Claims Processed	12,334	1,107	13,441	NA	13,441
UDX Claims Granted	3,235	176	3,411	NA	3,411
UDX Claims Denied	9,099	931	10,030	NA	10,030
SC 10% or Greater UDX Illness, Receiving Compensation or Pension	2,762	148	2,910	NA	2,910
SC 0% UDX Illness, Receiving Compensation or Pension	225	17	242	NA	242
SC 10% or Greater UDX Illness, No Compensation or Pension	92	4	96	NA	96
SC 0% UDX Illness, No Compensation or Pension	156	7	163	NA	163
NSC UDX Illness, Receiving Compensation or Pension	3,461	389	3,850	NA	3,850
NSC UDX Illness, No Pension	5,638	542	6,180	NA	6,180

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Al Jubayl Compensation and Pension Statistics November 2003

Category	Conflict
Service Members	1,334
Estimated Living Veterans	1,175
Veteran Deaths	27
Claims Filed	412
Claims Processed	375
Claims Granted	302
Claims Denied	73
Claims Pending	37
SC 10% or Greater Receiving Compensation or Pension	220
SC 0% Receiving Compensation or Pension	6
SC 10% or Greater No Compensation or Pension	6
SC 0% No Compensation or Pension	70
NSC Receiving Pension	0
NSC No Pension	73
UDX Claims Processed	68
UDX Claims Granted	23
UDX Claims Denied	45
SC 10% or Greater UDX Illness - Receiving Compensation or Pension	23
SC 0% UDX Illness - Receiving Compensation or Pension	0
SC 10% or Greater UDX Illness - No Compensation or Pension	0
SC 0% UDX Illness - No Compensation or Pension	0
NSC UDX Illness - Receiving Compensation or Pension	8
NSC UDX Illness - No Pension	37

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Khamisiyah Compensation and Pension Statistics¹ November 2003

Category	Conflict
Service Members	145,404
Estimated Living Veterans	124,560
Veteran Deaths	2,158
Claims Filed	55,351
Claims Processed	50,219
Claims Granted	42,961
Claims Denied	7,258
Claims Pending	5,132
SC 10% or Greater Receiving Compensation or Pension	30,771
SC 0% Receiving Compensation or Pension	734
SC 10% or Greater No Compensation or Pension	1,203
SC 0% No Compensation or Pension	10,253
NSC Receiving Pension	207
NSC No Pension	7,051
UDX Claims Processed	4,186
UDX Claims Granted	1,133
UDX Claims Denied	3,053
SC 10% or Greater UDX Illness - Receiving Compensation or Pension	975
SC 0% UDX Illness - Receiving Compensation or Pension	68
SC 10% or Greater UDX Illness - No Compensation or Pension	40
SC 0% UDX Illness - No Compensation or Pension	50
NSC UDX Illness - Receiving Compensation or Pension	1,154
NSC UDX Illness - No Pension	1,899

¹ The total number of service members ever identified with possible low-level chemical warfare agent exposure or serving at or near Khamisiyah, Iraq, at the time of the demolition of chemical warfare munitions is 145,499. In this report, VBA displayed compensation and pension statistics on 145,404 service members. VA is working with DoD to review the remaining service member records. VA will make the results available when VA and DoD complete the review process.

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Gulf War Inpatient and Outpatient Health Care Utilization October 1990 through October 2002

The table below shows cumulative numbers for inpatient and outpatient care for deployed Gulf War veterans from October 1990 through October 2002.

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed
Unique Gulf War Veteran Outpatients	287,848	101,344	389,192
Total Gulf War Veteran Outpatient Visits	5,790,661	1,161,344	6,952,005
Unique Gulf War Veteran Inpatients	33,421	6,798	43,219
Total Gulf War Veteran Inpatient Stays	78,191	13,172	91,363

Outpatient Care File (OPC): An OPC visit represents an **outpatient visit** to a VA facility for the purpose of receiving treatment and/or care.

Patient Treatment File (PTF): A PTF visit represents an **inpatient stay** of at least one day at a VA facility (including VA nursing homes).

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Gulf War Mortality Data

Death rates from 1990 to 1997 of US Gulf War veterans deployed to the Gulf War region before March 1, 1991 compared to non-Gulf War veterans over the same period.¹

Gulf War Mortality Data

Gulf War Veterans			Non-Gulf War Veterans		Ratio of Death Rates ³	Significance of the ratio of death rates ^{4, 5, 6}
Veteran Gender	Number of Deaths	Death Rate ²	Number of Deaths	Death Rate ²		
Male	4,312	11.1	5,542	12.9	0.95	Not significant
Female	194	6.6	376	5.7	1.16	Not significant

¹ This study compared the mortality among the 621,902 Gulf War veterans who served at least one day during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (those arriving in the Southwest Asia theater of operations after August 2, 1990, but before March 1, 1991) to the mortality among 746,248 non-Gulf War veterans who served during this conflict but were not deployed to this area, and includes Active Duty, and activated Reserve and National Guard.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations is as defined by DoD's Defense Manpower Data Center.

Non-Gulf War veterans used for comparison in this study were service members who served during this period but did not deploy to the Southwest Asia theater of operations, and includes Active Duty, and activated Reserve and National Guard (from "Mortality among US Veterans of the Persian Gulf War: 7-Year Follow-up," Kang, Han K., and Tim A. Bullman, American Journal of Epidemiology, 2001, 154(5): 399-405).

This study by the Department of Veterans Affairs is still ongoing.

² Crude death rate for all causes of death, per 10,000 person years.

³ Death rate ratio comparing death rate of Gulf War veterans to the death rate of Non-Gulf War veterans, controlling for, race, branch of service, unit component and marital status. A ratio of 1 indicates that the death rates are the same for the two groups.

⁴ Determination if the death rate ratio was statistically significantly different from 1. Differences are considered significant when there is 95% confidence that the difference did not occur by chance.

⁵ Although this study found no real difference between death rates among Gulf War and Non-Gulf War veterans, it found that death rates for both groups were less than half of that found in their civilian counterparts.

⁶ An increased death rate among Gulf War veterans from motor vehicle accidents found in an earlier VA study has disappeared in this seven year follow up study.

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Section Three

Data Sources

VBA uses data from the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to prepare GWVIS reports. The list below identifies the DoD and VA sources used:

DoD's Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC):

- Active Duty Master File
- Active Duty Loss File
- Reserve Components Common Personnel Data System
- Operation Desert Shield/Storm Files
- Operation Mission/Contingency Files

DoD's Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD):

- Khamisiyah Master File

VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA):

- Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS)
- Compensation and Pension Master Record (CPMR)
- Pending Issue File (PIF)

VA's Veterans Health Administration (VHA):

- VHA Gulf War Veteran Mortality Study
- VHA Patient Treatment Files and Outpatient Care Files

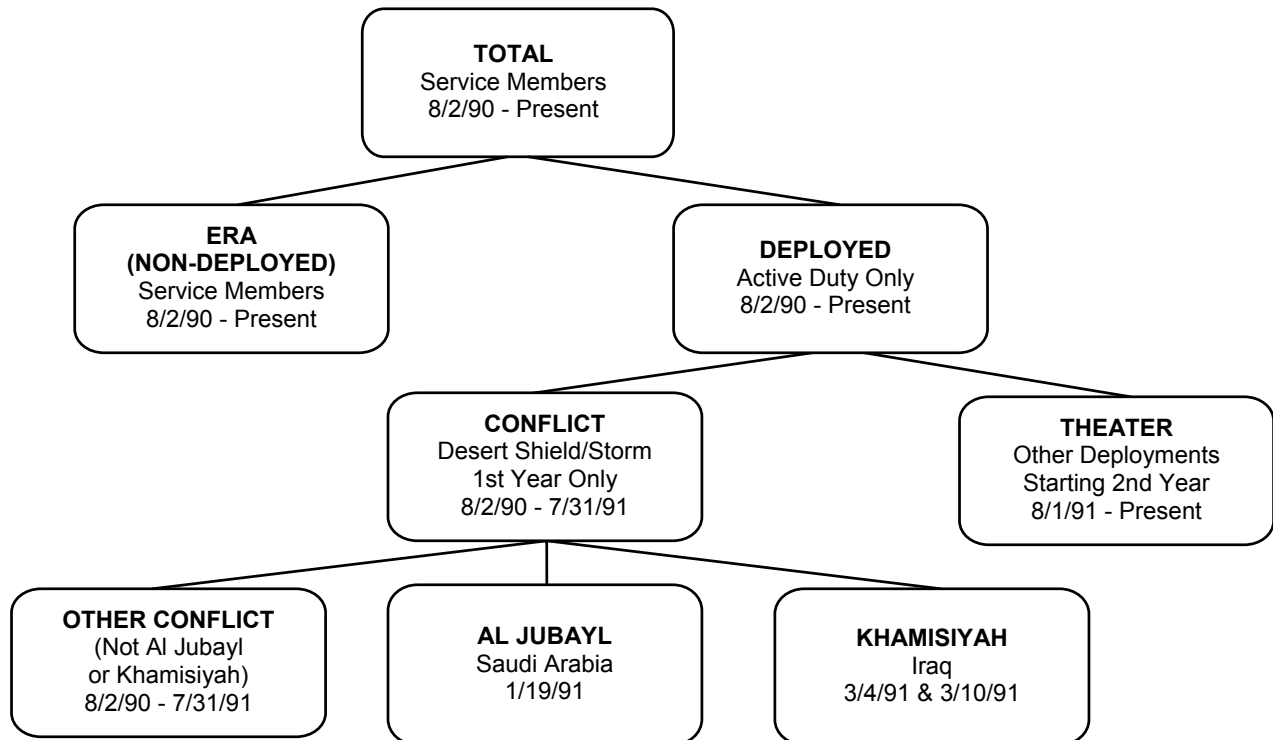
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Section Four

Report Categories

GWVIS reports are prepared for all categories shown below except “Other Conflict.” The category “Other Conflict” identifies a subset of Conflict service members not located at or near Al Jubayl or Khamisiyah.

- “Total” equals the sum of “Era” (Non Deployed) and “Deployed”
- “Deployed” equals the sum of “Conflict” and “Theater”
- “Conflict” equals the sum of “Other Conflict”, “Al Jubayl”, and “Khamisiyah”



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Section Five

Terms and Definitions

Activated Reservist Separations

Activated Reservist Separations is a subset of Service Member Separations. Activated Reservist Separations identifies only current and former Reserve and National Guard personnel with a discharge who were called to active duty on or after August 2, 1990.

All Activated Reservists are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death

Limitations:

In some cases, DMDC cannot determine if a service member enlisted directly into active duty or if a service member was activated from the Reserves or National Guard. In those cases, the service members are counted under Active Duty Separations.

Active Duty Separations

Active Duty Separations is a subset of Service Member Separations. Active Duty Separations identifies current and former active duty personnel with a discharge and with service on or after August 2, 1990.

All Active Duty Separations are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death

Limitations:

In some cases, DMDC cannot determine if a service member enlisted directly into active duty or if a service member was activated from the Reserves or National Guard. In those cases, the service members are counted under Active Duty Separations.

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Al Jubayl

On or about January 19, 1991, service members serving in and around Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia reported an incident involving a “loud noise,” “bright flash,” and possible “Iraqi chemical warfare agent attack.” There are 1,334 service members identified by the DoD as having served in and around the port city of Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia on January 19, 1991. DoD concludes that the chemical attack was “unlikely.”

Additional information regarding events at or near Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia can be viewed at DoD’s web site: <http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil>

Claims Denied

A claim is denied when VA determines none of the veteran’s conditions meet eligibility requirements for service connection under VA statutes and regulations. This denial is called “nonservice-connected,” or “NSC.” Claims Denied is the sum of Nonservice-Connected – No Pension and Nonservice-Connected – Receiving Pension.

Claims Filed

Claims Filed equals the total of Claims Granted, Claims Denied, and Claims Pending.

Claims Granted

A veteran’s claim is granted when VA determines at least one of the veteran’s conditions meets eligibility requirements for service connection under VA statutes and regulations. This grant is called “service-connected,” or “SC.”

Veterans frequently file a claim for more than one condition. For veterans who filed a claim for more than one condition, this category contains veterans with a full grant of all conditions as well as veterans with a combination of grants and denials.

Disabilities are evaluated according to VA regulations, and the extent of the disability is expressed as a percentage from zero percent to 100 percent, in increments of 10 percent. Granted includes all service-connected disabilities, from zero percent to 100 percent, regardless of whether the veteran receives monetary compensation.

Claims Pending

Claims Pending identifies where VA is reviewing a veteran’s claim for compensation or pension benefits. This includes appealed and reopened claims.

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Limitations:

Duplicate counting of reopened pending claims may exist because the veteran may also have a pre-existing grant or denial.

Claims Processed

Claims Processed equals the total of Claims Granted and Claims Denied. Claims Processed does not include pending claims.

Conflict

Conflict is a subset of Deployed. Conflict identifies active duty service members deployed to Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, from August 2, 1990, through July 31, 1991. This includes Active Duty as well as Activated Reservists and National Guard.

Limitations:

The initial Gulf War air campaign began on January 17, 1991, and it lasted through February 28, 1991. The Gulf War ground invasion into Iraq and Kuwait began February 24, 1991, and it stopped on February 28, 1991.

VA defines the Southwest Asia theater as Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

Deployed

Deployed identifies active duty service members who served at least one day in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, through the present. VA uses the period from August 2, 1990, to the present to identify service members deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations who are potentially eligible for additional VA benefits (such as undiagnosed illness compensation). Deployed includes activated Reserve and National Guard. Deployed equals the sum of the Conflict and Theater categories.

Limitations:

VA defines the Southwest Asia theater as Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

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Era

Era identifies service members who did not deploy to the Gulf War. This includes Active Duty, Activated Reserve and National Guard, and Non-activated Reserve and National Guard.

Estimated Living Veterans

Estimated Living Veterans is a subset of the Service Member population. It identifies individuals with active duty service and a discharge on or after August 2, 1990. Estimated Living Veterans includes service members called to active duty from the Reserves or National Guard. Subtractions are made for deaths.

Limitations:

As of January 2001, Estimated Living Veterans includes living Non-activated Reservists and National Guard with a VA service-connected condition or who are in receipt of pension. Subtractions are made for deaths from among those Non-activated Reservists and National Guard who had a VA service-connected condition or who were in receipt of pension.

VBA continues to work with VA's Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness to resolve differences in the number of estimated living veterans counted in GWVIS and those shown as Gulf War veterans in VetPop2001Adj (Adjusted to Census 2000), which is 3,783,000 as of September 30, 2003. VetPop2001Adj only estimates the number of civilian veterans (veterans not on active duty), while VBA includes veterans who are on active duty. Moreover, VetPop2001Adj is an estimate based on projected separations and deaths from September 30, 2001, to September 30, 2003.

Khamisiyah

The DoD identifies 145,499 service members as having served in and around the Khamisiyah Ammunition Supply Point in Iraq at the time of the demolition of chemical warfare munitions. On March 4, 1991, and on March 10, 1991, the U.S. military destroyed Iraqi "chemical warfare agent rockets," possibly exposing U.S. service members to low levels of chemical warfare agents.

Based on the most recent analysis of Khamisiyah, the military believes 101,754 service members were possibly exposed to low-level chemical warfare agents. Additional information about the current Khamisiyah analysis can be viewed at DoD's web site: http://www.gulfink.osd.mil/khamisiyah_iii/

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Limitations:

In November 2002, VA received an updated list of service members from DoD. In this list, VBA displayed compensation and pension statistics on 145,404 service members. VA is working with DoD to review the remaining service member records. VA will make that data available in future GWVIS reports when VA and DoD complete the review process.

Non-Activated Reservist Separations

Non-activated Reservist Separations is a subset of Service Member Separations. Non-activated Reservist Separations identifies individuals with current and former reserve components service (including National Guard) and a discharge on or after August 2, 1990. Non-activated Reserve Separations are included as veterans when the individual becomes either service-connected or a pensioner.

All Non-activated Reservist Separations are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death

Nonservice-Connected – No Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans who do not qualify for VA compensation or pension. VA determined none of the veterans' conditions are related to military service. In addition, VA determined the veteran did not qualify for a pension based on VA's disability and income requirements. This denial is called "nonservice-connected," or "NSC."

Nonservice-Connected – Receiving Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA determined the veteran's condition(s) were not related to military service. This denial is called "nonservice-connected," or "NSC." However, the veteran qualifies for a pension due to a nonservice-connected disability and income qualifications.

Reservists, Service-Connected

This category identifies a subset of Non-Activated Reservists Separations who are service-connected or who are pensioners. This category is included in the count of veterans because they are receiving service-connected or war-time related benefits.

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Service-Connected Ten Percent or Greater – No Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA rated at least one service-connected condition at ten percent (10%) or higher. However, the veteran is not in receipt of compensation or pension payments. For example, this category includes service-connected military retiree veterans who are entitled to VA compensation but who elected not to receive it. It also includes veterans with disability severance pay who are on the Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL) and the Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL).

Service-Connected Ten Percent or Greater – With Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA rated at least one service-connected condition at ten percent (10%) or higher, and the veteran receives compensation or pension payments.

Service-Connected Zero Percent – With Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA rated at least one service-connected condition at zero percent (0%). The veteran qualifies for pension payments based on nonservice-connected disability and income, or the veteran qualifies for compensation based on VA regulations for multiple zero percent service-connected conditions.

Service-Connected Zero Percent – No Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA rated at least one service-connected condition at zero percent (0%). However, the veteran does not qualify for compensation or pension payments.

Service Members

Service Members identifies individuals with military service on or after August 2, 1990, the start of the Gulf War.

This includes:

- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard
- Active Duty, Activated Reservists and National Guard, and Non-activated Reservists and National Guard

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All Service Members are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death

VA identifies Service Members because they may be eligible for VA benefits (education, life insurance, home loan guaranty, and compensation and pension) under certain conditions.

Limitations:

Individuals in the Public Health Service (PHS) or in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are not identified or counted as Service Members.

Service Member Separations

Service Member Separations is a subset of Service Members. Service Member Separations identifies individuals with a discharge from military service on or after August 2, 1990.

Service Member Separations equals the sum of three categories:

- Active Duty Separations
- Activated Reservist Separations (includes Activated National Guard)
- Non-activated Reservist Separations (includes Non-activated National Guard)

All Service Members Separations are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death

Theater

Theater is a subset of Deployed. Theater identifies active duty service members who deployed to Southwest Asia during the Gulf War from August 1, 1991, until the present. This includes Active Duty as well as Activated Reservists and National Guard. Service members who served in both the Conflict and the Theater time periods are reported only under Conflict.

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Limitations:

VA defines the Southwest Asia theater as Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

Total

Total equals the sum of the categories Deployed and Era.

Undiagnosed Claims Denied

An undiagnosed claim is denied when VA determines none of the veteran's undiagnosed conditions met eligibility requirements under VA regulations. This denial is called "nonservice-connected," or "NSC."

Limitations:

There may be overlap between Undiagnosed Claims Denied and Claims Granted. This happens when a veteran had all undiagnosed conditions denied and a veteran has at least one diagnosed condition granted.

The Theater category contains counts of veterans granted and denied undiagnosed illness claims even though DMDC reports some of the veterans as Era (non deployed). VA is reviewing these veterans' records with DoD to determine the veterans' correct deployment status.

Undiagnosed Claims Granted

A veteran's undiagnosed claim is granted when VA determines at least one of the veteran's undiagnosed conditions meets eligibility requirements under VA regulations for service connection. This grant is called "service-connected," or "SC." This category is a subset of Claims Granted because the veteran has at least one granted condition.

For veterans who filed a claim for more than one undiagnosed condition, this category contains veterans with a full grant of all undiagnosed conditions as well as veterans with a combination of grants and denials for undiagnosed conditions.

Disabilities are evaluated according to VA regulations, and the extent of the disability is expressed as a percentage from zero percent to 100 percent, in increments of 10 percent. Undiagnosed Claims Granted includes all service-connected undiagnosed disabilities, from

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zero percent to 100 percent, regardless if the veteran receives compensation.

Limitations:

The Theater category contains counts of veterans granted and denied undiagnosed illness claims even though DMDC reports some of the veterans as Era (non deployed). VA is reviewing these veterans' records with DoD to determine the veterans' correct deployment status.

Undiagnosed Nonservice-Connected – Receiving Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA determined the veteran's undiagnosed condition(s) did not meet VA regulations for service connection. This denial is called "nonservice-connected," or "NSC."

However, the veteran qualified for a pension due to disability and low income, or the veteran was granted service-connection for a diagnosed condition.

Limitations:

There may be overlap between the category Undiagnosed Nonservice-connected Receiving Compensation or Pension and the category Claims Granted. This happens when a veteran had all undiagnosed conditions denied and has at least one diagnosed condition granted.

Veteran Deaths

Identifies deceased veterans reported in VBA's Compensation and Pension Master Record (CPMR) and the Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS).

Limitations:

These counts reflect raw data that have not been subjected to any statistical analysis nor adjusted in any way to make it a mortality study. There has been no adjustment to account for age, gender, race, and other items required for a valid mortality study. In addition, the data will not reflect deaths that occurred after April 2003. The use of these data to draw conclusions regarding mortality rates will result in inaccurate conclusions. For analysis of Gulf War veteran mortality, see "Mortality among US Veterans of the Persian Gulf War: 7-Year Follow-up," Han K. Kang and Tim A. Bullman, American Journal of Epidemiology, 2001, 154(5): 399-405.