

Department of Veterans Affairs

Gulf War Veterans Information System

November 2004



December 23, 2004

November 2004 GWVIS Report

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Section One

GWVIS Report Introduction

Overview

The Gulf War Veterans Information System (GWVIS) provides the best available current data identifying the Gulf War service member population. The GWVIS reports monitor, in part, the service members' use of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare and disability benefits.

GWVIS reports are distributed each quarter during the following months: March, June, September, and December.

History and Partnership

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

VBA works to enhance GWVIS reports with several governmental partners, including: DoD's Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and the Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD), VHA, VA's Office of Policy, Planning and Preparedness, VA's Office of the General Counsel, VA's Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS), and VBA's Compensation and Pension Service (C&P Service).

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 benefit use.

Preparation

VBA uses four steps to prepare the quarterly GWVIS reports:

1. Every three months, the Department of Defense (DoD) sends VBA an updated list identifying all current and prior military service members since the start of the Gulf War on August 2, 1990.
2. VBA compares DoD's updated list of service members with VBA information systems.
3. VBA uses the results from the comparison to prepare reports about Gulf War veterans and their compensation and pension benefit use sorted by specific cohorts based on Gulf War deployment status.

- VHA provides the “Gulf War Mortality Data” and the “Gulf War Inpatient and Outpatient Health Care Utilization,” updated annually, to include with the GWVIS report.

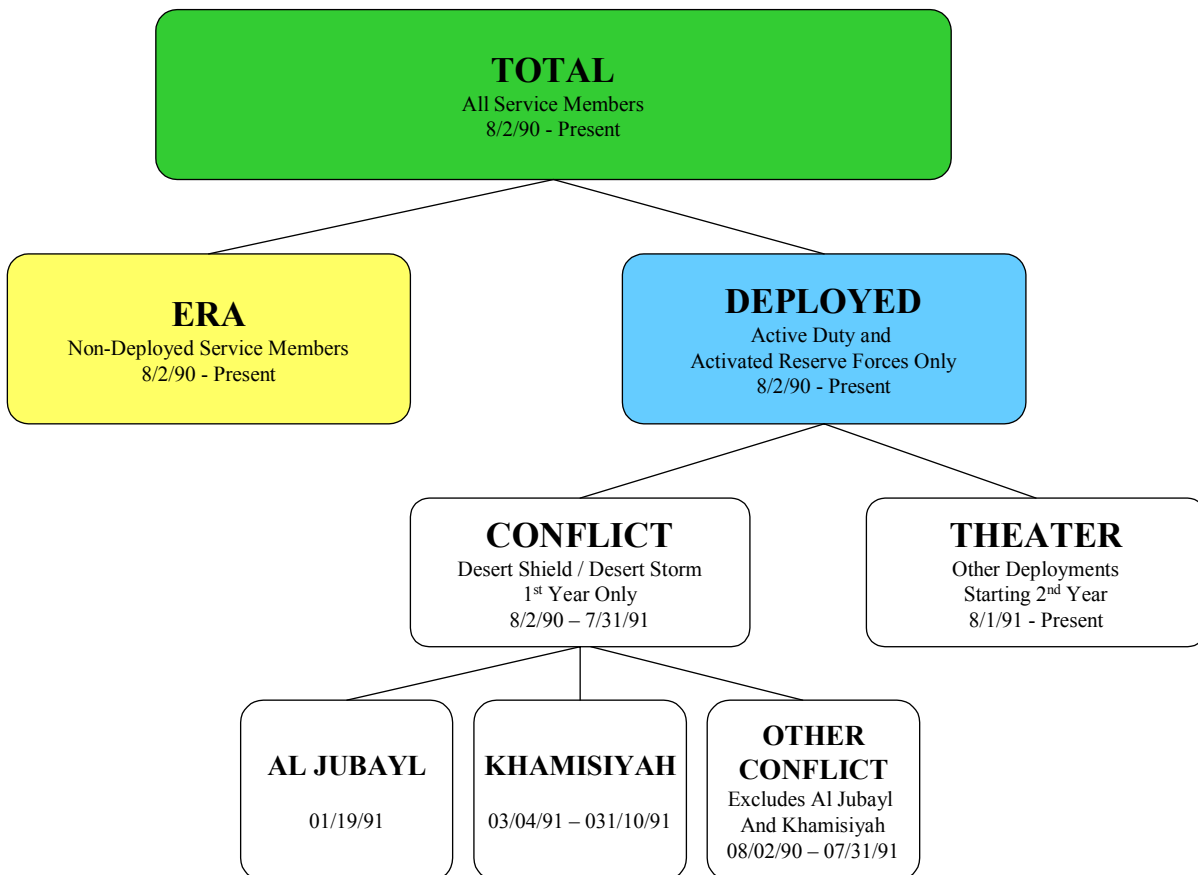
Categories

GWVIS reports are prepared for all categories shown below. The following chart describes how some categories are combined to create other categories:

Combining GWVIS Categories

The Count for this category Is the sum of these categories
Total	Era and Deployed
Deployed	Conflict and Theater
Conflict	Al Jubayl, Khamisiyah, and Other Conflict

The following graph illustrates how GWVIS categories are combined in this report:



Data Sources

VBA uses data from the Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to prepare GWVIS reports. The list below identifies the DoD and VA organizational source and specific file names.

DoD:

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

Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD):

- Khamisiyah Master File

VA:

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

Limitations

There are nine limitations to the GWVIS report.

1. GWVIS reports do not contain information about individual veterans.
2. GWVIS reports do not provide information on how claims are adjudicated. Questions raised on this matter should be referred to VBA's Compensation and Pension Service (C&P Service).
3. GWVIS reports do not cite statutes or regulations for terms and definitions. Questions about terms and definitions should be referred to C&P Service. 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.

4. GWVIS reports do not contain cumulative counts. GWVIS reports contain current counts from the data sources described in this report.
5. GWVIS reports do not distinguish between a veteran and a “civilian veteran.” Some veterans counted in the GWVIS report may currently be on active duty due to re-enlistment to active duty or due to activation from the Reserve Forces to active duty. In contrast, “civilian veterans,” as defined by the Census Bureau and in VA’s official counts, are those no longer on active duty.
6. The GWVIS report differs from existing VBA Reports Control Symbol (RCS) and Computer Output Identification Number (COIN) reports. The GWVIS report identifies all veterans with military service on or after August 2, 1990. In contrast, the COIN and RCS reports sort veterans into only one period of military service, such as Vietnam Era, Peacetime, and Gulf War. COIN and RCS reports contain lower counts of Gulf War veterans because some veterans of the Gulf War period who served prior to August 1990 have multiple periods of military service. These veterans may be counted in the COIN and RCS reports under another period of military service.
7. VA works closely with DoD to identify service members recently deployed to Southwest Asia as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and/or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Data about these service members provided by DoD to VBA remains incomplete, and the data may be delayed while DoD updates their computer system. VA will release the data as soon as it becomes available.
8. 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.
9. Some of the Active Duty and Reserve Forces had prior active military service. Therefore, not all of the service-connected disability ratings are the result of disabilities incurred during deployment to Southwest Asia during the Gulf War. VBA’s computer systems do not attribute each of a veteran’s disabilities to specific periods of service or deployment.

Section Two

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Service Member Statistics November 2004

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed	Era	Total
Service Members	696,841	432,498	1,129,339	5,031,608	6,160,947
Service Member Separations	607,368	318,367	925,735	4,263,302	5,189,037
Active Duty Separations	492,261	312,235	804,496	2,670,831	3,475,327
Activated Reserve Forces Separations	115,107	6,132	121,239	289,793	411,032
Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations	0	0	0	1,302,678	1,302,678
Non-Activated Reserve Forces, Service- Connected¹	0	0	0	102,641	102,641
Veteran Deaths²	10,581	3,290	13,871	41,367	55,238
Estimated Living Veterans	596,787	315,077	911,864	3,021,898	3,933,762

¹ 1. VBA identified 102,641 Non-Activated Reservists who are service-connected or pensioners as "veterans." VBA identified 6,940 deaths among the 102,641. The 6,940 deaths are included in the count for Deaths reported under "Era." The 95,701 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 October 2004. 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.

Compensation and Pension Statistics November 2004

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed	Era	Total
Service Members	696,841	432,498	1,129,339	5,031,608	6,160,947
Estimated Living Veterans	596,787	315,077	911,864	3,021,898	3,933,762
Claims Filed	239,866	102,399	342,265	925,980	1,268,245
Claims Processed	213,291	90,593	303,884	836,473	1,140,357
Claims Granted Service Connection	185,501	83,184	268,685	735,333	1,004,018
Claims Denied Service Connection	27,790	7,409	35,199	101,140	136,339
Claims Pending	26,575	11,806	38,381	89,507	127,888
Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, Receiving Compensation or Pension.	136,494	63,779	200,273	537,622	737,895
Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), Receiving Compensation or Pension	3,392	1,597	4,989	12,957	17,946
Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, No Compensation or Pension	5,149	1,587	6,736	24,807	31,543
Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), No Compensation or Pension	40,466	16,221	56,687	159,947	216,634
Non-Service Connected, Receiving Pension	966	179	1,145	2,927	4,072
Non-Service Connected, No Pension	26,824	7,230	34,054	98,213	132,267

**Undiagnosed Illness (UDX)
Compensation and Pension Statistics
November 2004**

Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed	Era	Total
Service Members	696,841	432,498	1,129,339	5,031,608	6,160,947
Estimated Living Veterans	596,787	315,077	911,864	3,021,898	3,933,762
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Processed	12,558	1,194	13,752	Not Applicable	13,752
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Granted Service Connection	3,272	210	3,482	Not Applicable	3,482
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Denied Service Connection	9,286	984	10,270	Not Applicable	10,270
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, Receiving Compensation or Pension	2,781	177	2,958	Not Applicable	2,958
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), Receiving Compensation or Pension	222	20	242	Not Applicable	242
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, No Compensation or Pension	112	3	115	Not Applicable	115
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), No Compensation or Pension	157	10	167	Not Applicable	167
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Nonservice-Connected, Receiving Compensation or Pension	3,614	415	4,029	Not Applicable	4,029
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Nonservice-Connected, No Pension	5,672	569	6,241	Not Applicable	6,241

**Al Jubayl and Khamisiyah
Compensation and Pension Statistics
November 2004**

Category	Al Jubayl	Khamisiyah ¹	Other Conflict	Conflict
Service Members	1,334	145,449	550,058	696,841
Estimated Living Veterans	1,189	126,343	469,255	596,787
Veteran Deaths	34	2,441	8,106	10,581
Claims Filed	426	59,676	179,764	239,866
Claims Processed	397	52,838	160,056	213,291
Claims Granted Service Connection	321	45,265	139,915	185,501
Claims Denied Service Connection	76	7,573	20,141	27,790
Claims Pending	29	6,838	19,708	26,575
Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, Receiving Compensation or Pension.	231	32,946	103,317	136,494
Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), Receiving Compensation or Pension	6	727	2,659	3,392
Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, No Compensation or Pension	12	1,412	3,725	5,149
Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), No Compensation or Pension	72	10,180	30,214	40,466
Non-Service Connected, Receiving Pension	1	255	710	966
Non-Service Connected, No Pension	75	7,318	19,431	26,824

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 145,465 as of August 25, 2004. This is a decrease of 40 service members' records since the August GWVIS report based on new data from DoD. In this report, VBA displayed compensation and pension statistics on 145,449 service members. This is an increase of 39 service members' records based on new data from DoD as of August 25, 2004. VA and DoD have completed their review of service member records. However, there is a possibility of future changes, if needed, based on further review by DoD.

**Al Jubayl and Khamisiyah
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX)
Compensation and Pension Statistics
November 2004**

Category	Al Jubayl	Khamisiyah ¹	Other Conflict	Conflict
Service Members	1,334	145,449	550,058	696,841
Estimated Living Veterans	1,189	126,343	469,255	596,787
Veteran Deaths	34	2,441	8,106	10,581
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Processed	66	4,254	8,238	12,558
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Granted Service Connection	20	1,145	2,107	3,272
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Denied Service Connection	46	3,109	6,131	9,286
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, Receiving Compensation or Pension	19	977	1,785	2,781
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), Receiving Compensation or Pension	0	70	152	222
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, No Compensation or Pension	1	45	66	112
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), No Compensation or Pension	0	53	104	157
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Nonservice-Connected, Receiving Compensation or Pension	8	1,224	2,382	3,614
Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Nonservice-Connected, No Pension	38	1,885	3,749	5,672

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 145,465 as of August 25, 2004. This is a decrease of 40 service members' records since the August GWVIS report based on new data from DoD. In this report, VBA displayed compensation and pension statistics on 145,449 service members. This is an increase of 39 service members' records based on new data from DoD as of August 25, 2004. VA and DoD have completed their review of service member records. However, there is a possibility of future changes, if needed, based on further review by DoD.

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.

Gulf War Veteran Inpatients

Inpatient Category	Conflict	Theater	Deployed
Unique Gulf War Veteran Inpatients	33,421	6,798	43,219
Total Gulf War Veteran Inpatient Stays	78,191	13,172	91,363

Gulf War Veteran Outpatients

Outpatient 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

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

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

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 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 Forces.

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 Forces (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.

Section Three

Glossary of Terms, Definitions, and Limitations

This section provides the terms, definitions, and limitations used in the GWVIS report. Questions about terms and definitions should be referred to C&P Service. 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.

Activated Reserve Forces Separations

Activated Reserve Forces Separations is a subset of Service Member Separations. Activated Reserve Forces Separations identifies only current and former Reserve Forces personnel with a discharge who were called to active duty on or after August 2, 1990. All Activated Reserve Forces 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 Reserve Forces. 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 Reserve Forces. In those cases, the service members are counted under Active Duty Separations.

Al Jubayl

Al Jubayl is a subset of the Conflict category. 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 Service Connection

A veteran’s 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 Service Connection is the sum of Nonservice-Connected - No Pension and Nonservice-Connected - Receiving Pension.

Limitation: Claims Denied Service Connection includes claims where all the veteran’s conditions were determined to be Nonservice-Connected even if the veteran was granted pension. The total number of Claims Denied Service Connection may decrease as appealed or reopened claims are granted. This is not a cumulative count.

Claims Filed

Claims Filed equals the total of Claims Granted Service Connection, Claims Denied Service Connection, and Claims Pending. This is not a cumulative count.

Limitations: Some duplicate counting may exist in the category Claims Filed if a veteran who was previously granted or denied disability benefits subsequently reopens their claim. Pending claims may increase or decrease each quarter based on the number of veterans who open new claims or re-open prior claims. This is not a cumulative count.

Claims Granted Service Connection

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. Claims Granted Service Connection includes all service-connected disabilities, from zero percent to 100 percent, regardless of whether the veteran receives monetary compensation.

Limitations: Claims Granted Service Connection excludes claims where all the veteran's conditions were determined to be Nonservice-Connected even if the veteran was granted pension. The number of Claims Granted Service Connection includes veterans who have subsequently died. The total number of claims granted remains constant or increases each quarter. However, subcategories of Claims Granted Service Connection may increase or decrease. An increase or decrease may occur when a veteran with a granted claim re-enlists on active duty or is ordered to active duty from the Reserve Forces. Veterans who return to active duty are not permitted to receive both active duty pay and VA payments. This is not a cumulative count.

Claims Pending

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

Limitations: The count of Claims Filed is the sum of Claims Pending and Claims Processed. Therefore, duplicate counting may exist in the category Claims Filed if a veteran who was previously granted or denied disability benefits subsequently reopens their claim. Pending claims may increase or decrease each quarter based on the number of veterans who open new claims or re-open prior claims. This is not a cumulative count.

Claims Processed

Claims Processed equals the total of Claims Granted Service Connection and Claims Denied Service Connection. Claims Processed does not include pending claims. This is not a cumulative count.

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 Reserve Forces.

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 Forces. 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.

Era

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

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 Reserve Forces. Subtractions are made for deaths.

Limitations: As of January 2001, Estimated Living Veterans includes living Non-Activated Reserve Forces with a VA service-connected condition or who are in receipt of pension. Subtractions are made for deaths from among those Non-Activated Reserve Forces who had a VA service-connected condition or who were in receipt of pension. This report does not distinguish between a veteran and a “civilian veteran.” Some veterans counted in this report may currently be on active duty due to re-enlistment to active duty or due to activation from the Reserve Forces to active duty. In contrast, “civilian veterans” (as defined by the Census Bureau and in VA’s official counts) are those no longer on active duty.

VBA continues to work with VA's Office of Policy, Planning and Preparedness to resolve differences in the number of estimated living Gulf War veterans counted in GWVIS and those determined to be Gulf War veterans in preliminary estimates of VetPop2004 which is **4,100,000** as of November 30, 2004. VetPop2004 estimates the number of civilian veterans (veterans not on active duty), while VBA includes both civilian veterans and veterans who are on active duty. Moreover, VetPop2004 includes a projection of separations since September 2003 while VBA includes reported separations. The number of estimated living Gulf War veterans has increased as the number of service members discharged from active duty exceeded the number of Gulf War veterans who died.

Khamisiyah

Khamisiyah is a subset of the Conflict category. The DoD identified 145,505 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 101,761 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.gulflink.osd.mil/khamisiyah_iii/

Limitations: In April 2004, VA received an updated list of 145,505 service members from DoD who were possibly in the hazard areas according to at least one of DoD’s modeling efforts or DoD’s 50-kilometer radius analysis. This is an increase of five service members since February 2004 based on new data from DoD. In this GWVIS report, VBA displayed compensation and pension statistics on 145,410 service members. VA is working with DoD to review the remaining 95 service member records. VA will display the compensation and pension statistics on the remaining 95 service members in future GWVIS reports when VA and DoD complete the review process.

Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations

Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations is a subset of Service Member Separations. Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations identifies individuals with current and former Reserve Forces service and a discharge from Reserve Forces on or after August 2, 1990. Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations are counted under Estimated Living Veterans only when the individual becomes either service-connected or a pensioner. All Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations are counted, regardless of:

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

Limitations: Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations may include service members who are veterans due to active duty service prior to the start of the Gulf War on August 2, 1990. Due to system limitations, VA cannot determine the status of these service members’ active duty service, if any.

Non-Activated Reserve Forces, Service-Connected

This category identifies a subset of Non-Activated Reserve Forces 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.

Limitations: Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations may include service members who are veterans due to active duty service prior to the start of the Gulf War on August 2, 1990. Due to system limitations, VA cannot determine the status of these service members' active duty service, if any.

Nonservice-Connected, No Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans who do not qualify for VA compensation or pension. VA determined the veteran did not qualify for compensation because 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." This is not a cumulative count.

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. This is not a cumulative count.

Other Conflict

Other Conflict is a subset of Conflict. Other Conflict identifies active duty service members deployed to Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, from August 2, 1990, through July 31, 1991, not already identified in the categories Al Jubayl and Khamisiyah. This includes Active Duty as well as Activated Reserve Forces.

Reserve Forces

This category includes military service members from the following seven Reserve Forces components: Air National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve.

Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) 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). This is not a cumulative count.

Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, Receiving 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. This is not a cumulative count.

Service-Connected Zero (0%) Percent, Receiving 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. This is not a cumulative count.

Service-Connected Zero (0%) 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. This is not a cumulative count.

Service Members

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

- Active Duty Services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard
- Reserve Components: Air National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve

All Service Members are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death
- Activated Reserve Forces
- Non-Activated Reserve Forces

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. Details about the benefit use of individuals in PHS and NOAA are not provided in this report.

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 Reserve Forces Separations
- Non-Activated Reserve Forces Separations

All Service Members Separations are counted, regardless of:

- Length of enlistment
- Re-enlistment
- Character of service
- Death
- Activated Reserve Forces
- Non-Activated Reserve Forces

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 Reserve Forces. Service members who served in both the Conflict and the Theater time periods are reported only under Conflict.

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 Illness (UDX), Claims Denied Service Connection

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

Limitations: There may be overlap between the categories Undiagnosed Claims Denied Service Connection and Claims Granted Service Connection. This happens when a veteran had all UDX conditions denied and a veteran has at least one diagnosed condition granted. The Theater category contains counts of veterans granted and denied UDX 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. This is not a cumulative count.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Granted Service Connection

A veteran's undiagnosed illness (UDX) claim is granted when VA determines at least one of the veteran's UDX 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 Service Connection because the veteran has at least one granted condition. For veterans who filed a claim for more than one UDX condition, this category contains veterans with a full grant of all UDX conditions as well as veterans with a combination of grants and denials for UDX 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 (UDX) Claims Granted Service Connection includes all service-connected UDX disabilities, from zero percent to 100 percent, regardless if the veteran receives compensation.

Limitations: The Theater category contains counts of veterans granted and denied UDX 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. This report provides the current count of veterans granted service connection for a UDX condition. This is not a cumulative count. Therefore, the count may increase, decrease, or remain the same. The count may decrease if a service-connected veteran's UDX condition was subsequently diagnosed or resolved.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Claims Processed

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX) Claims Processed equals the total of Undiagnosed Illness (UDX) Claims Granted Service Connection and Undiagnosed Illness (UDX) Claims Denied Service Connection. Undiagnosed Illness (UDX) Claims Processed does not include pending claims. This is not a cumulative count.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Nonservice-Connected, No Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans who do not qualify for VA compensation or pension. VA determined the veteran did not qualify for compensation because none of the veterans' Undiagnosed Illness (UDX) 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." This is not a cumulative count.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Nonservice-Connected, Receiving Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA determined the veteran's undiagnosed UDX 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 (UDX) Nonservice-connected Receiving Compensation or Pension and the category Claims Granted Service Connection. This happens when a veteran had all UDX conditions denied and has at least one diagnosed condition granted. This is not a cumulative count.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, No Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA rated at least one service-connected Undiagnosed Illness 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). This is not a cumulative count.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Ten Percent (10%) or Greater, Receiving Compensation or Pension

This category identifies the number of veterans where VA rated at least one service-connected Undiagnosed Illness (UDX) condition at ten percent (10%) or higher, and the veteran receives compensation or pension payments. This is not a cumulative count.

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Zero (0%) Percent, No Compensation or Pension

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

Undiagnosed Illness (UDX), Service-Connected Zero Percent (0%), Receiving 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. This is not a cumulative count.

Veteran Deaths

Identifies deceased veterans reported only 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 reported after August 2004. 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.