

VETERANS CORNER

Burn-pit Registry for Veterans

In June of 2014, the VA opened the “Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry” for Veterans and Service members. In order to be eligible you had to have been deployed to contingency operations in the Southwest Asia theater of operations at any time on or after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001. These regions include the following countries, bodies of water, and the airspace above these locations: Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea.

The questionnaire will ask you a series of questions to include deployment timeframes and bases to which you were stationed, conditions and health issues that cause difficulty with daily activities, current and past health symptoms, residential history, occupational history, dust, gas, vapors or fumes exposures, home environment and hobbies, health care use, and contact preferences. The questionnaire takes about 40 minutes to complete. Please go to <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry> to get started.

Veterans do not need to be part of the registry to submit a claim for disability compensation. This registry will help the VA to collect, analyze, and report on health conditions that may be related to environmental exposures experienced during deployment.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office can complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form for the new California Veteran Designation on your driver's license. We can also issue Veteran I.D. cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com/vets.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call (559)852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.