

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request****ACTION:** Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Title and OMB Number: Gulf War Illnesses Related Information Collections—Generic Clearance; OMB Number 0704-[To be Determined].

Type of Request: New Collection.

Number of Respondents: 3,507.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 3,507.

Average Burden Per Response: 45 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 2,630.

Needs And Uses: The information collections addressed by this notice are necessary to facilitate the investigations of the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses into the experiences of Gulf War veterans during the war that may be related to the illnesses experienced by some Gulf War veterans. The information collected will be used to determine which Gulf War veterans may have further information about potential exposure incidents, to discover if there are any other observed incidents of exposure, to contribute to a better understanding of the events during and after the Gulf War, and to encourage veterans to enroll in a Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs medical program.

Information collections covered in the proposed collection Chemical/Biological Incident Survey. Respondents are Gulf War veterans whose units were in the vicinity of a positive chemical/biological detection, alarm, or other reported incident. The purpose of this survey is to develop investigational leads to assist investigators in their search for confirmation of the presence or use of chemical or biological agents during the Gulf War.

Possible Weapons Sites. Respondents are Gulf War veterans who served in units that reported possible storage sites for chemical or biological weapons agents. The purpose of this survey is to develop possible investigational leads that may assist investigators in their search for confirmation of the presence or use of chemical or biological agents during the Gulf War.

Depleted Uranium. Respondents are Gulf War veterans who served in units that may have placed them in contact

with equipment potentially contaminated with depleted uranium (DU). Veterans will include personnel who were in or on U.S. combat vehicles at the time they were struck by DU munitions fired from U.S. tanks and personnel who were in contact with equipment either as a member of unit involved in retrograde operations, or as a member of a battle damage assessment team.

Pesticide Exposure Survey. Respondents are Gulf War veterans. Outreach letters will be mailed to Gulf War veterans based on their unit assignment during the Gulf War and their period of deployment. Calls will be made to respondents to ask information on experiences with pesticides during the Gulf War deployment.

Pesticides Use/Application. Gulf War veterans who served as physicians, environmental science officers, entomologists, preventive medicine specialists, field sanitation team members, and veterans who served in logistics and supply positions will be contacted to determine which pesticides were used (including those purchased locally) and how they were employed in the Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Water Contamination. Respondents will be preventive medicine specialists, field sanitation specialists, and transportation personnel involved with the maintenance of water transport vehicles who served in the Gulf War.

Food Contamination. Respondents will be preventive medicine specialists, field sanitation specialists, and food service personnel to determine what steps were taken to ensure the safety of the food provided to Gulf War troops.

Oil Well Fires. Respondents will be Gulf War veterans who reported contact with oil well fires in calls to the DoD Incident Reporting Line. Veterans will be contacted to get first hand accounts of their experience with oil well fire smoke, precautions they took, and the duration of their exposure under the oil well fire plume.

Retrograde Equipment. Respondents will be Gulf War veterans involved in vehicle cleaning operations prior to vehicles being shipped from the Gulf and personnel who accompanied vehicles during their retrograde shipment.

Armed Services Medical Department Personnel. Respondents will be medical personnel who served in the Gulf War. These personnel will be contacted to complete a survey of their experiences with medical surveillance, vaccine administration, and medical recordkeeping during the Gulf War deployment.

Combat Stress Control. Respondents will be military chaplains who served in the Gulf War. These chaplains will be surveyed to understand their experiences as participants in combat stress control.

Enemy Prisoners of War. Respondents will be Gulf War veterans who served in military police or medical units that were involved in the processing and treatment of enemy prisoners of war during the Gulf War deployment.

Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants. Respondents will be Gulf War veterans who served in units during the Gulf War deployment that were involved in the acquisition, distribution, and use of petroleum, oils, and lubricants.

Personnel Deployed on Designated Deployments. Respondents will be former members of the Armed Services (including active and reserve component) who served during designated deployments. Personnel will be surveyed about their perceptions and experiences with Medical Force Protection, Medical Surveillance, and health support during the designated deployment.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Allison Eydt.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Ms. Eydt at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DoD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: August 26, 1998.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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