Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 – Toxic Exposure Screening

November 2022
This presentation provides an overview of the Toxic Exposure Screening, implemented as part of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022.

The following topics will be covered:

• Definition of toxic exposure
• Toxic exposure screening introduction
• Toxic exposure screening availability
The PACT Act defines the term “toxic exposure,” but generally, “toxic exposure” refers to a subset of Military Environmental Exposures. Whether an exposure is “toxic” is determined by the substance, the concentration of exposure, route of exposure (inhalation, ingestion, transdermal or intradermal, intravenous, etc.), and duration of exposure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals</td>
<td>Herbicides (Agent Orange) used during Vietnam era, burn pits, sulfur fire in Iraq, Camp Lejeune water supplies, pesticides used during Gulf War, depleted uranium, industrial solvents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Pollutants</td>
<td>Burn pits, oil well fire during Gulf War, sulfur fire in Iraq, Atsugi (Japan) waste incinerator, sand, dust, and very small, fine particles or liquid droplets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Hazards</td>
<td>Asbestos, industrial solvents, lead, radiation, vibration, noise, fuels, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), and special paint used on military vehicles</td>
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<td>Radiation</td>
<td>Nuclear weapons and testing, x-rays, depleted uranium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warfare Agents</td>
<td>Chemical weapons, Project 112/Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD), herbicide tests and storage, and chemical experiments</td>
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• Starting November 8, 2022, enrolled Veterans will receive an initial Toxic Exposure Screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years.

• Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

• Veterans will be asked questions about potential exposure to an open burn pit or other hazards commonly associated with military environmental exposure.
VA Toxic Exposure Screening Quick Facts

- **Who:** All Veterans enrolled in VA health care
- **What:** A quick, 5-10 minute screening to identify and document any potential exposures to toxins during military service
- **When:** At least once every 5 years.
- **Where:** At VA medical centers or clinics
- **Why:** To support the long-term health plan of the Veteran—ensuring they receive informed, whole-health care—and connect them with follow-up resources as requested.
After Veterans have completed their Toxic Exposure Screening, they will receive complementary print materials that provide information about:

- Types of toxic exposures
- How to participate in health registries
- How to submit a claim
- Presumptive conditions
- Connecting with VA health care team
Toxic Exposure Screening (TES) Navigator

• TES Navigators will be identified at each VHA facility to assist in screening Veterans and to disseminate information about the Toxic Exposure Screening

• They will serve as the point of contact for Veteran concerns and ensure swift response without overburdening clinicians

• TES Navigators will be able to:
  – Administer the TES to Veterans
  – Enter a consult for follow-up care
  – Enter diagnosis code into the health record
Beginning November 8, Veterans can ask about the Toxic Exposure Screening at their next VA primary care provider appointment or they can:

- Contact their local VA health care team through Secure Message
- Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.