

Operation Desert Storm: Questions Remain on Possible Exposure to Reproductive Toxicants: Pemd-94-30



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U.S. Government
Accountability Office (GAO)

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OPERATION DESERT STORM: QUESTIONS REMAIN ON POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO REPRODUCTIVE TOXICANTS: PEMD-94-30

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BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 44 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed whether veterans of Operation Desert Storm were exposed to reproductive toxicants, focusing on the: (1) types of assessments performed before the deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf; (2) specific reproductive toxicants identified as a result of the assessments; (3) types of protection provided to active duty personnel who might have been exposed to the toxicants; (4) extent that active duty military personnel and veterans are monitored for reproductive dysfunction that may have resulted from duty in the Persian Gulf; and (5) substances likely to have been present in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm that could have potentially resulted in reproductive toxicity. GAO found that: (1) the Department of Defense (DOD) performed many general assessments on potential health hazards in the Persian Gulf and also relied on assessments performed by other entities; (2) except for the occupational health hazard assessment, no other DOD assessment specifically addressed potential reproductive toxicants in the Persian Gulf; (3) the DOD health hazard assessment process identifies potential reproductive toxicants that are internal to a weapon systems development process; (4) DOD did not identify several toxicants that were unrelated to its assessment criteria, including toxicants from oil fires, pesticides, and decontaminating agents used in the war; (5) DOD made no effort to educate military personnel on how to avoid reproductive toxicants; (6) some activities covered by other directives would likely have minimized exposure to potential reproductive hazards; (7) although some activities have been undertaken to monitor servicemen and servicewomen for adverse reproductive effects after their deployment to the gulf, these efforts have major shortcomings; and (8) the Persian Gulf war cannot be ruled out as a cause of reproductive...



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