

The purpose of the burn pit registration is ascertain & monitor the health effects of the exposure of members of the Armed Forces to toxic airborne chemicals & fumes caused by open burn pits, yet many of the questions asked have nothing to do with exposure. The following questions need to be eliminated:

(2.4) Burn Pit Overall Deployment & Re-integration Stress: The mental health of our Veterans is very important, but this is not the mode in which to collect it. Many Veterans will question why this is on here & think it is only so you can to point the finger at mental health & use that as the reason why we are sick (as you have in Gulf War Syndrome). Just because many of us have PTSD does not mean our Burn Pit illness is a result of it. Additionally, I consider Mental Health a sensitive question. The DoD does as well & will not allow to see your mental health records without special approval from the psychiatrist. However on your Justification memo on question 11, (*Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior & attitudes, religious beliefs, & other matters that are commonly considered private; include specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, & any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.*) your answer is, “There are no questions of a sensitive nature.” You want our Veterans to trust you enough to tell you something as personal & probing as their mental health & yet you will not even classify it as sensitive? For Veterans to trust that the VA will collect this in good faith this question has to be deleted. Also you need to totally relook at how you deal with & control mental health records & information. This should be done before all else.

(3.) Residential History: This question has nothing to do with anyone being exposed to a Burn pit in Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. You can ask for a current address to send information, but not every location a person have lived at going back to when they were a child. I didn't even have to list that much for my Top Secret Clearance so there is no way I would give you that much information. You have to admit you have a horrible track record of losing data. If this got out it would give a hacker all the addresses someone has lived at would allow the hacker to open/close bank accounts & completely steal someone's identity in seconds. And again, I have to ask what does this have to do with my exposure to Burn Pits? Or will you say I got asthma while in Afghanistan at 36 because I lived in Dover, DE when I was 1? That seems to be the only possible rational for collecting this.

(4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5, 6.5, 6.6) Main Occupation; Non-Military Dust Exposures; Non-Military Gas, Smoke, Vapors or Fumes Exposures; Asbestos Exposures, Non-Deployment Environmental Exposures, Tobacco History, Deployment Smoking History: As with the residential history question, the only rational for you to collect this information is to try to put the blame on something else besides the burn pit. Do some Veterans have some illnesses from other exposures, I'm sure they do, but that is not the purpose of this data base. Congress tasked you to collect information on who was near a burn pit & what that burn pit did to their body. They did not ask you to do a data base of a collection of combat vets & to see what medical issues environmental exposures from where they work, play, smoke & what that can cause. So blaming it on a Veterans work won't get you far & you might have to answer a lot of questions when you try to explain why certain businesses aren't OSHA compliant or why OSHA has failed.

(6.7.) 12 Month Alcohol Use: I can think of absolutely no reason for this to be on the questionnaire. If the Veteran says they are an alcoholic what will you do? I assume all you will have is our name & address so will you send him literature on where to get help? Or is this just for your curiosity or for

another study that you are merging into this one? Once again this has absolutely nothing to do with Burn Pits & you have gone completely off course.

You have missed one of the most telling questions out there. What illness(es) have you been diagnosed with? You ask what is my biggest health concern for the future, but what about all of us that are already ill today? I have been diagnosed with 38 illnesses/conditions since I was medivac'd out of Afghanistan 2.5 years ago & the only logical connection that caused them all is the burn pit since I also now have asthma. So for me I know the future will be worse, but right now my whole body is effected by what I breathed in. No where on the survey do you allow someone like me & there are thousands of us, to include this. This is a great opportunity to find out which medical conditions are prevalent since this will eventually have to be asked. Why wait? Find out now!