



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

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NGB-JSG

26 Mar 12

MEMORANDUM FOR State Army/Air Surgeons and J1s

SUBJECT: NGB-JSG and J1 Information Memorandum for the National Institute of Health's Gulf Long-term Follow-up Study (GuLF STUDY) on the Exposure Effects from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Clean-up

1. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is recruiting participants into the GuLF STUDY, a long-term follow-up study to examine the potential human exposure effects from the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill clean-up. Any National Guard (NG) member who was deployed in support of the DWH oil spill clean-up response between 20 Apr 10 – 1 Jul 11 will be eligible. This study is voluntary.
2. A fair amount of medical research exists on short-term human effects from direct or indirect exposure to crude oil, products from burning oil, dispersants or other toxins; however, long-term human health effects are largely unknown due to limited research. The GuLF STUDY, the largest health study of its kind, will further the research on these short and long-term health effects by studying personnel associated with the clean-up activities following the DWH oil spill.
3. The GuLF STUDY seeks NG study participants because of their wide range of direct and indirect exposures to crude oil and dispersants during the clean-up response. Effects from these exposures can range from negligible to potentially significant. **NG Service Members (SMs) who would like to participate in this voluntary study should call 1-855-NIH-GULF (1-855-644-4853).** Study staff can then answer any questions and administer a 30-60 minute telephone interview. Based on the interview, some SMs will be invited to answer additional study questions and undergo a limited, no charge health examination in their home. SMs that agree to undergo the voluntary medical exam will receive results from their exam and be compensated \$50 for their time.
4. NG members were an important part of the response in the oil spill clean-up response effort. Better understanding of their subsequent health experiences in relation to their exposures will benefit all responders to this spill and responders to any similar future hazardous events.
5. NGB-JSG and NGB-J1 support the GuLF STUDY efforts. Visit www.nihgulfstudy.org for details. NGB-JSG POC is (b) (6) at (b) (6) or 703-607-3193.

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