

WHAT IS WRIISC?

In May 2001, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi approved two new War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers - WRIISC (pronounced "risk"). The new centers are located in the Washington, DC, and East Orange, NJ, VA Medical Centers.

The **mission** of WRIISC-DC is to provide service to combat veterans, families, and health care professionals through clinical care, education, risk communication and research addressing potential environmental exposures and adverse health outcomes.

WHO WE ARE

We are a team of physicians, nurses, educators and researchers. We work with other VA and DoD Medical Centers, and local universities to improve the health of veterans. Our affiliates include:

- Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
- Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- Johns Hopkins University
- George Washington University

CLINICAL CARE

The WRIISC-DC clinical program has two components: the National Referral Program and the Outpatient Clinic. Veterans of the Armed Forces, including reservists and National Guard personnel may be eligible for services if they served in a theatre of combat operations during a conflict or other armed hostilities, or during some peace keeping operations. Veterans with concerns about exposure to toxic substances or radiation may also be eligible. Specific eligibility details can be found at:

<http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/health/infolet/10200218.pdf>

WRIISC-DC National Referral Program:

This program serves as a second opinion for veterans with difficult to diagnose war related illnesses and injuries. Veterans must first have a thorough exam by their VA primary care physician prior to being referred for a WRIISC clinical evaluation. VA physicians may make referrals by calling: **(202) 273-8463**.

WRIISC-DC Outpatient Clinic:

This clinic focuses on war-related health concerns and health promotion. Eligible veterans living within 100 miles of Washington, DC, may be referred by their VA primary health care physician. Interested physicians may contact the WRIISC by calling: **1-800-722-8340**.



RISK COMMUNICATION

The risk communication program is an integral part of the center's activities. Risk communication provides the latest scientific information to educate veterans, their family, and others about environmental exposures and war-related illnesses and injuries.

RESEARCH

Our research program focuses on understanding and improving the health of war veterans. Research interests at WRIISC-DC include:

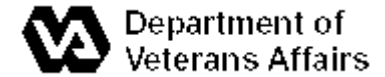
- Long term health effects of war
- Memory / mood problems
- New / unusual infections
- Low back pain and disability
- Nervous system problems
- Disability following illness / injury



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

WRIISC-DC provides educational materials, conferences, and clinical rotations to educate health care professionals and veteran service organizations on a variety of war-related topics. These topics address the causes, diagnoses, and treatments of war related illnesses and injuries.

War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC), MS 11
Veterans Affairs Medical Center,
50 Irving Street, NW Washington, DC 20422



Washington, D.C.

*Information for Veterans and
Health Care Providers Seeking
Ways to Improve Care for
America's Combat Veterans*

**Email: wriisc.dc@med.va.gov
www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/
1-800-722-8340**