



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Chemical and Biological Warfare Testing

What is chemical and biological warfare testing?

The Department of Defense (DoD) conducted chemical and biological warfare testing in support of Project 112 and Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD). This testing used:

- Biological and chemical warfare agents
- Simulants
- Tracers
- Decontaminates

What Was Project 112 and Project SHAD?

The Army Chemical Corps and U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency coordinated Project 112 and Project SHAD for DoD.

Project 112 was designed to test the vulnerability of U.S. troops against chemical and biological warfare. The goal was to determine how to protect against these health threats. The operations' tests occurred from 1962 to 1973.

Project SHAD was part of Project 112. It included boats, ships and aircraft from the Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force. Their purpose was to evaluate shipboard detection of chemical and biological agents. The tests also evaluated protective measures and risks to U.S. forces. The goal of the land-based tests was to learn more about how environmental conditions affect chemical and biological warfare agents.

For more information about Project 112 and Project SHAD, call 800-497-6261 or visit <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/shad>.

How Are Project 112 and Project SHAD Veterans Identified?

DoD collected, reviewed and declassified many records. DoD provided VA with medically-relevant information as it was declassified. This information includes test name, date, location and, if relevant, the name of the ship. This identified Service members who participated in the tests and were potentially exposed to substances. About 6,000 Veterans participated in these tests. Most Veterans only participated in shipboard tests.

Should Test Participants Be Concerned?

The tests used protective measures. Prior research suggests the substances used are unlikely to cause long-term health effects. Most Veterans were exposed to a minimal number of agents. However, some may have been involved in multiple tests. These Veterans may have experienced repeated exposure.

DoD reports, to their knowledge, no Veteran became acutely ill during these tests. In a recent VA health care utilization review, no diagnosis stood out in either Project 112 or Project SHAD Veterans. At this time, there is no “SHAD test” or examination.

Medical Care for Chemical and Biological Test Volunteers

As many as 60,000 Veterans volunteered for medical research to advance the U.S. Biological and Chemical programs. As the result of a class action lawsuit filed by the Vietnam Veterans of America, the U.S. Army is required to provide medical care to Veterans who volunteered for chemical and biological research testing between 1942 and 1975. The Army will help Veterans obtain medical care through military treatment facilities.

To be eligible for medical care under this program, you must have:

- A DD Form 214 or War Department (WD) discharge or separation form, or equivalent
- Served as a research subject in a chemical or biological substance testing program
 - Including medications or vaccines under the U.S. Army investigational drug review
- A diagnosed medical condition as a result of participation in chemical or biological substance testing

If you are an eligible Veteran, visit <http://armymedicine.mil/Pages/cbtp.aspx> for more information. You can also call 800-984-8523.