

LUNG CANCER FACTS: MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

Lung cancer is an urgent priority among veterans. Not only is the incidence higher, but the survival is lower than in civilian populations.

SMOKING

- 32% of active duty personnel vs. 20% of civilians
- Prevalence of smoking 50% higher in those who have been deployed
- Cigarettes free in K and C rations until 1976 and still sold at reduced prices
- Damaged cells can take decades to develop into lung cancer

EXPOSURE

- Agent Orange, radon, asbestos, beryllium, chromium, diesel exhaust, pesticides, pollutants and particulate matter from burn pits, oil well fires, destruction of chemical weapons
- Lung cancer deemed service-connected for in theatre Vietnam veterans
- 2010 President's Cancer Advisory Panel links 20 chemical agents to lung cancer
- Higher rates of lung cancer in Gulf War veterans in 2010 study and 2014 update