The American Legion

For God and Country

bulletin

National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
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Veterans Health Initiative

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in collaboration with the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards and the Employee Education System has developed an online comprehensive program that focuses on the special health concerns of veterans. The program is known as the Veterans Health Initiative (VHI). It is currently comprised of 10 independent study modules which provide in-depth information about important and unique health issues of veterans and their health care needs.

The program allows military medical history to be better documented as well as the connection between certain health effects and military service to be better understood. It is designed to prepare health care providers to better serve their veteran patients and to establish a database for further study.

The ten modules available are Agent Orange, Cold Injury, Gulf War, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Ex-Prisoner of War, Radiation, Spinal Cord Injury, Visual Impairment, hearing impairment, and Traumatic Amputation and Prosthetics. At the

end of each module, readers may take an online test on their knowledge of the subject.

Future plans include five new modules, specifically on Military Sexual Trauma, Infectious Disease Threats in Southwest Asia, Traumatic Brain Injury, Occupational Lung Diseases of Military Significance, and Health Effects of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agents on Military Personnel. These new modules are expected to be available by May 2004.

The VHI modules are available on the Internet at www.va.gov/vhi.

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