

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910970203403321
Titolo	Strategies to protect the health of deployed U.S. forces : medical surveillance, record keeping, and risk reduction / / Lois M. Joellenbeck, Philip K. Russell, and Samuel B. Guze, editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC, : National Academy Press, c1999
ISBN	9786610185757 9780309172523 0309172527 9781280185755 1280185759 9780309571401 0309571405 9780585182391 0585182396
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (296 p.)
Collana	The compass series
Altri autori (Persone)	JoellenbeckLois M <1963-> (Lois Mary) RussellPhilip K GuzeSamuel B. <1923->
Disciplina	355.3/45/0973
Soggetti	Soldiers - Health and hygiene - United States Soldiers - Protection - United States Soldiers - Health risk assessment - United States Persian Gulf War, 1991 - Health aspects United States Armed Forces Sanitary affairs United States Armed Forces Medical care
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Medical Follow-up Agency, Institute of Medicine."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 147-171).
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-- POSTDEPLOYMENT REINTEGRATION -- Recommendations --
MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING -- Recommendations (Additional
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Sommario/riassunto

Nine years after Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (the Gulf War) ended in June 1991, uncertainty and questions remain about illnesses reported in a substantial percentage of the 697,000 service members who were deployed. Even though it was a short conflict with very few battle casualties or immediately recognized disease or non-battle injuries, the events of the Gulf War and the experiences of the

ensuing years have made clear many potentially instructive aspects of the deployment and its hazards. Since the Gulf War, several other large deployments have also occurred, including deployments to Haiti and Somalia. Major deployments to Bosnia, Southwest Asia, and, most recently, Kosovo are ongoing as this report is written. This report draws on lessons learned from some of these deployments to consider strategies to protect the health of troops in future deployments. In the spring of 1996, Deputy Secretary of Defense John White met with leadership of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine to explore the prospect of an independent, proactive effort to learn from lessons of the Gulf War and to develop a strategy to better protect the health of troops in future deployments.
