In the 1962-74 time period, the Department of Defense (DOD) conducted a classified chemical and biological warfare test program—Project 112—that might have exposed service members and civilian personnel to chemical or biological agents. In 2000 the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began obtaining information from DOD about the program. Concerned that veterans and others might have health problems from exposure during Project 112 and similar DOD tests, Congress required DOD in the 2003 Defense Authorization Act to identify Project 112 tests and personnel potentially exposed—service members and the number of civilian personnel—and other chemical and biological tests that might have exposed service members. GAO was required by the act and subsequent guidance from the congressional requesters to evaluate (1) DOD’s process to identify the Project 112 tests and the service members and the number of civilian personnel potentially exposed, (2) DOD’s progress in identifying similar tests outside Project 112, and (3) VA’s progress in notifying DOD-identified veterans.

GAO is making three recommendations to enhance DOD’s responsiveness to the legislative requirement. DOD concurred with all of our recommendations and agreed to implement them.


To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above.

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