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Long-term disability among combat veterans: cohort study of Australian Vietnam War veterans

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Recent combat operations have involved large numbers of military personnel. As the long-term health effects among returning veterans are difficult to predict, an examination of disability among veterans from previous conflicts may assist in understanding the lifetime consequences of deployment. We conducted a long-term study among 60,228 Australian military personnel deployed between 1962 and 1975 during the Vietnam War. Probabilistic record linkage methods matched 51,528 individuals with up to 50 years of administrative data from the Australian Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Physician-assessed disability claims by cause were stratified by rank, age and duration of deployment to understand the association between war-related service and subsequent disability.

Professor Philip Clarke has recently joined the Melbourne School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne. He has had previous appointments at Oxford University and the University of Sydney. He works on a broad range of health economic research and has recently contributed to books on cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-benefit analysis published by Oxford University Press.