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## Disease Occurrence -- Worldwide

(DI-1812-315-03, 26 Mar 2003)

(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

### General

(U) The DOWW, published under the auspices of the Department of Defense Intelligence Production Program (DoDIPP), reflects the Defense Intelligence Production Community position. The DIA's AFMIC is the designated DoDIPP producer for this subject.

(U) The weekly DOWW provides timely alerts and updates on militarily significant infectious diseases.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

(U) Health events from 03/25/2003 through 03/26/2003 include:

## CENTCOM

Non Responsive

### Iraq

Non Responsive

**(U) Forecast:** Exposure to High Levels of Particulate Matter Unlikely to Result in Significant Adverse Health Effects

**(U) Summary:** US and Coalition forces deployed to the Middle East are exposed to high levels of airborne particulates of varied composition. The inhalation of respirable particulates (particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter) may cause irritation to the respiratory tract.

**(U) Assessment:** Airborne particulate levels are typically high in the Middle East region. Particulate matter concentrations in Saudi Arabia in 1991 exceeded established US air quality standards by as much as three to six times. The primary sources of particulates are from wind-blown dust and sand, industrial pollution, vehicle emissions, and oil fires. Frequent sandstorms can cause significant increases in local concentrations of

Pages 3 and 4 are not responsive portion and not included.

airborne particulates that may persist for days. Dust and sandstorms occur year-round, and are most severe between May and October.

(U) Air samples from the region in 1991 contained approximately 75 percent calcium and silica (from sand), 10 to 23 percent carbon (soot from a variety of sources including oil fires and industrial sources), and less than 10 percent from miscellaneous sources.

(U) The expected health effects associated with exposures to airborne particulates include eye, nose, and throat irritation, sneezing, coughing, sinus congestion, sinus drainage, and aggravation of asthma conditions. Long-term adverse health effects are unlikely.

**(U) Potential Risk to US Forces:** Adverse health effects experienced by US and Coalition personnel from exposure to high levels of airborne particulates are likely to be minimal. In addition, the expected duration of exposure is unlikely to result in significant long-term health effects.

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Non Responsive

Page 03 of 10

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3):10 USC 424:Non Responsive

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3):10 USC 424:Non Responsive

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## Appendix

(U) **Request for feedback:** This Center has an ongoing effort to upgrade its worldwide epidemiological intelligence reporting and requests that any feedback be forwarded to the Defense Intelligence Agency, Building 6000, Washington D.C., 20340-5100, Attn: AFMIC, by electronic message to DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD, or through the comments/feedback link on the AFMIC home page on Intelink.

(U) **Distribution Statement:** This document has been produced for official use within the US Government, and distribution is limited to US Government agencies. Requests for this document from outside the US Government must be referred to the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC 20340-0001.

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### Disease Occurrence -- Worldwide

(b)(2), 26 Mar 2003)

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#### General

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(U) The weekly DOWW provides timely alerts and updates on militarily significant infectious diseases.

(U) This product is now available on the Internet at (b)(2), on SIPRNET at (b)(2), and on Intelink at (b)(2).

(U) Health events from 03/25/2003 through 03/26/2003 include:

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## CENTCOM

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### Bahrain

### Iraq

### Jordan

### Kuwait

### Qatar

### Saudi Arabia

(U) **Forecast:** Exposure to High Levels of Particulate Matter Unlikely to Result in Significant Adverse Health Effects

(U) **Summary:** US and Coalition forces deployed to the Middle East are exposed to high levels of airborne particulates of varied composition. The inhalation of respirable particulates (particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter) may cause irritation to the respiratory tract.

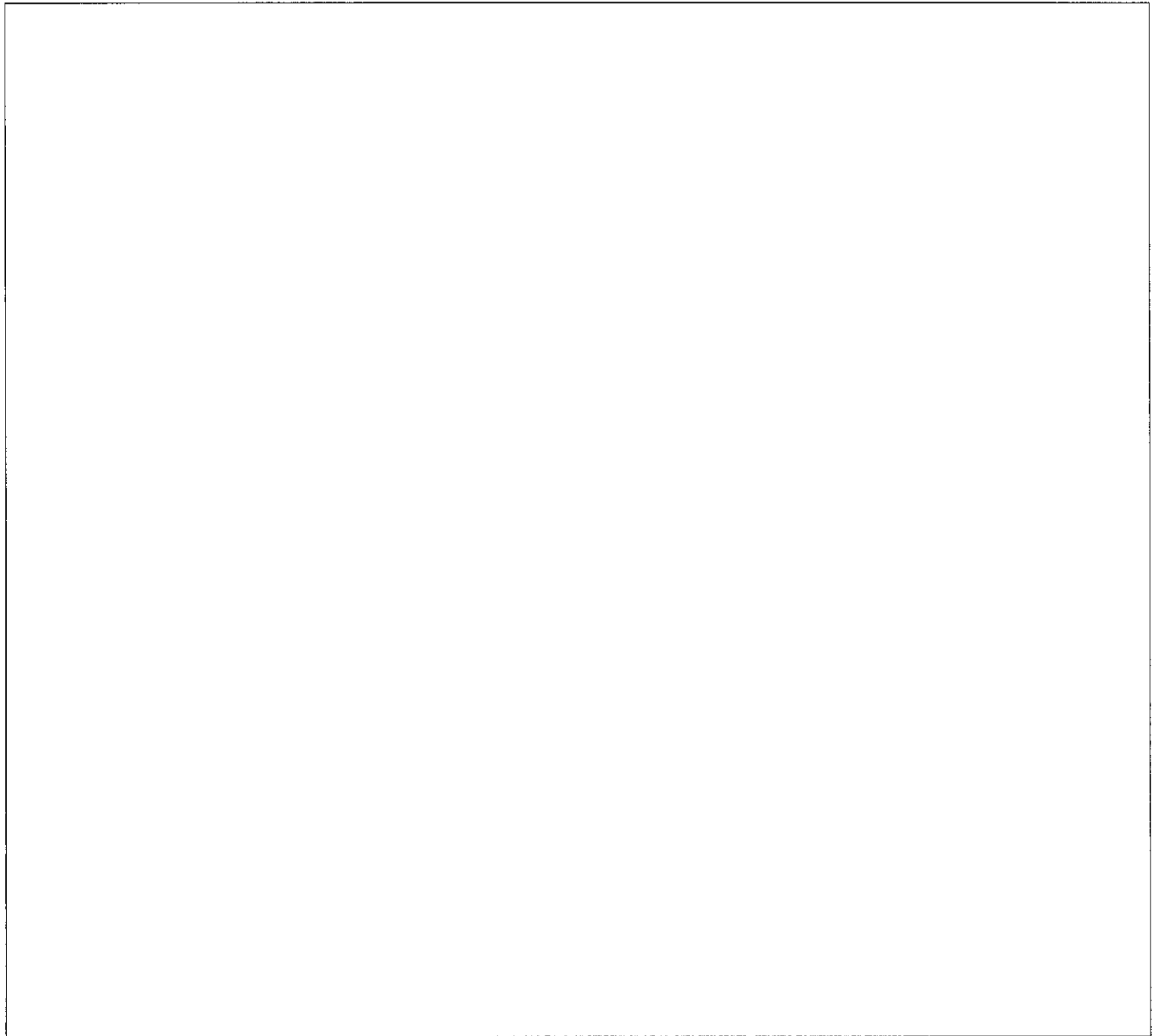
(U) **Assessment:** Airborne particulate levels are typically high in the Middle East region. Particulate matter concentrations in Saudi Arabia in 1991 exceeded established US air quality standards by as much as three to six times. The primary sources of particulates are from wind-blown dust and sand, industrial pollution, vehicle emissions, and oil fires. Frequent sandstorms can cause significant increases in local concentrations of airborne particulates that may persist for days. Dust and sandstorms occur year-round, and are most severe between May and October.

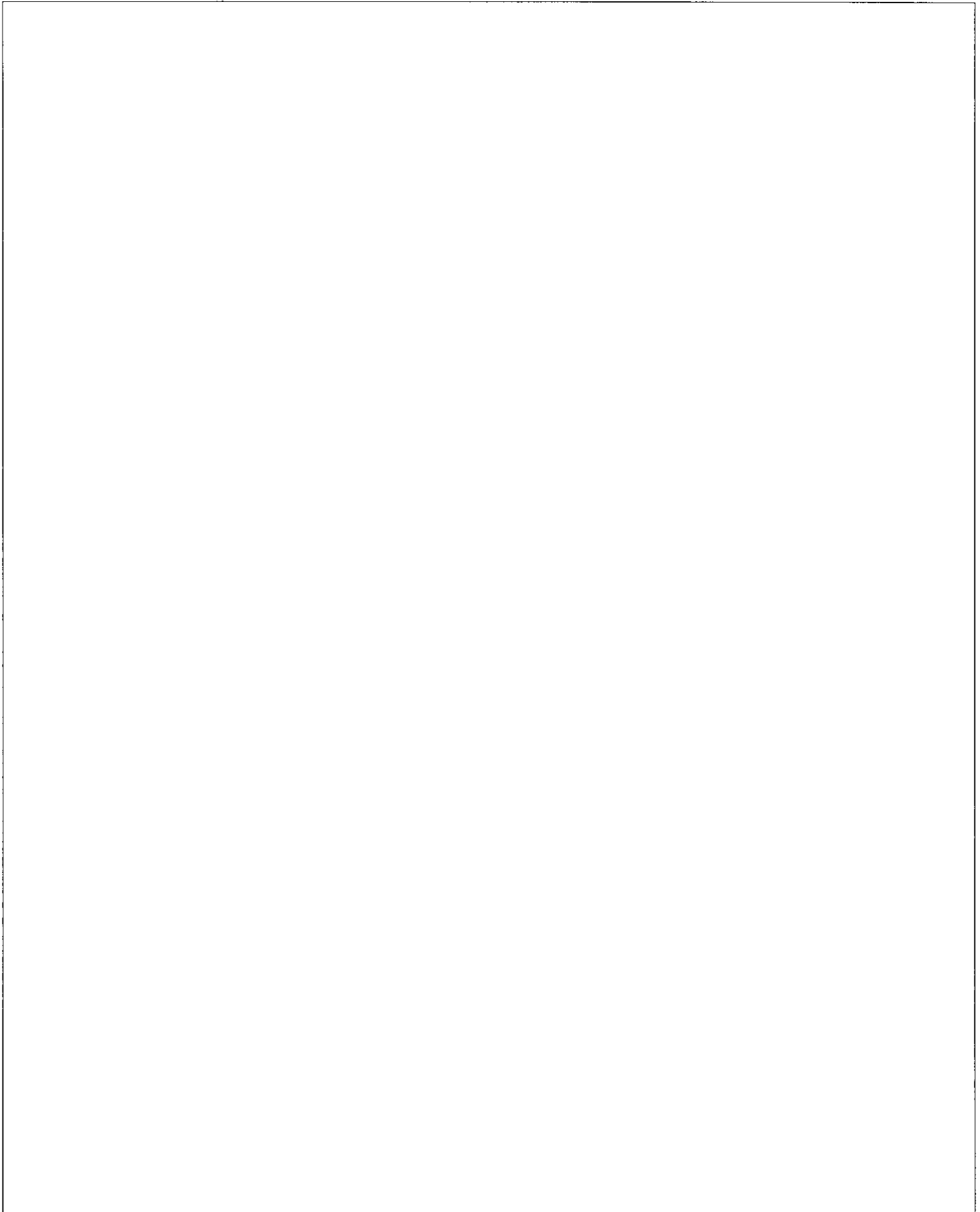
(U) Air samples from the region in 1991 contained approximately 75 percent calcium and silica (from sand), 10 to 23 percent carbon (soot from a variety of sources including oil fires and industrial sources), and less than 10 percent from miscellaneous sources.

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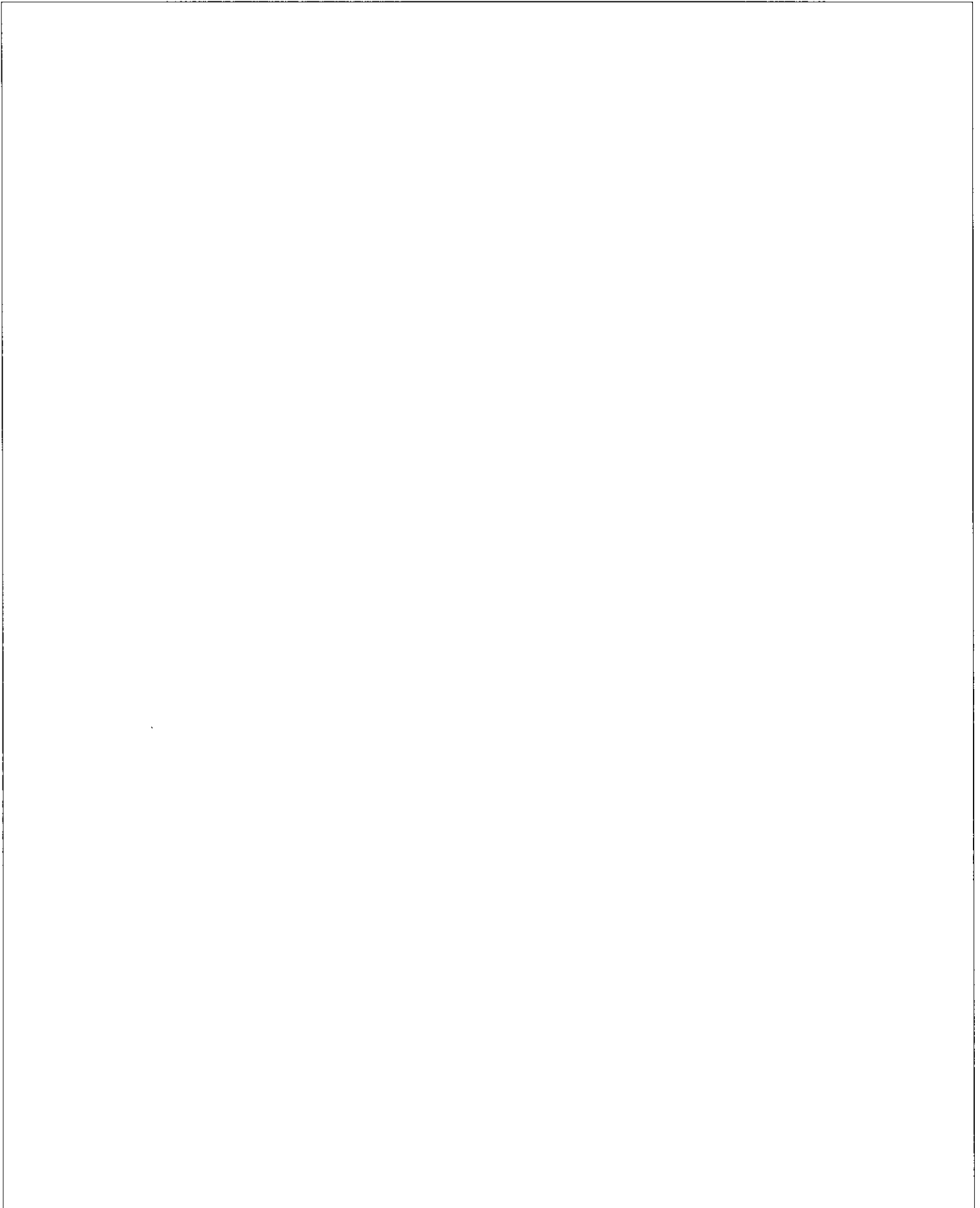
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## Appendix

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