



GEORGIA  
FUNERAL CARE

**Eligibility for Disability Compensation from the VA**

**By Georgia Funeral Care**

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# **Eligibility for Disability Compensation from the VA**

## **Exposure to Hazardous Materials / Types of Exposures**

### **Agent Orange**

If the veteran served in the Republic of Vietnam or in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) during the Vietnam Era—or in certain related jobs—the veteran may have had contact with Agent Orange, an herbicide used to clear plants and trees during the war.

### **Asbestos**

If the veteran worked in certain military jobs, they may have had contact with asbestos (toxic fibers once used in many buildings and products).

### **Birth defects like spina bifida**

If the veteran served in the Republic of Vietnam, in Thailand, or in or near the Korean DMZ during the Vietnam Era—and your child has spina bifida or certain other birth defects—your child may be eligible for disability benefits.

### **Burn pits and other specific environmental hazards**

If the veteran served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or certain other areas, they may have had contact with toxic chemicals in the air, water, or soil.

### **Contact with mustard gas or lewisite**

If the veteran served at the German bombing of Bari, Italy, in World War II or worked in certain other jobs, they may have had contact with mustard gas.

### **Contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune**

If the veteran served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River between August 1953 and December 1987, they may be at risk of certain illnesses believed to be caused by contaminants found in the drinking water during that time.

### **Gulf War Illnesses in Southwest Asia**

If veteran served in the Southwest Asia Theater of operations, you may be at risk of certain illnesses or other conditions linked to this region.

## **Gulf War Illnesses in Afghanistan**

If the veteran served in Afghanistan, they may be at risk of certain illnesses or other conditions linked to this region.

## **Project 112/SHAD**

If the veteran were part of warfare testing for Project 112 or Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD) from 1962 to 1974, they may be at risk of illnesses believed to be caused by chemical testing.

## **Radiation exposure**

If the veteran served in the post-WWII occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, were imprisoned in Japan, worked with or near nuclear weapons testing, or served at a gaseous diffusion plant or in certain other jobs, they may be at risk of illnesses believed to be caused by radiation.

## **Former POWS**

Former POW's held captive for any length of time. Conditions can affect body and mind

## **PTSD**

Posttraumatic stress can happen after someone goes through a traumatic event such as combat, an assault, or a disaster. Most people have some stress reactions following trauma. But if the reactions don't go away over time or they disrupt your life, they veteran may have posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Find out if you can get disability compensation or benefits if the veteran has symptoms of PTSD.

## **Disability or Illness within ONE year after service**

The veteran may be able to get disability benefits if you have signs of an illness like hypertension (high blood pressure), arthritis, diabetes, or peptic ulcers that started within a year after the veteran was discharged from active military service. If your symptoms appear within one year after discharge—even if they weren't there while you were serving.

## **Requirements for Agent Orange presumptive diseases**

The VA considers a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation. If the veteran has been diagnosed with one of these conditions, they don't need to prove that it started during—or got worse because of—their military service.

### **Cancers caused by Agent Orange exposure**

- Bladder cancer
- Chronic B-cell leukemia
- Hodgkin's disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (including lung cancer)
- Some soft tissue sarcomas  
**Note:** We don't include osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma on our list of presumptive conditions.

### **Other illnesses caused by Agent Orange exposure**

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne (or other types of acneiform disease like it)  
**Note:** Under our rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of herbicide exposure.
- Diabetes mellitus type 2
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Hypothyroidism
- Ischemic heart disease
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Parkinsonism
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early onset  
**Note:** Under our rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of herbicide exposure.
- Porphyria cutanea tarda  
**Note:** Under our rating regulations, this condition must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of herbicide exposure.

## **Service requirements for presumption of exposure with Agent Orange**

The VA bases the eligibility for disability compensation benefits, in part, on whether the veteran served in a location that exposed them to Agent Orange. We call this having a presumption of exposure.

The veteran may have a presumption of exposure if they meet at least one of these service requirements.

**Between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, the veteran must have served for any length of time in at least one of these locations:**

- In the Republic of Vietnam, **or**
- Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, **or**
- On a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia

**Or the veteran must have served in at least one of these locations that we've added based on the PACT Act:**

- Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976, **or**
- Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969, **or**
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969, **or**
- Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 31, 1980, **or**
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

**Or at least one of these must be true for the veteran:**

- Veteran served in or near the Korean DMZ for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, **or**
- Veteran served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a C-123 aircraft with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, **or**
- Veteran was involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service, **or**
- Veteran was assigned as a Reservist to certain flight, ground, or medical crew duties at one of the locations listed here

**Eligible Reserve locations, time periods, and units also available.**