



THE PACT
ACT

- President Biden signed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, also known as the PACT Act, into law.



This is a momentous occasion for our Nation's Veterans, survivors, and caregivers. The PACT Act expands VA Health Care and Benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve

What's the PACT ACT and how will it affect VA benefits and care?

- The PACT Act is perhaps the largest Health Care and benefit expansion in VA history. The PACT ACT will bring these changes:
 - Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and post-9/11 era
 - Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
 - Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
 - Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
 - Helps VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

HOW DO GULF WAR AND
POST-9/11 VETERANS
KNOW IF THEY HAVE A
PRESUMPTIVE EXPOSURE TO
BURN PITS?

If a veterans served in any of these locations and time periods established under the PACT ACT, VA has determined they had exposure to burn pits or other toxins.

On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:	On or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afghanistan • Djibouti • Egypt • Jordan • Lebanon • Syria • Uzbekistan • Yemen • The airspace above any of these locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahrain • Iraq • Kuwait • Oman • Qatar • Saudi Arabia • Somalia • The United Arab Emirates (UAE) • The airspace above any of these locations

THESE CANCERS
ARE NOW
PRESUMPTIVE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brain cancer• Gastrointestinal cancer of any type• Glioblastoma• Head cancer of any type• Kidney cancer• Lymphatic cancer of any type• Lymphoma of any type | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Melanoma• Neck cancer of any type• Pancreatic cancer• Reproductive cancer of any type• Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type |
|---|---|

THESE ILLNESSES
ARE NOW
PRESUMPTIVE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asthma that was diagnosed after service• Chronic bronchitis• Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)• Chronic rhinitis• Chronic sinusitis• Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphysema• Granulomatous disease• Interstitial lung disease (ILD)• Pleuritis• Pulmonary fibrosis• Sarcoidosis |
|---|--|

What new Agent Orange presumptive conditions will VA add for Veterans of the Vietnam War?

- Based on the PACT Act, VA will add two new Agent Orange presumptive conditions for VA disability compensation:
 - Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
 - High blood pressure (also called hypertension)

What new Agent Orange presumptive locations will VA add?

- We've added these five new locations to the list of presumptive locations:
 - Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
 - Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
 - Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
 - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980
 - Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

What new radiation presumptive locations will VA add?

- They added these three new response efforts to the list of presumptive locations:
 - Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, from January 1, 1977, through December 31, 1980
 - Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain, from January 17, 1966, through March 31, 1967
 - Response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland from January 21, 1968, to September 25, 1968

Getting benefits: Veterans

- If a Veteran has not filed a claim yet for the presumptive condition, they can file a new claim now.
- If VA denied a disability claim in the past and we now consider a condition presumptive, a Veteran can submit a Supplemental Claim. VA will review the case again.
- If VA denied a claim in the past and they think a Veteran may be eligible now, they will try to contact the Veteran. But they don't need to wait for VA to contact them before they can file a Supplemental Claim.
- If a Veteran has a pending claim for a condition that's now presumptive, and VA added their condition after they filed their claim, they still consider it presumptive.
- Veterans can apply now. VA are considering all conditions established in the PACT Act to be presumptive on August 10, the date the bill was signed into law, and they encourage Veterans and survivors to apply for those benefits now.

Getting benefits: Survivors



- Survivors may be eligible for VA benefits based on the PACT Act. They will need to meet requirements for each benefit to qualify.
- If VA denied a Survivor's claim in the past and they think they may be eligible now, VA will try to contact them to have their claim reevaluated. Survivors do not need to wait for VA to contact them before they reapply.

HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

- The PACT Act helps advance a top VA priority: getting more Veterans into VA care by expanding eligibility for, and the availability of, health care services for Veterans. The law expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans who may not have been eligible before and requires VA to phase in hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness to three new categories of Veterans.

- **CATEGORY 1:** Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.
- **CATEGORY 2:** Veterans who were assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time:
 - On or after August 2, 1990, in: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates
 - On or after September 11, 2001, in: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA

- **CATEGORY 3:** Veterans who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, or Resolute Support Mission.

WHEN ELIGIBILITY COMMENCES

- **ON OCTOBER 1, 2022:** Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the **Republic of Vietnam** (from 1/9/62–5/7/75), **Thailand** at any US or Royal Thai base (from 1/9/62–6/30/76), **Laos** (from 12/1/65–9/30/69), certain provinces in **Cambodia** (from 4/16/69–4/30/69), **Guam**, or **American Samoa** or their territorial waters (from 1/9/62–7/31/80), or the **Johnston Atoll** or a ship that called there (from 1/1/72–9/30/77). This applies for health care eligibility and will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.

- **BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND OCTOBER 1, 2023:** Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war **after the Persian Gulf War** or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care. Enrollment is free, there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.



THANK
YOU

- This slideshow along with the most current PACT ACT Handouts will be available on our VSO website

Questions?