

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Center for Prostate Disease Research

AGENT ORANGE and PROSTATE CANCER

WHO: Veterans with prostate cancer who served in the following locations and time periods may qualify for service-connected disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): (For more information, go to www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations).

- a. Vietnam (between 9 Jan 1962 and 7 May 1975)- exposed on land or on a ship operating on the inland waterways (Brown Water Veterans).
- b. Korea in or near the DMZ (between 1 Apr 1968 and 31 Aug 1971)
- c. Thailand military bases (between 28 Feb 1961 and 7 May 1975).
- d. Installations where Agent Orange and other herbicides were tested and stored inside and outside of the United States.
- e. US Navy and Coast Guard ships and boats with operations in Vietnam (between 9 Jan 1962 and 7 May 1975).
- f. Possible exposure on open sea ships off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam War (Blue Water Veterans).
- g. Possible exposure from Agent Orange residue on C-123 airplanes used in the Vietnam War

WHY: The VA has determined that a "presumptive correlation" exists between exposure to herbicides and the development of prostate cancer (and 13 other diseases. See list at end of this document). There is no time frame by which the prostate cancer must be diagnosed following military service to be eligible for compensation.

WHEN: Submit a disability compensation application when diagnosed with prostate cancer. Veterans who submit the application before treatment may be eligible for a 100% disability rating for 6 months or more following the completion of treatment. Veterans who submit the application after treatment is completed (and presumably cured) will not get the 100% disability for 6 months, but may be rated for any residual side effects that develop as a consequence of treatment, such as incontinence or erectile

dysfunction. If a Veteran chooses to forego treatment (active surveillance) or the cancer recurs, VA may rate the disability at 100%

HOW MUCH: 100% disability for the following categories (see Compensation Rate Table at www.vba.va.gov for more information):

1. Veteran with spouse only: \$3068.90/month
2. Veteran alone: \$2906.83/month

STEPS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

- Step 1: Gather the necessary documents.
 - Copy of your DD Form 214
 - If the DD Form 214 does not include dates of service for the location in which you were presumably exposed to Agent Orange, provide additional documentation (medals or orders, etc.) to verify your presence.
 - If you cannot locate a copy of your DD Form 214, go to www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records. Service members and family members can obtain a copy of your DD Form 214 for free.
 - Copy of your biopsy report
 - Copy of your marriage certificate, if married.
- Step 2: Decide if you will submit the application on your own or if you will seek assistance from a VA representative or a Veterans Service Organization (VSO).
 - Strongly recommend meeting with a VA representative or VSO to ensure understanding of the application process, the timelines and compensation issues (with respect to your retirement pay, prior service-connected benefits, and/or other factors), as well as to ensure the application forms are completed correctly to expedite the approval process.
- Step 3: Submit the application

- If submitting the application on your own:
 - Go to www.va.gov/vaforms and complete VA Form 21-526EZ ("Notice to Veteran/Service Member of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Veterans Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits", dated Jan 2014). This is an "expedited" claim process that can be used if you have all the documents needed to substantiate your claim (see above).
 - Another online option is to go to <https://fasttrack.va.gov/AOFastTrack/>
 - Recommend submitting the application online or completing a printed copy and hand-carrying it to a VA regional office, field office, or state veterans affairs office (see below). If you hand-carry the application, ensure you keep a copy of the application and the VA has stamped the date it was received on your copy.
- If working with a VA representative or VSO, they will complete the application with you and submit it:
 - Ensure that you receive a copy of the application and the VA has stamped it with the date it was received.
 - There are many different places that have a VA representative to assist you.
 - Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices in the DC, MD, VA area: (Addresses for regional offices in other states are listed in the Department of Veterans Affairs "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" booklet www.va.gov or call 800-827-1000).

Washington DC
Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO)
1722 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20421
800-827-1000

Virginia
Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO)
210 Franklin Road, S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24011
800-827-1000

Maryland
Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO)
31 Hopkins Plaza Federal Building
Baltimore, MD 21201
800-827-1000

- Department of Veteran Affairs field offices at the following local military installations:
 - Ft. Belvoir
 - Department of Veteran Affairs
 - Bldg 808, Suite NS-104
 - Warrior Pavilion
 - Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
 - 703-805-0181

- Joint Base Andrews
 - Department of Veteran Affairs
 - Malcolm Grow Medical Clinic
 - 1050 W. Perimeter Rd, Suite F1-67
 - Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762
 - 240-857-1414

- Quantico
 - Department of Veteran Affairs
 - Quantico Marine Corps Base
 - Naval Health Clinic Quantico
 - 3259 Catlin Ave
 - Room 1D03
 - Quantico, VA 22134
 - 703-784-1757

- Walter Reed
 - Department of Veteran Affairs
 - 8901 Wisconsin Ave
 - Bldg 147
 - Bethesda, MD 20889
 - 301-295-8291

- State Veterans Affairs offices
 - Virginia: www.dvs/virginia.gov
 - Maryland: www.mdva.state.md/us
 - Go to www.va.gov/explore. Click on "Disability Compensation", then "State Veterans Affairs Office" to find a location convenient for you.

- Veterans Service Organizations (such as Vietnam Veterans of America, etc).
 - For a complete listing, go to www.va.gov/vso. Click on "Directory of VSOs".

Step 4: Become informed about the effect of the VA compensation on your retired pay.

- There is no action required on your part until you have approval of the VA disability compensation.
- Any disability compensation you receive is not taxed.
- The military retirement pay is not reduced by the amount of the VA disability compensation, if you served 20 years or more of active duty.
- Discuss this financial aspect with a VA representative or VSO. Read about Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). Refer to www.military.com.

FOR INFORMATION:

- Website www.va.gov/agentorange
 - "Agent Orange Review" (newsletters), "Agent Orange Briefs" (Fact Sheets), and "Agent Orange Handbook".
- Dept of VA Special Issues Helpline: 1-800-749-8387
- Booklet "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors": updated yearly to reflect changes in law and policies. Free download at www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
- Institute of Medicine report "Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2010" reviews latest scientific evidence on health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War. Report is available for free download at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/institute-of-medicine.asp.

Note: Diseases presumptively related to Agent Orange exposure

1. Al amyloidosis
2. Chloracne
3. Chronic B-cell leukemia
4. Diabetes mellitus (Type 2)
5. Hodgkin's disease
6. Ischemic heart disease
7. Multiple myeloma
8. Non-hodgkins lymphoma
9. Parkinson's disease
10. Peripheral neuropathy, early onset
11. Porphyria cutanea tarda
12. Prostate cancer
13. Respiratory cancers (includes lung cancer)
14. Soft tissue sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

Note: VA presumes service connection for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease in Veterans from any era, not just Vietnam.