

Lunch & Learn

February 18, 2025
PACT Act Overview

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Service Officers
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**Department of
Health and Human Services**
Disability, Aging and Veteran Services



Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS)

- Support for family caregivers, assistance with Medicare, access to benefits for those with low income, and support for seniors to navigate and access services
- Veteran Service Officers (VSO) help veterans and their families apply for federal benefits related to their service
- VSOs represent veterans and their families on VA claims and represent on appeals as needed

How can
Washington
County
help?

What is a VA claim?

Disability Compensation

- Monthly compensation for a disability that was caused by an injury or toxic exposure during military service

Pension

- Financial benefit for wartime veterans who are low income or with substantial monthly medical expenses

What is the PACT Act?

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022

This law expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps the VA provide generations of veterans – and their survivors – with the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

PACT Act Key Components

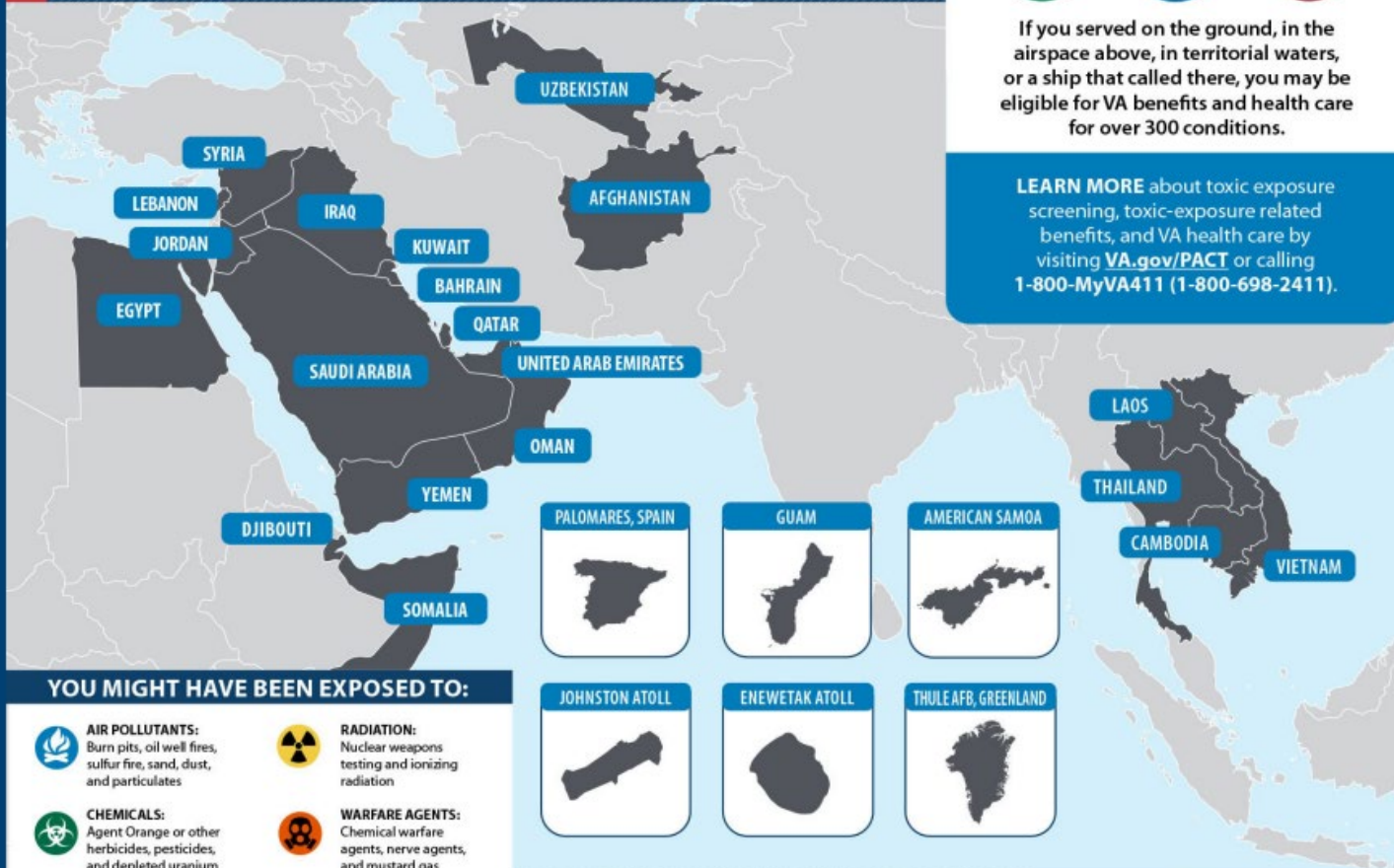
- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures
- Improves decision making process for determining medical conditions for presumptive status
- Initial toxic exposure screenings for every veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Requires research studies on the mortality of veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 veteran health trends, and cancer rates
- Builds a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demands for benefits and services
- Authorizes 31 new health care facilities across the country

DID YOU SERVE HERE?



If you served on the ground, in the airspace above, in territorial waters, or a ship that called there, you may be eligible for VA benefits and health care for over 300 conditions.

LEARN MORE about toxic exposure screening, toxic-exposure related benefits, and VA health care by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).



YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO:



AIR POLLUTANTS:
Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust, and particulates



RADIATION:
Nuclear weapons testing and ionizing radiation



CHEMICALS:
Agent Orange or other herbicides, pesticides, and depleted uranium



WARFARE AGENTS:
Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, and mustard gas



OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS:
Asbestos, lead, fuels, and industrial solvents

Service members may have been subjected to any of these exposures in any of these areas.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

PACT Act: Presumptive Service Connection

- SW Asia Airborne Hazards Presumption
- SE Asia Agent Orange Presumption

If a Veteran served in any of these locations and time periods, they are eligible for the new Gulf War-related presumptions. This includes the airspace above any of these locations.



On or After August 2, 1990:

- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)



On or After September 11, 2001:

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen



PACT Act:
Gulf War Presumption

The PACT Act added more than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions.

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory cancer of any type
- Urinary, bladder, related GU cancers
- Acute and chronic leukemias
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelofibrosis (blood cancer)
- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis
- Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)

PACT Act: Gulf War Presumption

Acknowledged Dates of Exposure:

- Vietnam (including Blue Water Navy within 12mi):
Jan. 9, 1962 – May 7, 1975
- Korean DMZ: Sept. 1, 1967 – Aug. 31, 1971
- Thailand: Jan. 9, 1962 – June 30, 1976
- Laos: Dec. 1, 1965 – Sept. 30, 1969
- Cambodia (at Mimot or Kret, Kampong Champ Province): Apr. 16, 1969 – April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa: Jan. 9, 1962 – July 30, 1980
- Johnston Atoll: Jan. 1, 1972 – Sept. 30, 1977
- Contaminated C-123 Planes: 1969-86

PACT Act:
Agent
Orange
Presumption

PACT Act: Agent Orange Presumption

Presumptive Diseases from Agent Orange Exposure

- AL Amyloidosis
- Bladder Cancer
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
- Chronic B-Cell Leukemias
- Chloracne
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
- Hypertension
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Hypothyroidism
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Parkinsonism
- Parkinson's Disease
- Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas



If you were called to respond to one of the listed cleanup and response missions below, you may be eligible for radiation exposure presumptives under the PACT Act.

Response Effort	Dates
Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll	January 1, 1977-December 31, 1980
Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain	January 17, 1966-March 31, 1967
Response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland	January 21, 1968-September 25, 1968

PACT Act: Radiation Presumptive Locations

- Air pollutants (burn pits, sand, dust, particulates, oil well fires, sulfur fires).
- Chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, depleted uranium with embedded shrapnel, contaminated water).
- Occupational hazards (asbestos, industrial solvents, lead, paints including chemical agent resistant coating, firefighting foams).
- Radiation (nuclear weapons handling, maintenance and detonation, radioactive material, calibration and measurement sources, X-rays, nuclear weapon technicians and dental technicians, served on nuclear submarine and other nuclear ships or in shipyards, or were involved in nuclear weapons handling and maintenance, including clean-up after accidents).
- Warfare agents (nerve agents, chemical and biological weapons).

PACT Act: Other Toxic Exposure

In any claim for a disability related to exposure that is not covered under a presumption, if the veteran participated in a toxic exposure risk activity, then the VA will schedule an exam and medical opinion.



Health Care Enrollment Eligibility

Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods can enroll in VA health care **NOW**:



- **Republic of Vietnam** (between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975)
- **Thailand at any US or Royal Thai base** (between January 9, 1962 and June 30, 1976)
- **Laos** (between December 1, 1965 and September 30, 1969)
- **Certain Provinces in Cambodia** (between April 16, 1969 and April 30, 1969)
- **Guam or American Samoa or their territorial waters** (between January 9, 1962 and July 31, 1980)
- **Johnston Atoll, or a ship that called there** (between January 1, 1972 and September 30, 1977)



Vietnam-era Veterans are now able to apply for two new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- **Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)**
- **Hypertension (high blood pressure)**

PACT Act:
VA Health Care



**Department of
Health and Human Services**
Disability, Aging and Veteran Services

To connect with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO):
Call 503-846-3060

Washington County
Disability, Aging and Veteran Services
5240 NE Elam Young Parkway, Suite 300
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

