THE AMERICAN LEGION

FILING A VA CLAIM

The American Legion offers a free Claims Coach app that helps veterans and their surviving spouses understand the VA claims process. The app's step-by-step process allows users to find a service officer nearby, create a checklist, set appointment reminders and manage claims. To download the app, visit **legion.org/mobileapps**.

The Claims Coach can also be accessed via computer by going to **legion.org/mobileapps** and clicking on "use the Claims Coach on your desktop."

To locate an accredited American Legion Department Service Officer, go to **legion.org/serviceofficer**.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AGENT ORANGE RELATED HEALTH CARE

A Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veteran does not have to be rated service-connected to be eligible for Agent Orange related health care. A Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veteran is eligible notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that the veteran's medical condition is associated with such exposure.

AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY

If you served in Vietnam or other qualifying areas, contact an Agent Orange registry coordinator at the nearest VA health-care facility to discuss scheduling an Agent Orange registry examination.

THE HEALTH EXAM ALERTS VETERANS TO POSSIBLE LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT MAY BE RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE DURING THEIR MILITARY SERVICE. THE REGISTRY DATA HELPS VA UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO HEALTH PROBLEMS MORE EFFECTIVELY.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- The American Legion National Headquarters, 202-861-2700 (Washington Office) **legion.org**
- Department of Veterans Affairs VA Benefits Call Center, 800-827-1000
- VA Health Care, 877-222-8387
- Agent Orange updates and information **va.gov/agentorange**

SPINA BIFIDA CONTACTS

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) 800-733-8387
- Shriners Hospital for Children 800-237-5055 or **shrinershq.org**

JOIN THE LEGION

At about 2 million strong, The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization in the world.
Every day, The American Legion works for veterans, their families and the communities in which they live.

To join The American Legion, please visit **legion.org/join**.

To find a Legion post in your area, search **legion.org/posts**.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
1608 K St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 861-2700
legion.org

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Agent Orange
Benefits & Programs

A guide for those who served in Vietnam, Korea and Thailand, and their families

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BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

It is the goal of The American Legion to ensure all veterans understand and receive benefits to which they are eligible.

During the Vietnam War, herbicides were used to destroy foliage. These herbicides, including Agent Orange, may have harmed veterans. Those exposed to Agent Orange may be eligible for compensation and healthcare benefits for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure, including those who served:

- In Vietnam or within the inland waterways of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.
- Along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971.
- In Thailand military bases between Feb. 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975.

Veterans exposed to Agent Orange may be eligible for VA benefits including compensation, copay free VA health care and benefits for their children.

VA compensation is available for veterans suffering illnesses or disabilities proven to be related to exposure. (See blue box at right for specifics.)

Public Law 107-103 provides a presumption of exposure to herbicides for veterans who served in Vietnam during wartime. Proof of exposure is not necessary for claim purposes.

However, evidence of service in the areas during the time frames listed above and supporting medical documentation are required. The law removes the 30-year limitation on presumptive service connection for respiratory cancers due to herbicide exposure.

However, some conditions require proof that symptoms started within a specific time frame.

Monetary allowances are also available to children of Vietnam veterans who suffer from spina bifida and other birth defects identified by VA.

A Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veteran is also eligible for copay free hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AGENT ORANGE-RELATED COMPENSATION

Claims for conditions officially recognized by VA as related to Agent Orange exposure:
Exposure to Agent Orange is conceded if a veteran served in Vietnam or the previously listed areas and dates. Veterans must submit the following evidence:

- Proof of service in Vietnam during wartime (Jan. 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975) or within the inland waterways of Vietnam, or Korea between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 30, 1971, or Thailand military bases between Feb. 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975.
- Medical documentation of the condition(s) officially recognized by VA as related to Agent Orange exposure.

Claims for condition not officially recognized by VA as related to Agent Orange exposure:
If a veteran has been diagnosed with a condition(s) not shown at the right, he/she may submit a claim with the following supporting evidence:

- Medical documentation of the claimed condition.
- An opinion from a doctor stating it is as likely as not that the condition is due to Agent Orange exposure.
- Proof of service in Vietnam, Korea or Thailand during the exposure periods outlined above.

CONDITIONS RECOGNIZED BY VA AS RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE

- Chloracne
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Respiratory cancers
  - lung
  - larynx
  - trachea
  - bronchus
- Prostate cancer
- Soft tissue sarcoma
- AL amyloidosis
- Hodgkin's disease
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Peripheral neuropathy (acute or subacute)
- Type 2 diabetes
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
- Chronic B-cell Leukemias
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Parkinson's Disease
- Spina bifida in children of veterans (not including spina bifida occulta)

OTHER BIRTH DEFECTS IN CHILDREN OF WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS

Public law 106-419 authorizes the Secretary of VA to award monetary payments, vocational rehabilitation, and medical benefits to children of female Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects, other than spina bifida. The recognized birth defects, identified by the Secretary of VA, are based on a study looking at the Vietnam experience for female veterans; it was not a herbicide exposure study. This law applies to women veterans who served in Vietnam between **Feb. 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975.**

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

If a service-related disability caused or materially contributed to a veteran's death, monthly payments may be available to the unmarried surviving spouse, unmarried children under 18, helpless children, children between 18 and 23, if attending a VA-approved school, and low-income parents of the deceased veteran.