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THE PACT ACT AND YOUR VA BENEFITS

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The PACT Act brings these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- 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 the VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

AGENT ORANGE

Based on the PACT Act, the VA has added 2 new Agent Orange **presumptive conditions**:

- High blood pressure (also called hypertension)
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

Five new locations to the list of presumptive locations for exposure to Agent Orange. If you served on active duty in any of these locations, the VA will automatically assume (or “presume”) that you had exposure to Agent Orange.

- 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

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RADIATION EXPOSURE

The VA has added **3 new locations** the list of presumptive locations for radiation exposure. If you took part in any of these efforts, we'll automatically assume (or "presume") that you had exposure to radiation.

- 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.

GULF WAR ERA AND POST-9/11 VETERANS

- More than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions based on the PACT Act. This change expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veterans.
- Eligibility for VA health care is being extended and expanded for post-911 combat veterans. Veterans are encouraged to apply, no matter of their separation date. Your eligibility depends on your service history and other factors.
- If the requirements are met, free VA health care will be provided for any condition related to their service for up to 10 years from the date of your most recent discharge or separation. You can also enroll at any time during this period and get any care you need, but you may owe a copay for some care.

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

For more information visit:

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>