



## The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

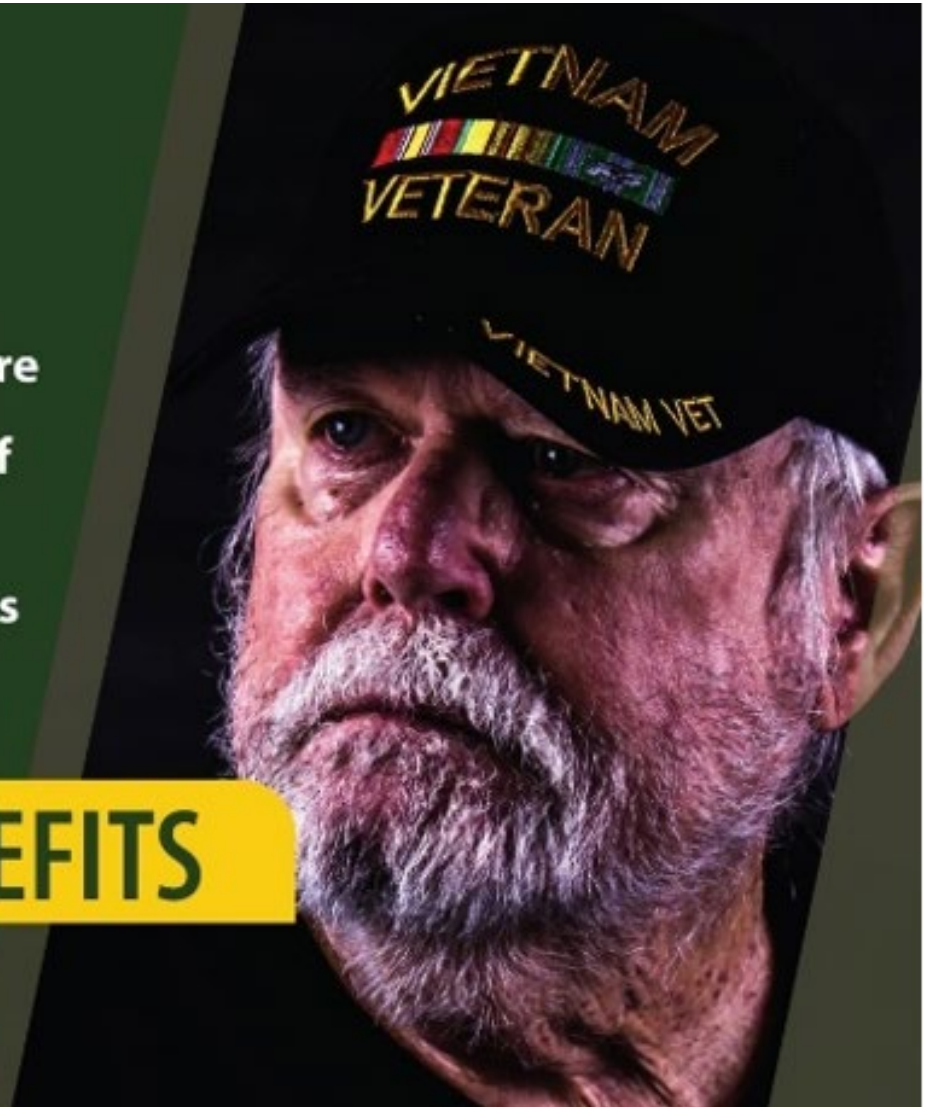
# EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



Choose **VA**

Draft - Pre-Decisional Deliberative Document  
Internal VA Use Only

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 – Health Care Eligibility

2022



Draft - Pre-Decisional Deliberative Document  
Internal VA Use Only



# Vietnam Era Veteran VA Health Care Eligibility

Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods are also eligible to 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



# Extended Health Care Eligibility for Certain Gulf War era Veterans

Beginning October 1, 2022, Gulf War era Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after the Persian Gulf War may be eligible to enroll in VA health care.

This also includes Veterans who, in connection with service during such period, received the following awards or recognitions:

- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Service Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Campaign Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Any other combat theater award established by Federal statute or Executive Order





# Extended Health Care Eligibility for Certain Combat Veterans

Beginning October 1, 2022, Post-9/11 Veterans who did not previously enroll in VA health care will have a 1-year window in which they may be eligible to enroll if they:

- Served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, **or**
- Served in a combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, **and**
- Were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013



# Apply for VA Health Care in 4 Easy Ways

1. Online: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>.
2. By calling the toll-free hotline: 877-222-8387.
3. By mailing VA Form 10-10EZ to:  
Health Eligibility Center  
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30329
4. In person at the nearest VA medical center or clinic



# Can I get a VA Toxic Exposure Screening?

Every Veteran enrolled in VA health care will receive an initial screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years. Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

- The screening will ask you if you believe you were exposed to any of the following while serving:
  - Open Burn Pits/Airborne Hazards
  - Gulf War-related exposures
  - Agent Orange
  - Radiation
  - Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure
  - Other exposures

Veterans with exposure concerns may be connected to information about benefits, registry exams, and clinical resources.

Ask about receiving the Toxic Exposure Screening at your next VA appointment. If you want to be screened sooner, contact your local VA health care team through Secure Message or call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.



Choose **VA**

Draft - Pre-Decisional Deliberative Document  
Internal VA Use Only

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# What are exposures?

## RELATED HEALTH CONCERNS



- Agent Orange Related Diseases
- Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
- Radiation Related Diseases
- Vaccinations & Medications

[More Health Concerns »](#)

## WARS & OPERATIONS



- Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan)
- Iraq War (OIF/OND)
- Gulf War
- Vietnam War

[More Wars & Operations »](#)

## EXPOSURE CATEGORIES



- Chemicals (Agent Orange, contaminated water...)
- Radiation (nuclear weapons, X-rays...)
- Air Pollutants (burn pit smoke, dust...)
- Occupational Hazards (asbestos, lead...)
- Warfare Agents (chemical and biological weapons)





# Exposures Related to Health Concerns



[Agent Orange Related Diseases](#)  
Certain cancers and other diseases linked to Agent Orange



[Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses](#)  
Medical conditions linked to service during the Gulf War Era (Aug. 2, 1990 to present)



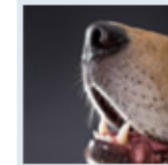
[Radiation Related Diseases](#)  
Certain cancers linked to ionizing radiation exposure during military service



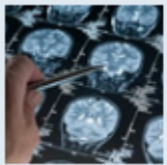
[Cold Injuries](#)  
Health problems associated with extremely cold temperatures



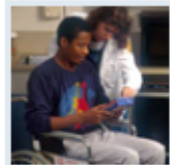
[Infectious Diseases](#)  
Nine infectious diseases associated with Southwest Asia and Afghanistan military service



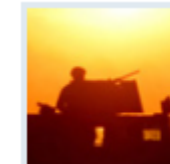
[Rabies](#)  
Disease transmitted by bite or saliva from an infected warm-blooded animal



[Traumatic Brain Injury](#)  
Often caused by explosions among Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan



[Birth Defects](#)  
Certain birth defects in Veterans' biological children associated with military service in Vietnam or Korea



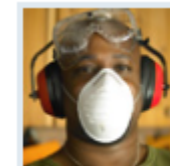
[Heat Injuries](#)  
Health problems that could be caused by extremely hot temperatures



[Toxic Embedded Fragments](#)  
Shrapnel and other metals that remain in the body after injury



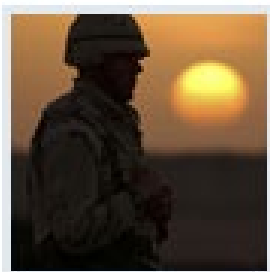
[Vaccinations & Medications During Service](#)  
Possible health effects of certain military vaccinations and medications



[Occupational Hazards](#)  
Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service



# WARS & OPERATIONS



## Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan

Oct. 7, 2001 to present



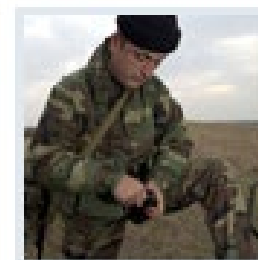
## Vietnam War

Nov. 1, 1965 – April 30, 1975



## Iraq War

Also called Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn  
March 20, 2003 – Dec. 15, 2011



## Cold War Era

1945 – 1991



## World War II

Sept. 1, 1939 – Sept. 2, 1945



## Korean War

June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953



## Gulf War

Aug. 2, 1990 to present



Choose **VA**

Draft - Pre-Decisional Deliberative Document  
Internal VA Use Only

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# EXPOSURE CATEGORIES

- Chemicals – Agent Orange, Burn Pits, Sulfur Fire, Camp Lejeune Water Supplies, Industrial Solvents, Pesticides, Depleted Uranium, Chromium, PCB's, & PFAS
- Radiation – Ionizing and Non-Ionizing Radiation from items such as Nuclear Weapons testing
- Air Pollutants – Burn Pits, Oil Well Fire, Sulfur Fire, Sand, Dust, Airborne particles, Atsugi Waste Incinerators
- Occupational Hazards – Asbestos, Industrial Solvents, Lead, Radiation, Fuels, PCB's, Vibration, Noise, CARC Paint
- Warfare Agents - Chemical and Biological Weapons, Mustard Gas, Edgewood/Aberdeen Experiments, Nerve Gas, Project 112/Project SHAD, Herbicide Test and Storage.



# Fast Facts About a New Toxic Exposure Screening for Veterans

- **It's quick.** The TES takes around 5-10 minutes and can occur as part of one of your regular health care appointments.
- **It documents a variety of exposures.** There are several types of possible exposures or hazards you may have experienced during your military service. This includes open burn pits and airborne hazards, Gulf War-related exposures, Agent Orange, radiation, Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure, and others.
- **It helps support your long-term care plan.** [The purpose of the TES is to make your VA health care team aware of any potential exposures to toxins during your military service.](#) This allows for ongoing care that ensures early diagnosis and treatment of any health concerns that may arise in the future related to your exposure(s). If you report a potential toxic exposure, it will be noted in your health record. Your primary care team will be made aware of your concerns and will connect you with resources to address your follow-up questions.



# Fast Facts About a New Toxic Exposure Screening for Veterans

- **You'll receive additional information.** After your screening, you will also receive information about benefits, registry exams, and clinical resources to address any concerns you may have.
- **You can get screened at your next VA appointment.** Ask about the TES at your next appointment. If you want to be screened sooner, contact your local VA health care team through Secure Message or call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.
- **You'll be screened at least once every 5 years.** Even if you don't have concerns today, you may in the future. We'll screen you again if you do and at least every 5 years. This helps keep your records up to date and ensures exposure concerns are part of your long-term care plan.
- **You can decline.** If you choose not to be screened, you will have the option to decline until the following year.





# Fast Facts About a New Toxic Exposure Screening for Veterans

## There are a couple of things to keep in mind

- **It's not diagnostic.** The TES identifies and documents potential exposures. If there is a need, it will support you in connecting with your health care team. You can also always contact your local VA health care team through Secure Message or call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.
- **It's not part of the VA benefits claims process.** For information about how to file a claim, visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>.
- **Being screened is separate from joining a VA environmental health registry.** VA has six registries: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits, Depleted Uranium, Gulf War, Ionizing Radiation, and Toxic Embedded Fragments. You'll receive information about registry participation after your screening.



# Environmental Health Registry

Health Registry exist to **track and monitor the health of specific groups of Veterans**. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively. You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries.

[Agent Orange Registry](#)

[Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#)

[Gulf War Registry](#) (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn)

[Ionizing Radiation Registry](#)

[Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program](#)

[Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center](#)



Period of Military Service	Agent Orange	Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit	Depleted Uranium Follow-up	Gulf War	Ionizing Radiation	Toxic Embedded Fragments
1940s–1950s					●	
1960s	●				●	
1970s	●					
1990s		●	●	●		
2000s–Present		●	●	●		●



# Registry Participation

- Participation in Registry is separate from claims/benefits and healthcare services.
- VA's health registry evaluation is a free, voluntary medical assessment for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service.
- The evaluations alert Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to exposure to specific environmental hazards during their military service.
- The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.
- Contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) about getting a registry evaluation. You do not need to enroll in VA's health care system to take part.





## Demonstration of Environmental Toxic Exposure Screening



Choose **VA**

Draft - Pre-Decisional Deliberative Document  
Internal VA Use Only

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs