

ACCESSING PACT ACT BENEFITS AND SERVICES

LIKELY IMPACTED:



VIETNAM ERA



POST-9/11 ERA



GULF WAR ERA



SURVIVORS

The **Honoring our PACT Act of 2022** expanded VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law will provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

PACT ACT KEY COMPONENTS:

- » **Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.
- » **Improves the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status, making it easier for Veterans to get their benefits.
- » Ensures every enrolled Veteran **will receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.
- » **Requires VA research** on the mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War; Post-9/11 Veteran health trends; and Veteran cancer rates.
- » Provides robust authority to VA to **expand the workforce and meet the growing demand** for benefits and services.
- » **Authorizes construction of 31 new facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

PRESUMPTIVE LOCATIONS

If a Veteran served in any of these locations and time periods, they are eligible for the new Gulf War-related presumptions. They are also eligible to enroll in VA health care without first filing a disability claim. 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

If a Veteran was called to respond to one of the listed cleanup and response missions below, they may be eligible for radiation exposure presumptions 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 in the vicinity 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

CONDITIONS PRESUMED TO BE SERVICE-CONNECTED

As of August 10, 2022, the conditions below are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures. **APPLY NOW** at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/pact).

PRESUMED SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITIONS: Asthma (diagnosed after service), Brain cancer, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Granulomatous disease, Head cancer of any type, High blood pressure (hypertension), Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Kidney cancer, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Reproductive cancer of any type, including cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Sarcoidosis

HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY

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

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

As of March 5, 2024, all Veterans who meet the basic service and discharge requirements and who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care - including all Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Gulf War, and any other combat zone after 9/11.

This also includes Veterans who deployed in support of the Global War on Terror contingency operations (Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, Resolute Support Mission).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO APPLY OR FILE A CLAIM



VISIT: [VA.GOV/PACT](https://va.gov/pact)

CALL: 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711)

Download the **VA Welcome Kit** [VA.gov/welcome-kit/](https://va.gov/welcome-kit/)
Subscribe to **#VetResources** [VA.gov/vetresources/](https://va.gov/vetresources/)
Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 & press 1 or Text 838255
or Chat at www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/
The one number to reach VA: 1-800-MyVA411



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs