



# All Things PACT Act 101

# PACT ACT OVERVIEW



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U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs





# What is the PACT Act?

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

is a law that expanded 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:**

- Expanded and extended eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.
- Expanded eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.



# PACT Act Key Components



The Act **expanded and extended eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



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.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



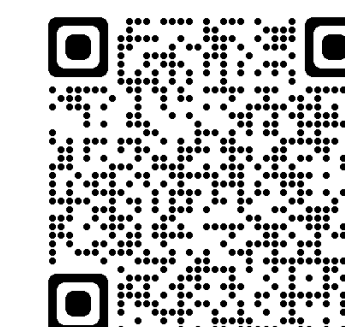
The Act **required research studies** on the mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War; Post-9/11 Veteran health trends; and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act **authorized 31 new facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.



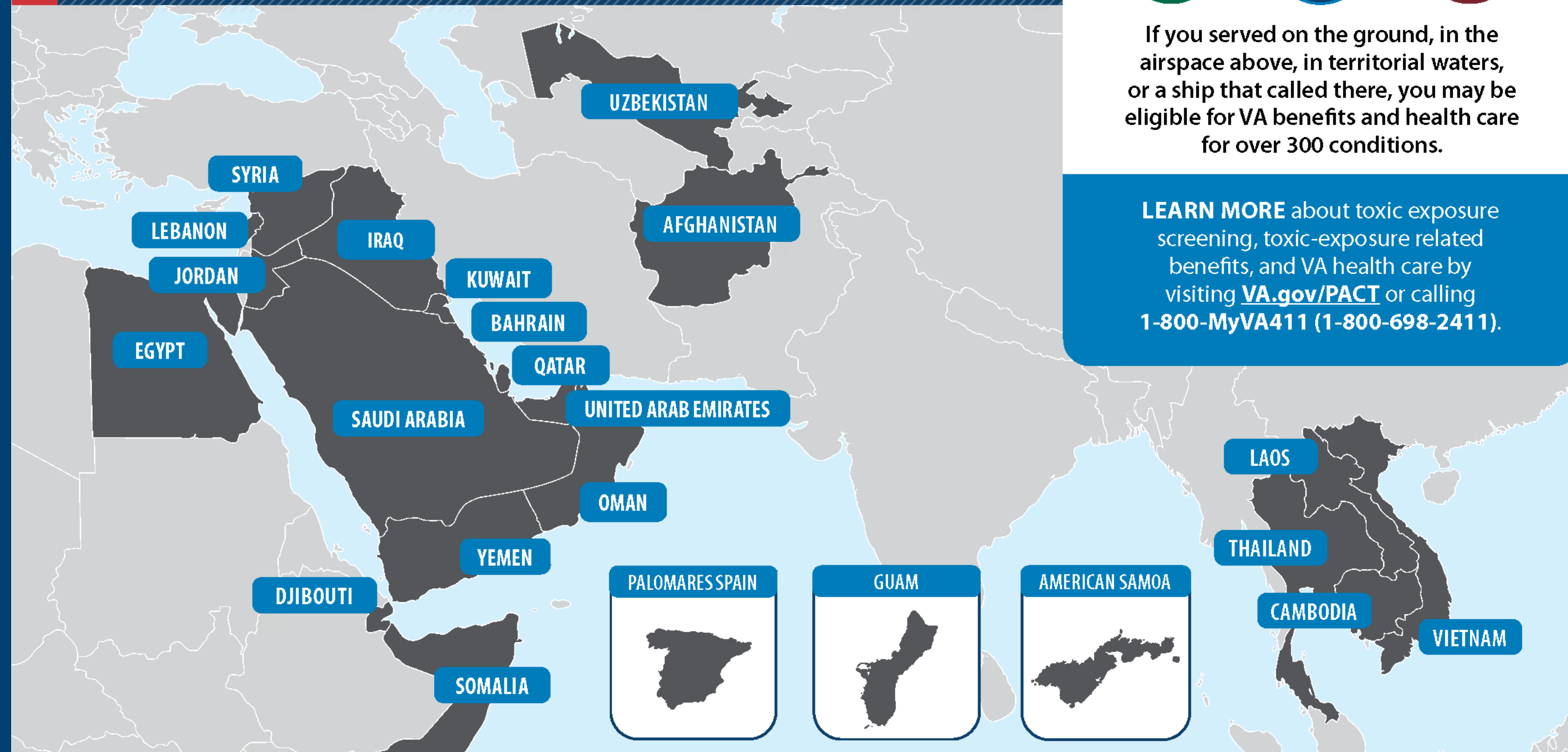


# DID YOU SERVE HERE?



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.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs





# Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA)

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 our country—at home or abroad—are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

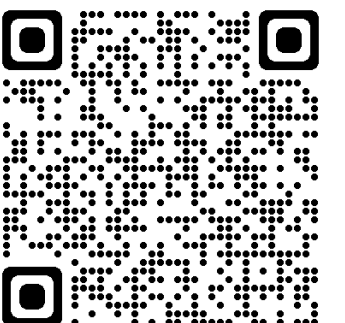
To qualify, Veterans must have participated in a **toxic exposure risk activity (TERA)**.

VA has determined that Veterans who were exposed to one or more of the following hazards or conditions during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training participated in a TERA:

- 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).



This is not a comprehensive list. Veterans can view additional military exposure categories on VA's Public Health website at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/>.







# Gulf War Era and Post-9/11 Eligibility

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.



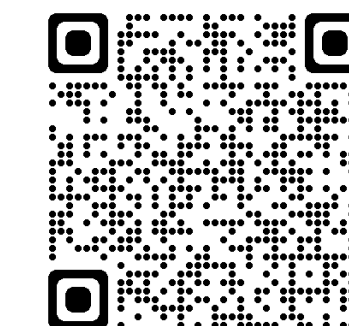
## On or After August 2, 1990:

- 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





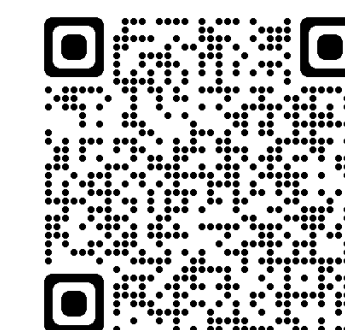


# New Radiation Presumptive Locations



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



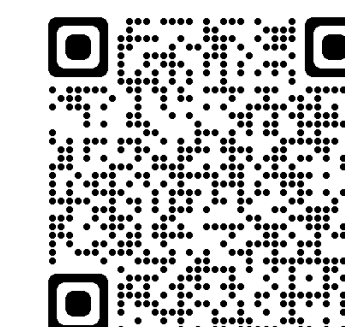




# Conditions Presumed to be Service-Connected

VA encourages all eligible Veterans and survivors to file a claim—or submit their intent to file a claim—for PACT Act-related benefits **NOW** at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT). As of August 10, 2022, the conditions below are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures.

- 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







# Vietnam Era Eligibility

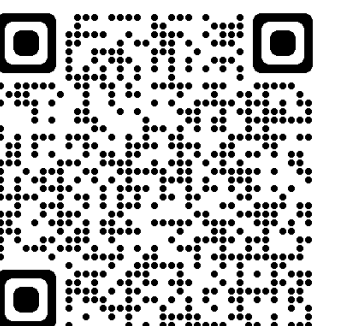
Veterans who served in the following locations and time periods can enroll in VA health care now:

- **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)**





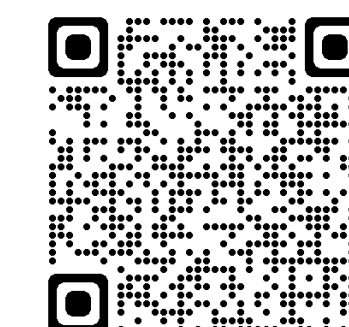


# Expanded Health Care Enrollment Eligibility

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 expansion 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**







# Toxic Exposure Screening

**WHO:** All Veterans enrolled in VA health care

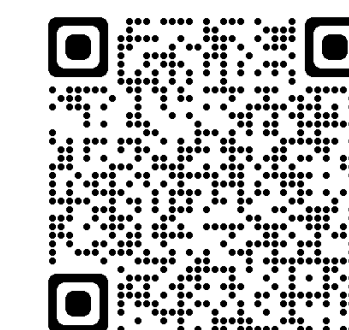
**WHAT:** A quick (5-10 minute) series of questions to identify and document any potential exposures to toxins during military service

**WHEN:** At least once every 5 years

**WHERE:** VA medical centers and clinics

**WHY:** Supports Veteran long-term health plans and informed, whole-health care

**HOW:** Veterans can ask about the screening at their next VA appointment







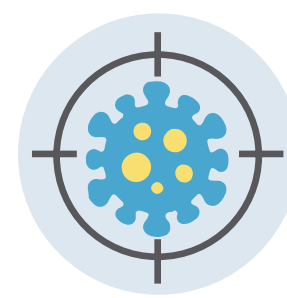
# Filing Claims to Receive Benefits

## Veterans can file a claim for the new presumptive conditions:

- **New Claim**—Veteran has never filed for the presumptive condition
- **Supplemental Claim**—the presumptive condition was previously denied but is now considered to be presumptive



• If VA denied one of the new presumptive conditions in the past but the Veteran may now be eligible for benefits, VA will try to contact them. There is no need to wait to file a Supplemental Claim.



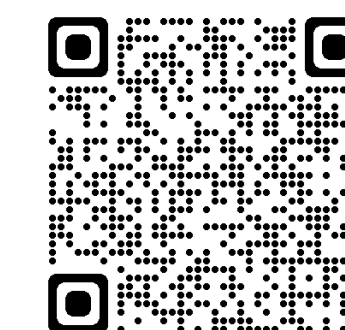
• VA is prioritizing the claims of Veterans with cancer to make sure they get timely access to the care and benefits they need.



• **Pending Claims:** If a Veteran's condition was added to the list of [presumptive conditions](#)\* after the claim was filed, VA will consider it on a presumptive basis.



\*Presumptive conditions do not require proof that the military service caused the condition. Veterans only need to meet the service requirements and have a current diagnosis of the presumptive condition. Veterans should submit any supporting documentation to assist with their claim.





# Other Affected Veterans and Survivors

What about additional benefits and care for other Veterans and their survivors?



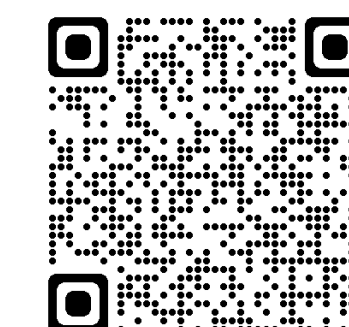
**Under the PACT Act, survivors may be eligible for VA benefits, including Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Burial benefits.**

- [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#)
- [Burial Benefits](#)



Get the care and benefits you **EARNED** and **DESERVE!**

Apply at [\*\*VA.gov/PACT\*\*](https://www.va.gov/PACT) today.

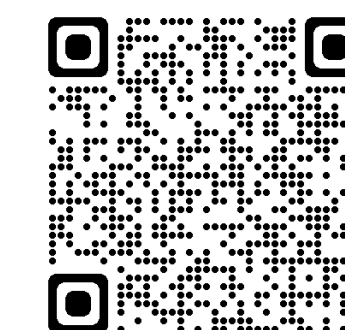
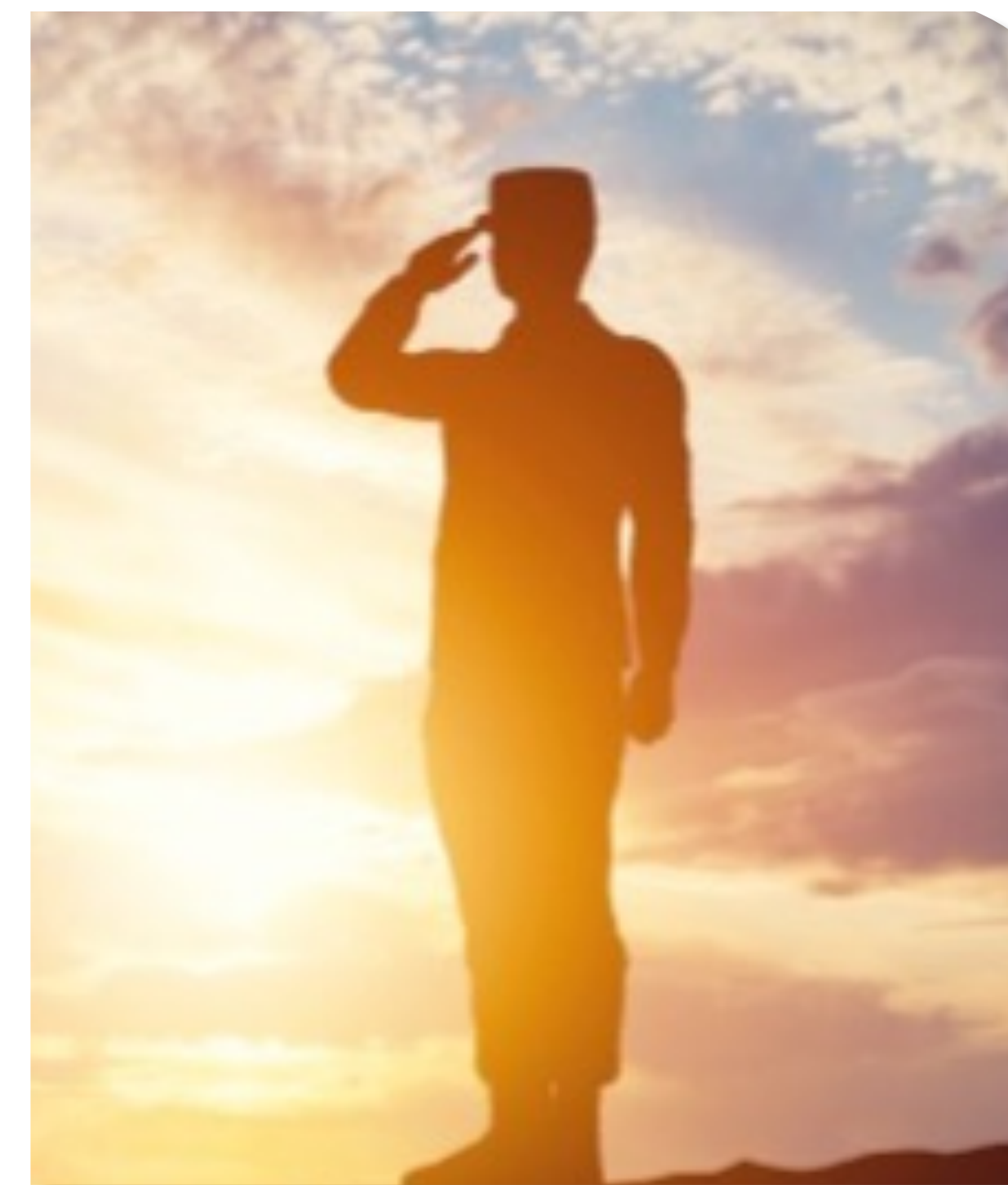






# Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) of 2022

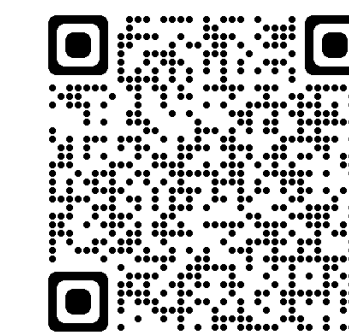
- You may have seen advertisements from lawyers, law firms, or others seeking to represent Veterans and others in litigation related to the PACT Act or the CLJA. **These lawyers, firms, and private parties are not connected with VA benefits or services.**
- Seeking relief under the CLJA will not influence VA's decisions and will not affect the amount of the benefits or health care VA can provide.
- Relief awarded by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to you or your legal representative due to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune.
- Learn more at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp) or call 1-800- MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).
- For questions on the status of cases filed in federal court under the CLJA, contact the Department of Justice at [camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov](mailto:camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov) or call 202-353-4426.





# Avoiding PACT Act Scams

- There's been an increase in [PACT Act-related phishing \(email\)](#), vishing (phone), and [social media scams](#) targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf. To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline at [VA.gov/oig/hotline/](https://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/).



## Do:

- Securely submit your application directly to VA online at [benefits.va.gov/benefits/applying.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/applying.asp) or in person at any VA Regional Office. VA will assist in gathering supportive evidence at no cost to you.
- Be cautious of companies that (1) claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA, (2) advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help, or (3) attempt to pressure you into signing a contract.
- If you're interested in working with a Veterans Service Organization, agent, or attorney, use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) accreditation tool at [VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp) to confirm their credentials.

## Don't:

- Don't sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for assistance with your VA claim.
- Don't sign forms that are not VA generated or a blank form for someone else to complete later.
- Don't be fooled by companies that advertise special relationships with medical professionals and say they can guarantee your benefits award.
- Don't provide personal information (such as your social security number) to anyone offering claims assistance.





# When or How Should I File a Claim?

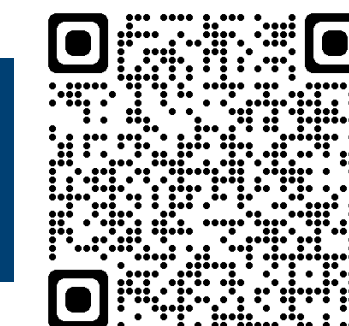


**APPLY NOW!**

## What if I have previously been denied?

Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

*For more info, visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MyVA411*



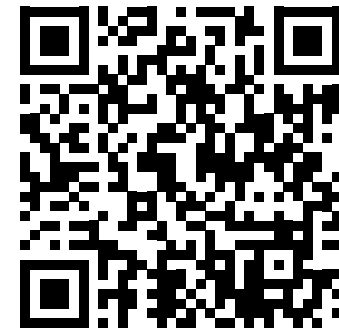


# Apply for VA Health Care



## ONLINE:

[VA.gov/health-care/apply/  
application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



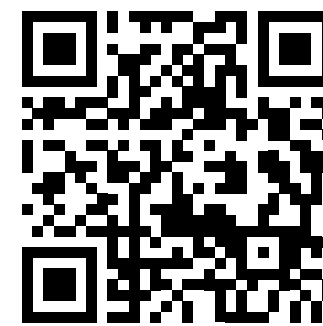
## CALL TOLL FREE:

877-222-VETS (8387)



## IN PERSON:

Visit your nearest VA Medical  
Center or Clinic  
[VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)



## MAIL:

VA Form 10-10EZ to:  
Health Eligibility Center  
PO Box 5207  
Janesville, WI 53547-5207