



# PACT ACT OVERVIEW

Veterans Benefits Administration PACT Act 101

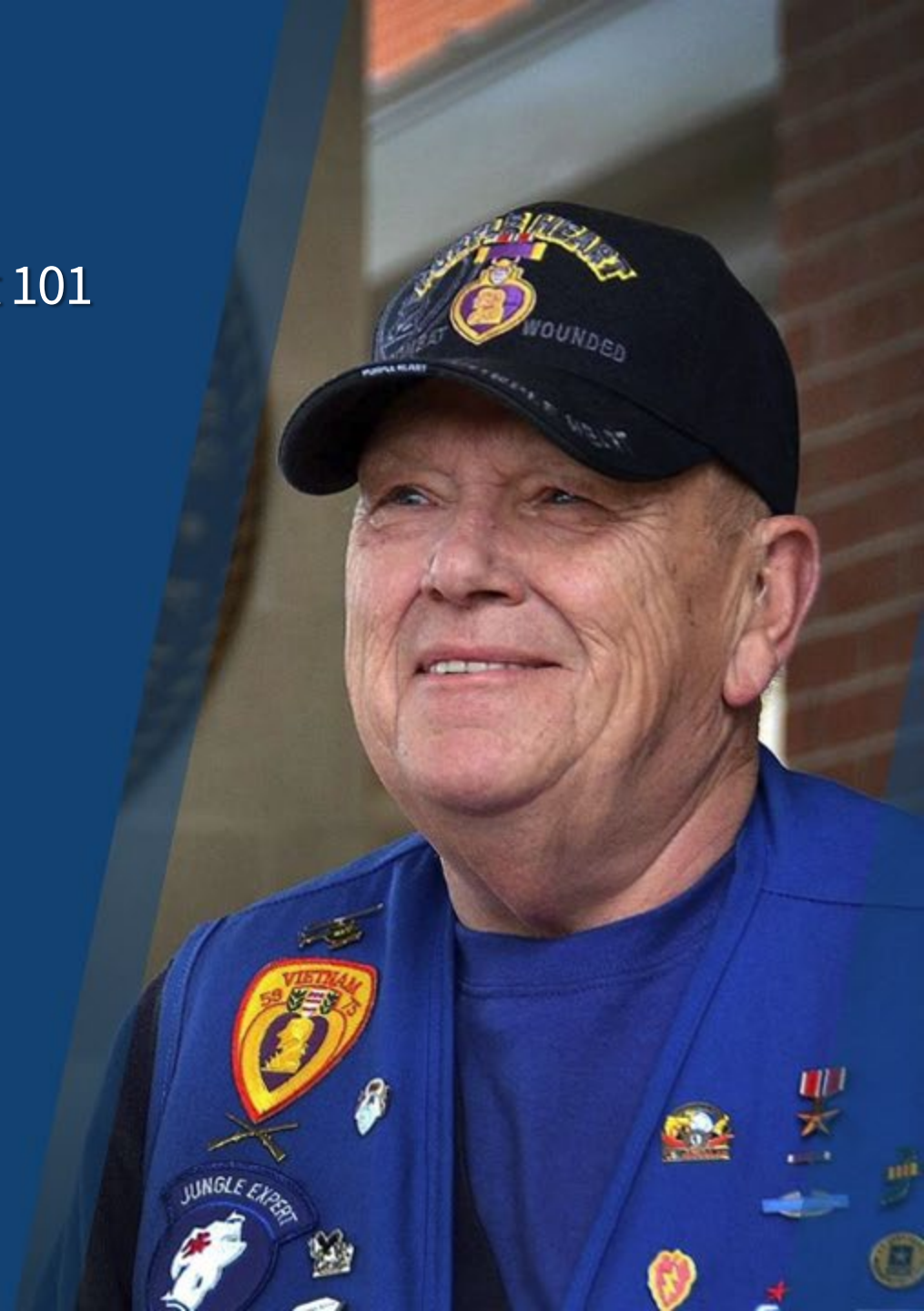


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of Veterans Affairs





# What is the PACT Act?



Vietnam



Gulf War Era



Post 9/11



## The **P**romise to **A**ddress **C**omprehensive **T**oxics **A**ct of 2022 ...

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.





# Veterans Benefits Administration PACT Act Overview

## The PACT Act will bring 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 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures





# Veterans Benefits Administration PACT Act Overview

## What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

- To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.
- But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or “**presume**”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “**presumptive conditions.**”
- We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.
- If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.





# Veterans Benefits Administration PACT Act Overview

## We've added 5 new locations to the list of presumptive locations for Vietnam Era:

- 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 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977



If you served on active duty in any of these locations, we'll automatically assume (or “presume”) that you had exposure to Agent Orange.

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# Veterans Benefits Administration PACT Act Overview

If you served in any of these locations and time periods, we've determined that you had exposure to burn pits or other toxins. We call this having a presumption of exposure.

## **On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:**

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen
- The airspace above any of these locations

## **On or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:**

- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- The airspace above any of these locations

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# Veterans Benefits Administration PACT Act Overview

**We've added 3 new response efforts to the list of presumptive locations for radiation exposure:**

- 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

If you took part in any of these efforts, we'll automatically assume (or "presume") that you had exposure to radiation.

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# What conditions will be presumed to be service-connected?

As of Aug 10, a long list of new conditions are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures. You should **APPLY NOW** at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/pact) so that your claim can be processed, and you can get your benefits.

**Based on the PACT Act, we've added 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:**

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



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# What conditions will be presumed to be service-connected?

**We've added 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.**

## **These cancers are now presumptive:**

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer of any type
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

## **These illnesses are now presumptive:**

- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis



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# Other affected Veterans and Survivors

What about additional benefits and care for other Veterans?...  
Gulf War Veterans? What about survivors' benefits?

Information for Vietnam-era Veterans,  
Gulf War Veterans, survivors, and  
SO MUCH MORE can be found at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

Get the care and benefits you EARNED and DESERVE!

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



[va.gov/pact](https://va.gov/pact)





# When / How should I file a claim?

## APPLY NOW!

If you think you may be eligible for benefits and/or care under the PACT Act, **apply now**

*Go to [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) for more info!*

*If you have questions, call [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411)*

## What if I've 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.

*More info at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)*