



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

PACT Act Combat Override Updates

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VHA Member Services – Health Eligibility Center



EXPANDED ENHANCED ENROLLMENT PERIOD

For Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, if they have not previously enrolled in VA health care, they will have a special enrollment period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023. **(This includes those that have never applied and those currently in a Rejected enrollment status).**

During this 1-year period, they will have another opportunity to apply for enrollment. We strongly encourage them to do so to ensure we can provide them any care they need now or in the future. Enrollment is free, there are no annual costs, and your care may be free as well.

PACT ACT SPECIAL HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT PERIOD

October 1, 2022 – October 1, 2023



Did you serve in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War?

–OR–



Did you serve in combat against hostile forces after November 11, 1998?

–AND–



Were you discharged or released between 09/11/2001 and 10/01/2013?

It's free, no annual costs, and your health care may be free as well!



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



EXPANDED ENHANCED ENROLLMENT PERIOD

The Veteran must complete a VA Form 10-10EZ or EZR and present to either their local VAMC, submit the application online, by mail, by fax or call 877-222-8387.

Veterans in a Rejected status should not be automatically updated. This group of Veterans may be enrolled in Marketplace insurance and enrolling in VA health care would result in them losing their eligibility for other health insurance.

This group of Veterans will be placed in Priority Group 6 **(once the system is enhanced)** until September 30, 2023. After this time period they will be moved to Priority Group 8c.



EXPANDED ENHANCED ENROLLMENT PERIOD

For Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released on or after October 1, 2013, they are eligible for care and to enroll in care for up to 10 years of free VA health care for any condition related to their service from the date of their most recent discharge or separation date.

Example: Veteran discharge on October 1, 2013, and enrolled on November 20, 2013, Combat Veteran Eligibility End Date is now September 30, 2023. This will give them an additional year of Combat Eligibility. They will be placed in Priority Group 6 **(once the system is enhanced)** until September 30, 2023, and then moved to Priority Group 8c thereafter. Any care received during the previous years that was charged a copay will be assessed by billing.



EXPANDED ENHANCED ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Example: Veteran discharge on June 28, 2015, and enrolled on May 30, 2021, and was over the income threshold. The Veterans current priority group is Rejected 8g. Veterans record will need a Rejection Override (enrollment is required to submit a HEC Alert). The Rejection Override will place the Veteran in priority group 8c **(until the system is enhanced and then will be moved to Priority Group 6)**. Veterans new Combat Eligibility End Date will be June 27, 2025, placed in PG6 unless eligible for a higher priority group when the system is enhanced.

The Veteran must complete a VA Form 10-10EZ or EZR and present to either their local VAMC, submit the application online, by mail, by fax or call 877-222-8387.

Veterans in a Rejected status should not be automatically updated. This group of Veterans may be enrolled in Marketplace insurance and enrolling in VA health care would result in them losing their eligibility.

During the upcoming system enhancements this group of Veterans will be excluded from being updated.



APPLY FOR HEALTH CARE

Advise Veterans they may apply one of the following four 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

If a Veteran is currently known to the system and would like to update their information over the telephone, they must call 877-222-8387.



SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY UPDATES

Important: Any Veteran that has discharge on or before September 30, 2013, are not eligible for the 10 year enhanced combat eligibility.

Reject Overrides are approved for those enrolling based on the 1-year special enrollment period. These are newly enrolled Veterans that have never been known to the system and those currently known to the system.

For more information or guidance please reach out to the following groups:

[VHA HEC MS EED CORRESPONDENCE TEAM](#)

[VHA HEC MS ESO VISN Liaisons](#)



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PACT Act Eligibility Process

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PACT ACT ENROLLMENTS

PACT Act Enrollments will follow your normal Add-A-Person process. In addition to completing an enrollment and bringing the record to a Final Determination the following HEC Alert options have been added.

A screenshot of a dropdown menu for PACT Act enrollment options. The menu is open, showing a list of options under the heading "PACT Act". The options are: Agent Orange, Air Borne Hazardous & Open Burn Pit Registry, Combat Override, Gulf War, and Ionizing Radiation. Each option is preceded by a radio button.

- PACT Act
 - Agent Orange
 - Air Borne Hazardous & Open Burn Pit Registry
 - Combat Override
 - Gulf War
 - Ionizing Radiation

Follow:

- [\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) Submitting PACT Act Eligibility HEC Alert – JA.](#)
- [\(VAMC Elig Enroll\) VES PACT Act Add A Person \(AAP\) - JA](#)

If a Veteran is currently enrolled and they present for care or eligibility questions you must submit a HEC Alert if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Follow (VAMC Enroll_Elig) Submitting PACT Act Eligibility HEC Alert – JA.



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

A HEC Alert must be submitted for all applications in all enrollment statuses (**e.g., Verified, Pending, Rejected, Not Eligible**) that meet the enhanced definitions and location areas.

Note: Previously submitted HEC Alerts are currently being reviewed to ensure all overrides have been done based on the changes in PACT Act eligibility for the 1 year special enrollment period.

For PACT Act Agent Orange and Radiation enrollments if a Veteran will be rejected until VBA makes a determination. Place the Veteran in Pending Verification with the Pending Reason Blue Water Navy 7131.

Follow the following job aid for guidance [\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) VES PACT Act Agent Orange and Radiation Veterans – JA](#)

Important: Only PACT Act Agent Orange or Radiation Veterans should be placed in Pending if they will be rejected.



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

Submit a **PACT Act Agent Orange** HEC alert if the Veteran meets the following:

Agent Orange locations during the specified periods:

- 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)



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

Submit a **PACT Act Ionizing Radiation** HEC alert if the Veteran meets the following:

Served in Radiation area at the following location and during the following periods.

- 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



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

Submit a **PACT Act Airborne Hazardous & Burn Pit Registry** HEC alert if the Veteran meets the following:

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



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

Submit a **PACT Act Airborne Hazardous & Burn Pit Registry** HEC alert if the Veteran meets the following:

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



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

Submit a **PACT Act Gulf War** HEC alert if the Veteran meets the following:

Served in a theater of combat operations between November 11, 1998, and discharged on or after September 11, 2001, and by September 30, 2013.

This is not an all-inclusive list.

Bahrain	Iraq
Kuwait	Oman
Qatar	Saudi Arabia
Somalia	The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Afghanistan	Djibouti
Egypt	Jordan
Lebanon	Syria
Uzbekistan	Yemen

The airspace above any of these locations



SUBMITTING HEC ALERTS

Submit a **PACT Act Combat Override** HEC alert if the Veteran meets the following:

Served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and discharged on or after October 1, 2013, and require a Rejection Override.

This is not an all-inclusive list.

Bahrain	Iraq
Kuwait	Oman
Qatar	Saudi Arabia
Somalia	The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Afghanistan	Djibouti
Egypt	Jordan
Lebanon	Syria
Uzbekistan	Yemen

The airspace above any of these locations



TRAINING CREDIT

To receive credit for attending this training, self certify your attendance by access
TMS Course – VA 4637060 TMS Course – [VA 4637060](#)

PACT Act Combat Override Updates 🌐



VA 4637060

Instructor-led and Online Course

Target audience: All Employees

Questions? Contact
VHAMSESSTrainingAdmin@va.gov

Provide a training on the eligibility for Combat Overrides and when a HEC Alert should be submitted.

1 HOUR(S)	1 HOUR(S)	1 HOUR(S)
DURATION	CREDIT	CONTACT

[more](#) ▾

[Assign to Me >](#)

You may also:

[Start Course >](#) [Register Now >](#)



KM ARTICLES

VAMC Enrollment and Eligibility staff may use the following quick links to access the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, also known as the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (PACT Act) information.

[\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) Submitting a PACT Act Eligibility HEC Alert - JA](#)

[\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) VES PACT Act Add a Person \(AAP\) - JA](#)

[\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) VES PACT Act Eligibility Review and Updates - JA](#)

[\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) VES PACT Act Registry Exam Only Registration - JA](#)

[\(VAMC Enroll Elig\) VES PACT Act Agent Orange and Radiation Veterans – JA](#)



AVAILABLE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Veterans can learn more about the PACT Act at www.va.gov

Employees can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA Insider

Veterans can visit www.va.gov/pact

How to apply for VA health care

[Apply For Health Care | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#)

How to Submit A VBA Claim

[File for disability compensation with VA Form 21-526EZ | Veterans Affairs](#)

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry [HOME - Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry \(va.gov\)](#)



QUESTIONS?

QUESTIONS

