

## Changes based on Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

**Blue Water Navy Veterans** who served aboard ships in the open waters off the coast of Vietnam during the Vietnam War are now presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange. If we denied your claim in the past, you can file a new claim based on Public Law 116-23.

**Children of U.S. Veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam War** may now be eligible for benefits. If your child was diagnosed with spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta), learn more about eligibility for birth defects linked to Agent Orange.

Agent Orange was a tactical herbicide the U.S. military used to clear leaves and vegetation for military operations mainly during the Vietnam War. Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange may have certain related illnesses.

You may be eligible for VA disability benefits if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

### Both of these must be true. You:

Have an illness that's caused by exposure to Agent Orange, **and**

Served in a location that exposed you to Agent Orange



### Full eligibility requirements

We determine eligibility based on the facts of each Veteran's claim. But we assume that certain cancers and other illnesses are caused by Agent Orange. We call these presumptive diseases. And we assume that Veterans who served in certain locations were exposed to Agent Orange. We refer to this as presumptive exposure.

### Requirements for Agent Orange presumptive diseases

When sound medical and scientific evidence shows that an illness is caused by Agent Orange exposure, we add it to our list of presumptive diseases. If you've been diagnosed with one of these illnesses, you don't need to prove that it started during—or got worse because of—your military service.

## Service requirements for presumption of exposure

We base eligibility for VA disability compensation benefits, in part, on whether you served in a location that exposed you to Agent Orange. We call this having a presumption of exposure.



You have a presumption of exposure if you meet at least one of the service requirements listed below.

**Between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you must have served for any length of time in at least one of these locations:**

In the Republic of Vietnam, **or**

Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, **or**

On a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, **or**

On regular perimeter duty on the fenced-in perimeters of a U.S. Army installation in Thailand or a Royal Thai Air Force base. These bases include U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, or Don Muang.

**Or at least one of these must be true. You:**

Served in or near the Korean DMZ for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, **or**

Served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a C-123 aircraft with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, **or**

Were involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service, **or**

Were assigned as a Reservist to certain flight, ground, or medical crew duties at one of the below locations.

**Eligible Reserve locations, time periods, and units include:**

**Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base** in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadrons)

**Westover Air Force Base** in Massachusetts, 1972 to 1982 (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, or 901st Organizational Maintenance Squadron)

**Pittsburgh International Airport** in Pennsylvania, 1972 to 1982 (758th Airlift Squadron)