

ASK A SERVICE OFFICER

Proof of service in Vietnam, medical documentation required for AO claims



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Q: How do I know if I have a claim for Agent Orange?

A: Many Vietnam War veterans are concerned that they have been exposed to Agent Orange, the chemical herbicide used to destroy jungle foliage to expose enemy troops. Public Law 107-103 provides a presumption of exposure to herbicides for all veterans who served in Vietnam during the war.

You do not have to prove you were sprayed, or in an area that was sprayed, if you served from Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975. However, before you file a claim, you must have proof of service in Vietnam during wartime as well as medical documentation of the condition or conditions officially recognized by VA. The following is a list of diseases that VA recognizes as related to Agent Orange exposure:

- Peripheral neuropathy (acute and subacute)
- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemia (added in 2010)
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Ischemic heart disease (added in 2010)
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease (added in 2010)
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (e.g., lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)
- Type 2 diabetes

Learn more about these diseases:

 www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp

Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange may be eligible for an Agent Orange registry health exam, health-care benefits and disability compensation. Contact your local American Legion accredited service officer to discuss possible benefits and file a claim:

 www.legion.org/serviceofficers

Do you have a question for Department of Missouri Service Officer Tracy Davis about the claims process or veterans benefits in general? Send it to askso@legion.org.