

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Center for Prostate Disease Research
AGENT ORANGE and PROSTATE CANCER

WHO: Veterans with prostate cancer who served in the following locations and time periods may qualify for service-connected disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

Vietnam (between 9 Jan 1962 and 7 May 1975)

Korea (between 1 Apr 1969 and 31 Aug 1971)

Thailand (between 28 Feb 1961 and 7 May 1975)

Installations where Agent Orange and other herbicides were tested and stored inside and outside of the United States (dates vary by location).

US Navy and Coast Guard ships operating on the waters of Vietnam (between 9 Jan 1962 and 7 May 1975)

WHY: The VA has determined that a positive association exists between exposure to herbicides and the development of prostate cancer (and 13 other diseases. See list at end of handout). It is presumed that veterans have been exposed to Agent Orange if they were assigned to the locations listed in the first paragraph. There is no timeframe or deadline by which the prostate cancer must have been diagnosed following military service.

WHEN: Submit a disability compensation application package when you are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Veterans submitting the application before treatment starts may get a 100% disability rating for 6 months or longer. Veterans submitting the application after treatment is completed (and presumably cured) will not get the 100% disability for 6 months, but may qualify for a reduced disability rating if the treatment resulted in side effects, such as incontinence or erectile dysfunction. If prostate cancer recurs, a veteran may be eligible for 100% disability rating.

HOW MUCH: 100% disability for the following categories (see Compensation Rate Table at www.vba.va.gov for more information):

Veteran with spouse only: \$2823/month

Veteran alone: \$2673/month

SUBMIT APPLICATION PACKAGE:

VA Form 21-526 (“Veteran’s Application for Compensation and/or Pension” – or the “long” form consisting of 10 pages).

If you already receive disability compensation, submit VA Form 21-526b (“Veteran’s Supplemental Claim for Compensation“, a 1-page form instead of “long” form.)

You can submit either form online, if desired, at www.va.gov. The forms are available at www.forms.gov.

Copy of your DD Form 214. (If your DD Form 214 does not include dates of service for the location in which you were presumably exposed to Agent Orange, you will need to provide additional documentation, such as assignment orders or medal citations that verify your presence there.

Copy of your biopsy report.

VA Form 21-4142 (“Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs”).

A copy of your marriage certificate, if married.

MAIL APPLICATION PACKAGE: (for DC, MD, VA)

Send your application package “certified mail with return receipt requested” so you are assured the VA has received it.

Mail your application package to the VA Regional Office in the state in which you reside. Addresses for DC, VA, and MD are listed below.

(The addresses for states other than MD, VA and DC are listed in the Department of Veterans Affairs “Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents” booklet [www.va.gov] or call 1-800-827-1000).

Washington DC

Veterans Administration D.C. Regional Office

1722 I Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20421

1-800-827-1000

Virginia

Veterans Administration Virginia Regional Office

210 Franklin Road, S.W.

Roanoke, VA 24011

1-800-827-1000

Maryland

Veterans Administration Maryland Regional Office

31 Hopkins Plaza Federal Building

Baltimore, MD 21201

1-800-827-1000

FOR INFORMATION:

Contact Ray Walsh

- o He is a Vietnam veteran, prostate cancer survivor and Red Cross volunteer at CPDR.
- o 703-425-1474 or email at raywalsh34@erols.com

Contact Rob Thorner

- o He is the licensed clinical social worker on the CPDR team.
- o 301-295-2462
- Website www.va.gov/agentorange/ (Veterans Affairs)
- o Agent Orange Review” (newsletters), “Agent Orange Briefs” (Fact Sheets), and “Agent Orange Handbook”

Toll-free help lines

- o Dept of VA (health care issues): 1-877-222-8387
- o Dept of VA (compensation and other non-health care benefits): 1-800-827-1000
- o Veterans Special Issue Help Line: 1-800-749-8387
- State Veterans Affairs Departments (call state-level VA office for assistance with locations other than MD, VA, and DC).

o Washington DC

DC Department of Veteran Affairs
Washington, DC 20002
202-724-5454

o Virginia

Virginia Department of Veteran Services
900 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219
804-786-0286; www.dvs.virginia.gov

o Maryland

Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs
16 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-3888 or 1-866-793-1577 (toll free)
www.mdva.state.md/us

Veterans Service Organizations

- o American Legion: 1-800-433-3318 or www.legion.org
- o Armed Forces Services Corporation: 1-888-237-2872 or www.afsc-usa.com
- o Disabled American Veterans: 1-877-426-2838 or www.doc.org
- o Veterans of Foreign Wars: 1-800-VFW-1988 or www.vfw.org
- o Vietnam Veterans of America: 1-800-882-1316 or www.vva.org

Note: Diseases related to Agent Orange exposure:

Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy

Al amyloidosis

Chloracne

Chronic B-cell leukemia

Diabetes mellitus (type 2)

Hodgkin's diseases

Ischemic heart disease

Multiple myeloma

Non-hodgkins lymphoma

Parkinson's disease

Porphyria cutanea tarda

Prostate cancer

Respiratory cancers

Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

Jane Hudak, RN, PhD

12/5/11