



Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act

(Information current as of July 5, 2019)



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- The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act was signed into law on June 25, 2019. PL 116-23
- The law takes effect January 1, 2020.
- The law states that Veterans aboard vessels operating not more than 12 nautical miles from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined by public law.
- Must provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or tell us where you are being treated.



Presumptive Conditions for Agent Orange Exposure



- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Multiple Myeloma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Peripheral Neuropathy (early onset)
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- Agent Orange Presumptive List-
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>

NOTE: Hypertension and Parkinson's Like Symptoms have not been approved yet.



Claims



- The VA is advising veterans to file for Blue Water benefits early even though the law doesn't take effect until January 1, 2020.
- If you have filed for an Agent Orange related condition in the past and have been denied, file your claim on a Supplemental Claim (VA Form 20-0995) with new evidence. New evidence will simply be a statement "I believe my ship traveled within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam".
- If you have never filed a claim you will file a new claim on VA Form 21-526EZ



Claims Cont.'



- If the veteran dies before their claim is decided-a living dependent may file a request to be a substitute claimant.
- If a surviving spouse of a Blue Water Navy Veteran who passes away from an Agent Orange condition, who was previously denied, can become eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) on that basis.
- If you are already entitled to DIC, you will not receive additional entitlement from Blue Water.
- Please stop by your local GDVS Office to file your claim.



Questions?

