

Diseases Associated with Herbicide/Agent Orange Exposure & ALS – Jan 2021

Veterans may be eligible for **Disability Compensation** and health care benefits for diseases that VA has recognized as associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Surviving Spouses, children and dependent parents of Veterans who died as a result of the diseases associated with Agent Orange & ALS may be eligible for **survivors' benefits**.

- **Acute and Sub-acute Peripheral Neuropathy**: A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within 2 years after the date it began.
- **AL Amyloidosis**: A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.
- **Bladder Cancer**: Bladder cancer is a common type of cancer that begins in the cells of the bladder. (2021 NDAA)
- **Chloracne (or Similar Acne form Disease consistent with Chloracne)**
A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acne form disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Chronic B-cell Leukemia**
A type of cancer which affects white blood cells. VA's regulation recognizing all chronic B-cell Leukemia as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- **Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)**: A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.
- **Hodgkin's Disease**: A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.
- **Hypothyroidism**: Hypothyroidism is an underactive thyroid gland and it does not make enough thyroid hormone. (2021 NDAA)
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**: A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, which leads to chest pain. VA's regulation recognizing ischemic heart disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- **Multiple Myeloma**: A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.
- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma** (also Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia & Small Cell Lymphocytic Lymphoma as of May 2011). A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
- **Parkinsonism**: Parkinsonism is any condition that causes a combination of the movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson's disease — such as tremor, slow movement, impaired speech or muscle stiffness — especially resulting from the loss of dopamine-containing nerve cells (neurons). (2021 NDAA)
- **Parkinson's Disease**: A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement. VA's regulation recognizing Parkinson's disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**: A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Prostate Cancer**: Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.
- **Respiratory Cancers**: Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.
- **Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)**: A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) – All Time Periods of Service (NOT Agent Orange related): VA has recognized ALS diagnosed in all Veterans with **90 days or more of continuously active service in the military** as a presumptive disability caused by their military service. 2012 the VA grants “a total disability rating of 100%

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Herbicide (Agent Orange): Exposure during Military Service

The U.S. military herbicide program in South Vietnam took place between 1961 and 1971. Herbicides were sprayed in all 4 military zones of Vietnam. More than 19 million gallons of various herbicide combinations were used.

Exposure to Agent Orange in and Outside Vietnam

- **Exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam:** Exposure on land in Vietnam or on a ship operating on the inland waterways (Brown Water) of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- **Korean Demilitarized Zone;** Exposure along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971 (as of 6/25/2019)
- **Thailand Military Bases:** Possible exposure on or near the perimeters of military bases between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. As of 6/25/2019: Veterans who have been exposed to herbicides in Thailand, and have a child who is diagnosed with Spina Bifida, may be eligible for benefits.
- **Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside Vietnam:** Possible exposure due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases in the United States and locations in other countries
- The VA has a **list of ships whose crews were potentially exposed to herbicides** in Vietnam. The list continually changes and can be viewed at:
<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp>
- **C-123 Aircraft:** Air Force Veterans (active & reserve) who had repeated contact (through flight, ground or medical duties) with contaminated C-123 aircraft used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH) during the period of 1969 to 1986. See additional handout for requirement of duty stations and Air Force Specialty codes to qualify.

“ Offshore” - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019:effective 6/25/2019 A veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed to an herbicide agent. Veterans should gather documentation that proves service on the ship & research the movements of the ship to prove no more than 12 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam.

DETERMINATION OF OFFSHORE: The Secretary shall treat a location as being offshore of Vietnam if the location is not more than 12 nautical miles seaward of a line commencing on the SW demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, intersecting the points below:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Latitude North</u>	<u>Longitude East</u>
At Hon Nhan Island, Tho Chu Archipelago Kien Giang Province	9°15.0'	103°27.0'
At Hon Da Island southeast of Hon Khoai Island Minh Hai Province	8°22.8'	104°52.4'
At Tai Lon Islet, Con Dao Islet in Con Dao-Vung Toa Special Sector	8°37.8'	106°37.5'
At Bong Lai Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°38.9'	106°40.3'
At Bay Canh Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°39.7'	106°42.1'
At Hon Hai Islet (Phu Qui group of islands) Thuan Hai Province	9°58.0'	109°5.0'
At Hon Doi Islet, Thuan Hai Province	12°39.0'	109°28.0'
At Dai Lanh point, Phu Khanh Province	12°53.8'	109°27.2'
At Ong Can Islet, Phu Khanh Province	13°54.02	109°21.02
At Ly Son Islet, Nghia Binh Province	15°23.12	109° 9.02
At Con Co Island, Binh Tri Thien Province	17°10.02	107°20.62

NEHMER V. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: BACK TO 25 SEP 1985

6 Nov 2020: U.S. District Court for the Northern District of CA ruled that the Nehmer decision also applies to Blue Water Navy Veterans, as it has applied to On-Ground and Brown Water Vietnam Veterans. If a VA disability claim for presumption was denied service connection back to 25 Sep 1985, the VA must reevaluate the claim. Veteran should gather previously denied VA claims.