

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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California Veteran Reintegration Program Fact Sheet Agent Orange

Agent Orange is the name given to a blend of herbicides the U.S. military sprayed from 1961 to 1971 during the Vietnam conflict. The herbicides were used to remove unwanted plant life and leaves which otherwise provided cover for enemy forces. Shortly following military service in Vietnam, some veterans reported a variety of medical problems attributed to the exposure to Agent Orange. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as associated with exposure to Agent Orange during military service or as associated with military service. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange may be eligible for disability compensation and health care benefits.

NOTE: *Herbicides also were used, tested, and stored in areas outside of Vietnam. For more information regarding exposure to Agent Orange outside of Vietnam please visit:*
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/militaryexposure.asp.

Some Diseases Associated with Agent Orange Exposure are:

- Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy (must appear within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within 2 years after the date it began.)
- Al Amyloidosis
- Chloracne or Similar Acneform Disease (must appear within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.)
- Chronic B-cell Leukemia's
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Ischemic Heart Disease (VA's regulation recognizing ischemic heart disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.)
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Parkinson's Disease (VA's regulation recognizing Parkinson's disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.)
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (must appear within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.)
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

Birth Defects in Children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans

Furthermore, the VA has recognized that certain birth defects among veterans' children are associated with veterans' qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea. For more information, see www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/birth_defects.asp.

Vietnam Veterans who believe they have a disease caused by herbicide exposure, but that disease is not on VA's list of diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure, may be eligible for service-connection on a "direct" basis. These Veterans must show that their diseases are related to their military service to get disability compensation.

Surviving spouses, children and dependent parents of Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and died as the result of diseases associated with Agent Orange may be eligible for survivor's benefits.

For more information please visit: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/.

If you served during the Vietnam conflict and you might have any of the abovementioned conditions, it is recommended that you contact your local CVSO <http://www.cacvso.org/> to assist you with filing a disability claim.