

“Presumptive” Disability Benefits



What is “Presumptive” Service Connection?

VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. VA does this because of the unique circumstances of their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded.



What Groups of Veterans are entitled to “Presumptive” service connection?

- ❖ Former Prisoners of War
- ❖ Vietnam Veterans (Exposed to Agent Orange)
- ❖ Atomic Veterans (Exposed to Ionizing Radiation)
- ❖ Gulf War Veterans (Undiagnosed Illness)
- ❖ Veterans within one year of release from AD
- ❖ Veterans with continuous service of 90 days



What Conditions are “Presumed” to be Caused by Military Service

Former Prisoners of War:

Imprisoned for any length of time, *and* disability at least 10%:

- ❖ Psychosis
- ❖ Any of the anxiety states
- ❖ Dysthymic disorder
- ❖ Organic residuals of frostbite
- ❖ Post traumatic osteoarthritis
- ❖ Heart disease of hypertensive vascular disease and their complication
- ❖ Stroke and its residuals



“Presumed” Conditions Caused by Imprisonment as a POW for at least 30 days and 10% Disabling

- ❖ Avitaminosis (disease caused by vitamin deficiency)
- ❖ Beriberi
- ❖ Chronic dysentery
- ❖ Helminthiasis
- ❖ Malnutrition (including optic atrophy)



“Presumed” Conditions Caused by Imprisonment as a POW for at least 30 days and 10% Disabling

- ❖ Pellagra
- ❖ Any other nutritional deficiency
- ❖ Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
- ❖ Peripheral neuropathy
- ❖ Cirrhosis of the liver



Vietnam Veterans (Exposed to Agent Orange)

Served in the Republic of Vietnam between 1/9/62 and 5/7/75:

- ❖ AL amyloidosis
- ❖ B-cell leukemias
- ❖ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
- ❖ Diabetes type 2
- ❖ Hodgkin's disease
- ❖ Ischemic Heart Disease
- ❖ Multiple Myeloma



Vietnam Veterans (Exposed to Agent Orange)

- ❖ Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- ❖ Parkinson's Disease
- ❖ Prostate Cancer
- ❖ Respiratory Cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)
- ❖ Soft-Tissue Sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Karposi's Sarcoma or Mesothelioma)



Vietnam Veterans (Exposed to Agent Orange)

- ❖ Acute and sub acute peripheral neuropathy*
- ❖ Chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne*
- ❖ Porphyria Cutanea Tarda*

*Must become manifest to a degree of 10% or more within a year after the last date on which the veteran was exposed to an herbicide agent during active military, naval, or air service



Atomic Veterans (Exposed to ionizing Radiation)

Participated in atmospheric nuclear testing; occupied or was a POW in Hiroshima or Nagasaki; service before 2/1/92 at a diffusion plant in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, Oak Ridge, TN; or service before 1/1/74 at Amchitka Island, AK:

- ❖ all forms of leukemia (except CLL)
- ❖ Cancer of the Thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract (kidneys, renal pelves, ureters, urinary bladder and urethra), brain, bone, lung, colon, ovary.



Atomic Veterans (Exposed to ionizing Radiation)

- ❖ Bronchiolo-alveolar Carcinoma
- ❖ Multiple Myeloma
- ❖ Lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's Disease)
- ❖ Primary Liver Cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)



Gulf War Veterans (Undiagnosed Illness)

Served in Southwest Asia Theater of Operations during the Gulf War with condition at least 10% disabling by 12/31/16. Included are medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms that have existed for six months or more such as:

- ❖ Chronic fatigue syndrome
- ❖ Fibromyalgia
- ❖ Irritable bowel syndrome
- ❖ Any diagnosed or undiagnosed illness that the Secretary of VA determines warrants a presumption of service connection



Gulf War Veterans (Undiagnosed Illness)

Signs or symptoms of an undiagnosed illness include:

fatigue, skin symptoms, headaches, muscle pain, joint pain, neurological symptoms, respiratory symptoms, sleep disturbance, GI symptoms, cardiovascular symptoms, weight loss, menstrual disorders



Veterans within one year of release
from active duty:

Veterans diagnosed with ***CHRONIC***
diseases (such as arthritis, diabetes, or
hypertension) are encouraged to apply for
disability compensation.



Veterans with continuous service of 90 days or more:

Veterans diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)/Lou Gehrig's disease at any time after discharge or release from qualifying active service is sufficient to establish service connection for the disease, if the veteran had active, continuous service of 90 days or more.



New Iraq and Afghan

Brucellosis

Campylobacter jejuni

Q Fever

Malaria

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Nontyphoid Salmonella

Shigella

Visceral leishmaniasis

West Nile virus

