

## *Where can I find more information/apply?*

### **Toll-Free Helpline:**

1-800-749-8387; ext. 3

Publications & Reports on Agent Orange

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/publications/index.asp>

Agent Orange Newsletter - Summer 2016

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/agent-orange/agent-orange-summer-2016/index.asp>

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

From:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq\\_FAQs.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_FAQs.asp)

#### **Q: What are Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ)?**

**A:** Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) are downloadable forms created for Veterans' use in the evaluation process for disability benefits. DBQs will help speed the processing of Veterans' disability compensation and pension claims.

#### **Q: How can you get further answers to DBQ questions?**

**A:** VA has a national call center available to assist at 1-(800) 827-1000.

#### **Q: How do you submit completed DBQs to VA?**

**A:** Veterans and/or their physicians may mail or securely [fax](#) completed DBQs to the VA Regional Office handling the Veteran's claim. To find mailing addresses, visit the VBA website at: [www2.va.gov/directory/guide/Allstate\\_flash.asp](http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/Allstate_flash.asp). To find fax numbers, visit the VA website at [http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq\\_fax\\_numbers.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_fax_numbers.asp). Completed DBQs may also be submitted directly to the VA Regional Office

#### **Q: What is the form # and where is the DBQ for Parkinson's Disease?**

**A:** Parkinson's Disease is form # 21-0960C-1  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0960C-1-ARE.pdf>

## *Where can I find additional resources and information?*



Post-Deployment Health Services' Military Exposures website:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp>



War Related Illness and Injury Study Center website:

<http://www.WarRelatedIllness.va.gov>



eBenefits website

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>



Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers (PADRECC)

[www.parkinsons.va.gov](http://www.parkinsons.va.gov)

1-800-949-1001x5769

Revised 5/2017

Parkinson's Disease Research Education & Clinical Centers

# Agent Orange & Other Toxic Exposures



## PARKINSON'S DISEASE



**VA** HEALTH CARE  
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in the 21st Century

## *What exposures have been associated with Parkinson's disease?*

Exposure to **herbicides**, such as Agent Orange, that scientific studies have found to be associated with an increased risk of Parkinson's disease.

Exposure to certain other **chemicals**, such as the solvents that contaminated water at Camp Lejeune in the past.

**Traumatic brain injury** A 2009 report, Gulf War and Health, Volume 7, found a positive association between moderate or severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) and parkinsonism.

## *If I was exposed to Agent Orange and have Parkinson's Disease, what benefits can I receive?*

Veterans exposed to Agent Orange during military service may be eligible for:

- Agent Orange Registry health exam
- Health care benefits
- Disability compensation

## *Who is eligible to receive benefits for Parkinson's disease?*

**Parkinson's Disease and Vietnam Service:** In 2010, the VA added Parkinson's disease to the list of 14 conditions presumed to be service connected for those Veterans with military exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides in Vietnam and other areas.

## *Who is eligible to receive benefits for Parkinson's disease? (continued)*

**Parkinsonism and Parkinson's Plus:** The report Agent Orange Update: 2014, recommended that service connection be extended to those without a formal diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, but who have "Parkinson-like symptoms". The VA will consider the recommendation and announce a policy in the future. Only Parkinson's disease has the presumption of service-connection currently.

**Locations outside of Vietnam:** Exposure to Agent Orange could have occurred outside of Vietnam. Additional locations are listed on the VA's Internet page, "Exposure to Agent Orange by Location" (<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp>)

**C-123 Aircraft:** The VA has expanded disability benefits to Air Force and Air Force reserve personnel who, between 1969 and 1986, regularly operated, maintained, or served onboard the same C-123 aircraft that were used to spray herbicides during the Vietnam era.

**Camp Lejeune:** In January 2017, the VA announced that Parkinson's disease has been added to the list of conditions with a presumption of service connection to those service personnel who were at Camp Lejeune for no less than 30 days between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987.

**TBI:** For Gulf War Veterans, the VA is continuing to study whether there is sufficient evidence of an increased risk. There is not a service connection designation at this time.

## *What if I believe my Parkinson's disease is related to my military service, but I am not included in any of the service presumption categories?*

Veterans who do not qualify for presumed service connection may still submit a claim if they have PD and a potential exposure during military service.

Service connection can be granted if the Veteran is able to establish a medical connection between the health condition and military service. Claims are reviewed on a case by case basis.

## *References*

**Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014**  
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.  
<http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2016/veterans-and-agent-orange-update-2014.aspx>

**Agent Orange-contaminated C-123 aircraft**  
IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2015. *Post-Vietnam dioxin exposure in Agent Orange-contaminated C-123 aircraft*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.  
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2015/Post-Vietnam-Dioxin-Exposure-in-Agent-Orange-Contaminated-C-123-Aircraft.aspx>

**Camp Lejeune:**  
VA Press Release – January 13, 2017  
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2853>  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (TTSDR)  
Camp Lejeune web page with links to the two newest reports:  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/index.html>

**Gulf War and Health:**  
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Gulf War and health: Volume 10: Update of serving in the Gulf War, 2016*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press  
<http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2016/gulf-war-and-health-volume-10.aspx>  
Institute of Medicine. *Gulf War and Health: Volume 7: Long-Term Consequences of Traumatic Brain Injury*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2009. doi:10.17226/12436.  
<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12436/gulf-war-and-health-volume-7-long-term-consequences-of>