PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

Tropical Diseases

If a veteran served in a tropical location and later developed a tropical disease known to come from that location, it can be considered service-connected as long as it manifests to 10% within 1 year of serving in the tropical location.

Now some of these diseases have incubation periods (the time between infection and the manifestation of symptoms). If the disease is medically known to have such a lengthy incubation period that the symptoms don’t begin until after the 1-year limit, it is still considered service-connected.

Presumptive Conditions:

Amebiasis,
– Blackwater fever
– Cholera
– Dracontiasis
– Dysentery
– Filariasis
– Leishmaniasis
– Loiasis
– Malaria
– Onchocerciasis
– Carrion’s disease
– Pinta
– Plague
– Schistosomiasis
– Yaws
– Yellow fever

Presumed Conditions for Prisoners of War

Prisoners of War (POWs) get the following conditions regardless of how long they were on active service. The 90-day rule does not apply. The only factor that determines qualification is the length of time imprisoned. For some conditions, the vet must have been a POW for at least 30 days. For the rest of the conditions, the vet simply must have been a POW for any length of time.

The following conditions qualify once they manifest to at least 10% at any time after discharge.

Any length of imprisonment:

- Any Psychotic Disorder
- Any Anxiety Disorder
- Chronic depression
- Residuals of frostbite, (must have been imprisoned in a cold enough place)
- Degenerative arthritis caused by trauma
- Atherosclerotic heart disease
- Hypertensive heart disease
- Stroke
- Osteoporosis, (must be after October 10, 2008, and the vet must have diagnosed PTSD. Don’t really get the connection between PTSD and osteoporosis, but there it is.)

Imprisonment of 30 days or more:

- Avitaminosis
  – Beriberi
  – Chronic dysentery
PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

- Helminthiasis
- Pellagra
- Any other Nutritional Deficiency
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Peptic Ulcer Disease
- Peripheral neuropathy (unless caused by infection not related to service)
- Cirrhosis of the liver
- Osteoporosis, (must be after September 28, 2009. No PTSD requirement here, though.)

Veterans Exposed to Herbicides (Agent Orange)

The herbicide Agent Orange was used in both Vietnam and Korea during the 60s and 70s.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 or in or near the Korean DMZ in herbicide areas between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971 are considered to have been exposed to Agent Orange, unless there is solid evidence that they were not exposed. Veterans are considered to have served “in Vietnam” if they were on the ground, even if only for a short time.

For veterans who served in the waters offshore Vietnam, the VA posted a new list at the beginning of 2018 of ships that had operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam. Veterans who served on one of the ships noted on this Ship List qualify for Agent Orange exposure. Blue Water Veterans (those not on the list) currently only qualify for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Additionally, veterans who served on contaminated C-123s after the war also qualify as having been exposed to Agent Orange (see the VA’s list of Air Force Specialty Codes and Units for specifics on C-123 qualifications).

Other veterans exposed to Agent Orange can qualify if they can show proof that they

- served on or near military bases in Thailand during the Vietnam Era
- served where herbicides were tested or stored outside of Vietnam
- were involved in the testing, storage, or disposal of herbicides in the US

Any length of service is enough to qualify—the 90-day rule does not apply to vets exposed to Agent Orange.

The following conditions qualify if they manifest at any time to any degree unless otherwise specified.

Primary amyloidosis
- Chloracne or similar acneform disease, (must manifest to 10% within 1 year of last exposure)
- Type 2 diabetes
- Hodgkin’s disease
- Ischemic heart disease, (does NOT include high blood pressure, peripheral vascular disease, or stroke)
- All chronic B-cell leukemias
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, (Blue Water Veterans eligible for this condition)
- Parkinson’s disease
- Peripheral neuropathy (must manifest to 10% within 1 year of last exposure)
- Porphyria cutanea tarda, (must manifest to 10% within 1 year of last exposure)
- Prostate cancer
- Lung cancer
- Bronchial cancer
- Larynx cancer
- Trachea cancer
- Adult fibrosarcoma
- Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans
- Malignant fibrous histiocytoma
PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

– Liposarcoma
– Leiomyosarcoma
– Epithelioid leiomyosarcoma (malignant leiomyoblastoma)
– Rhabdomyosarcoma
– Ectomesenchymoma
– Angiosarcoma (hemangiosarcoma and lymphangiosarcoma)
– Proliferating (systemic) angioendotheliomatosis
– Malignant glomus tumor
– Malignant hemangiopericytoma
– Synovial sarcoma (malignant synovioma)
– Malignant giant cell tumor of tendon sheath
– Malignant schwannoma
– Malignant mesenchymoma
– Malignant granular cell tumor
– Alveolar soft part sarcoma
– Epithelioid sarcoma
– Clear cell sarcoma of tendons and aponeuroses
– Extraskeletale Ewing’s sarcoma
– Congenital and infantile fibrosarcoma
– Malignant ganglioneuroma

Veterans Exposed to Radiation

Veterans who qualify as being exposed to radiation include vets who did one of the following while in the military:

1.) participated in onsite nuclear testing, including presence at the test site, on ships, aircraft or equipment in support of the nuclear test, at the nuclear test site within 6 months after the test, or participated in the decontamination of equipment used during a nuclear test

2.) was within 10 miles of Hiroshima or Nagasaki between August 4, 1945 and July 1, 1946

3.) was a prisoner of war in Japan within 75 miles of Hiroshima or 150 miles of Nagaskai, worked within those areas, or were repatriated through the port of Nagasaki between August 6, 1945 and July 1, 1946

4.) was monitored with a dosimetry badge for radiation exposure on the grounds of a gaseous diffusion plant in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, or K25 at Oak Ridge, TN for at least 250 days before February 1, 1992

5.) performed a job with as much exposure as a dosimetry badge monitor on the grounds of a gaseous diffusion plant in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, or K25 at Oak Ridge, TN for at least 250 days before February 1, 1992

6.) was exposed to radiation from underground nuclear tests on Amchitka Island, AK before January 1, 1974

7.) served in the garrison or maintenance forces at Eniwetok from June 21, 1951 to July 1, 1952 or August 7, 1956 to August 7, 1957 or November 1, 1958 to April 30, 1959

The following conditions qualify if they are manifest at any time to any degree:

-Leukemia, (any except chronic lymphocytic leukemia)
– Thyroid cancer
– Breast cancer
– Pharynx cancer
– Esophageal cancer
PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

– Stomach cancer
– Small intestine cancer
– Pancreatic cancer
– Multiple myeloma
– Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphomas
– Bile duct cancer

– Gallbladder cancer
– Primary liver cancer, (except if there is cirrhosis or hepatitis B)
– Salivary gland cancer
Bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma
– Bone cancer
– Brain cancer
– Colon cancer
– Lung cancer
– Ovarian cancer
– Genitourinary cancer

Gulf War Veterans

The VA Presumptive List for Gulf War veterans is divided into two: Gulf War Syndrome and Infectious Diseases.

The first list is by far the most ambiguous.

Gulf War vets began developing seemingly random, unconnected chronic symptoms that do not comprise a single identifiable diagnosis. Because of this, the term “Gulf War Syndrome” was coined to mean a group of unrelated, but disabling, symptoms that many Gulf War veterans developed after serving in Southwest Asia. If a clinical diagnosis can be made, then the symptoms do NOT constitute Gulf War Syndrome.

To be included under the heading of Gulf War Syndrome, each symptom must be present or reoccurring for at least 6 months (“chronic”), and cannot be tied to service outside Southwest Asia or be caused by the vet’s misconduct.

If Gulf War Syndrome is diagnosed before discharge, then those symptoms are service-connected. If, however, the symptoms do not develop until after discharge, then those symptoms can qualify as long as they manifest to 10% before December 31, 2021.

Gulf War Syndrome symptoms can include:

– Fatigue
– Skin symptoms
– Headaches
– Muscle pain
– Joint pain
– Neurological symptoms
– Mental symptoms
– Respiratory symptoms
– Trouble sleeping
– Cardiovascular symptoms
– Abnormal weight loss
– Menstrual disorders
– Gastrointestinal symptoms

In addition to Gulf War Syndrome, veterans who develop one of the following infectious diseases qualify if they served in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan after September 19, 2001, unless there is sufficient evidence that the disease was not related to service.
PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

All diseases must be manifest to 10% within 1 year of the last date of service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan unless otherwise noted.

**Brucellosis.**

- Campylobacter Jejuni
- Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)
- Malaria, (must be manifest to 10% within 1 year or the incubation period must have clearly begun while in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan)
- *Tuberculosis* (no time limit for manifestation)
- Nontyphoid salmonella

**Shigella**

- Visceral leishmaniasis, (no time limit for manifestation)
  - West Nile Virus (code determined on main manifestation, i.e. meningitis, encephalitis, etc.)

Many of these infectious diseases can cause other symptoms or conditions to develop over time. If a Gulf War veteran who qualifies for one of the above infectious diseases develops one of the following symptoms tied to that disease, it can also qualify for VA Disability. The symptom must, however, develop within the time specified below or, if no time is specified, be satisfactorily connected to the infectious disease by a medical authority.

**Brucellosis:**

- Arthritis
  - Infections of the Cardiovascular, Nervous, or Respiratory systems
  - Chronic meningitis and meningoencephalitis
  - Deafness
  - Demyelinating meningovascular syndromes
  - Episcleritis
  - Fatigue, inattention, amnesia, and depression
  - Guillain-Barre syndrome
  - Hepatic abnormalities, including granulomatous hepatitis
  - Multifocal choroiditis
  - Myelitis-radiculoneuritis
  - Nummular keratitis
  - Papilledema
  - Optic neuritis
  - Infections of the Genitourinary System
  - Sensorineural hearing loss
  - Spondylitis
  - Uveitis

**Campylobacter jejuni:**

- Guillain-Barre syndrome, (must manifest within 2 months of the infection)
- Reactive Arthritis, (must manifest within 3 months of the infection)
- Uveitis, (must manifest within 1 month of the infection)

**Coxiella burnetii:**

- Chronic hepatitis
- Endocarditis
- Osteomyelitis
PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- **Vascular infection**

**Malaria:**
- Demyelinating polyneuropathy (code depends on the nerves affected)
- Guillain-Barre syndrome
- Hematologic manifestations (anemia, after falciparum malaria or splenic rupture, after vivax malaria)
- Immune-complex glomerulonephritis
- Neurologic disease
- Neuropsychiatric disease
- Retinal hemorrhage and scarring
- Renal disease

**Tuberculosis:**
- Active tuberculosis
- Tissue damage from pulmonary and active tuberculosis (rated on the damaged tissue)

Nontyphoid Salmonella:
- Reactive arthritis, (must manifest within 3 months of infection)

**Shigella:**
- Hemolytic-uremic syndrome, (must manifest within 1 month of infection)
- Reactive arthritis, (must manifest within 3 months of infection)

**Visceral Leishmaniasis:**
- Dermal leishmaniasis, (must manifest within 2 years of infection)
- Reactivation of visceral leishmaniasis

**West Nile Virus:**
- Various physical, functional, or cognitive disability

A veteran qualifies under this category if he can prove full-body exposure to mustard gas (sulphur or nitrogen) or Lewisite while on active duty in one or more of the following ways:

- during field or chamber testing
- during battlefield conditions in WWI
- during the German air raid on Bari, Italy in WWII
- during the manufacturing or handling of these compounds

If the veteran qualifies, then the following conditions are considered service-connected.

**Mustard gas:**
- chronic conjunctivitis
- keratitis
- corneal opacities
- scars (must clearly be from exposure)
- nasopharyngeal cancer
- laryngeal cancer
- lung cancer (except mesothelioma)
- squamous cell carcinoma
- chronic laryngitis
- chronic bronchitis
PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS FOR EACH WAR ERA.

– chronic emphysema
– asthma
– chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
– acute non-lymphocytic leukemia, (nitrogen mustard only)

**Lewisite:**

– chronic laryngitis
– chronic bronchitis
– chronic emphysema
– asthma
– chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

To make sure that the Directorate has all the information needed to make a proper determination, include the following in your VA Disability Claim:

– number of exposures
– length of exposures (20 minutes, 2 hours, etc.)
– dates of exposures (month and year)
– location of exposure
– your assigned unit at the time of exposure
– type of exposure (full body, skin patch, etc.)
– detailed cause of exposure (deployed warfare exposure, test involvement, etc.)
– procedures followed before, during, and after exposure (including any medical treatment received after exposure)
– immediate effects (blistering, difficulty breathing, etc.) and residual effects (development of one of the above conditions, etc.) of exposure,
– disabilities caused by exposure, including the dates of their development
– any medical records or other records that show proof of exposure

**Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Camp Lejeune Water**

If a veteran (including reservists and National Guard members) served at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 and later developed one of the following diseases, it will be considered service-connected as of March 14, 2017.

– Kidney cancer
– Liver cancer
– Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
– Adult leukemia
– Multiple myeloma
– Parkinson’s disease
– Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
– Bladder cancer