

Center for Prostate Disease Research
Walter Reed Army Medical Center

AGENT ORANGE, VIETNAM VETERANS and PROSTATE CANCER

WHAT: Vietnam veterans diagnosed with prostate cancer may qualify for service-connected disability compensation. Veterans who served in Korea in 1968 or 1969 may also qualify.

WHY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that a positive association exists between exposure to herbicides and the development of prostate cancer (and 10 other diseases). It is presumed that veterans have been exposed to Agent Orange if they were in country between January 9, 1962 and May 5, 1975. A veteran qualifies for compensation no matter when the prostate cancer occurs.

HOW: Submit a disability compensation application immediately after being diagnosed with prostate cancer! Veterans submitting the application before treatment may get a 100% disability rating for approximately 6 months. Veterans submitting the application after treatment may not qualify because the cancer is presumed cured. (However, after treatment, veterans may qualify for a reduced disability rating if treatment resulted in side effects. If recurrence occurs, a veteran may be eligible for 100% disability rating).

HOW MUCH: 100% disability for following categories (see Compensation Rate Table at www.vba.va.gov for more information)

- Veteran with spouse and child: \$2772/month
- Veteran with spouse only: \$2669/month
- Veteran alone: \$2527/month

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Go to the VA website at www.va.gov. Click on "Compensations".
Submit the application (VA Form 21-526) online.
OR
2. Submit a hard copy application (available at CPDR or VA website).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Copy of DD Form 214. If DD Form 214 does not include dates of service in Vietnam, need additional official documentation, such as, assignment orders or medal citation, etc. that verifies your presence in Vietnam.
 2. Copy of biopsy report
 3. Letter from physician stating that you have prostate cancer
 4. VA Form 21-4142 (Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs). Form included in CPDR Agent Orange packet or go to www.forms.gov.
 5. Copy of marriage certificate, if married
- ** Send documents "certified mail with return receipt requested".

WHERE TO MAIL APPLICATION: (for DC, MD, VA)

* Addresses for other states listed in Veterans Affairs Federal Benefits booklet (www.va.gov)

Washington DC

Veterans Administration D.C. Regional Office
1722 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20421

Virginia

Veterans Administration Virginia Regional Office
210 Franklin Road, S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24011

Maryland

Veterans Administration Maryland Regional Office
31 Hopkins Plaza Federal Building
Baltimore, MD 21201

FOR INFORMATION:

- Contact Ray Walsh
 - Vietnam veteran, prostate cancer survivor and Red Cross volunteer at Center for Prostate Disease Research
 - 703-425-1474 or email at raywalsh34@erols.com
- WRAMC Veterans Affairs Field Office
 - 5th Floor, Room 5Z20A
 - Mon, Tues, Fri: 0730-1130. Thur: 0730-1600 (Closed Wed)

- Appointments preferred. Call 202-782-3645.
- Website www.va.gov. (Veterans Affairs)
 - Agent Orange Web Page at www.va.gov/agentorange for "Agent Orange Review" (newsletters), "Agent Orange Briefs" (Fact Sheets), and "Agent Orange General Information Brochure". For information on "Agent Orange and Vietnam Veterans" go to www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide
- Toll-free help lines
 - Dept of VA Telephone Assistance Service: 1-800-827-1000
 - Veterans Special Issue Help Line: 1-800-749-8387
- State Veterans Affairs Departments
 - Washington DC
DC Department of Veteran Affairs
Washington, DC 20002
202-724-5454
 - Virginia
Virginia Department of Veteran Services
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804-786-0286
Web: www.dvs.virginia.gov
 - Maryland
Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-3888 or 1-866-793-1577 (toll free)
Web: www.mdva.state.md/us
- Veterans Service Organizations
 - American Legion: 1-800-433-3318
 - Armed Forces Services Corporation: 1-888-237-2872
 - Disabled American Veterans: 1-877-426-2838
 - Paralyzed Veterans of America: 1-800-424-8200
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars: 1-800-VFW-1988
 - Vietnam Veterans of America: 1-800-882-1316