

Claims Processes

- Seek Veteran Service Organization representation
- File immediately
- Obtain and copy all medical records and correspondence
- Report all address and phone changes to the Veterans Health Administration



Important Contact Information

- American Legion National Headquarters
(202) 861-2772 or
1-800-433-3318 or
www.legion.org
- Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Office
1-800-827-1000 or
www.va.gov
- Agent Orange Review
Environmental Agents Service
VA Central Office
810 Vermont Avenue
Washington DC
(202) 273-8580

Spina Bifida Contacts

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
P.O. Box 65025
Denver CO 80206-9025
1-800-733-8387
- Shriners Hospital for Children
1-800-237-5055 or
www.shrinershq.org

Other brochures available:

- Guide to Understanding Agent Orange**
- Institute of Medicine and Agent Orange Research**



For more information contact:

**Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation Commission.
The American Legion
1608 "K" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 861-2772
www.legion.org**

3/99

Vietnam Veterans



Guide to Agent Orange Benefits



Benefits for Vietnam Veterans and Their Families

This benefit brochure is for Vietnam veterans and their family members. The American Legion hopes that all veterans will understand the benefits they are eligible to receive.

During the Vietnam War herbicides were used to rid the trees of leaves in efforts to expose enemy troops. These herbicides, one being named Agent Orange, may have harmed some veterans who were exposed to them. The Department of Veterans Affairs is presuming exposure to veterans deployed to Vietnam if they become ill with particular conditions. Compensation may then be given to them or their families.



Service Connected Conditions Found to be Related to Agent Orange Exposure

- chloracne
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- multiple myeloma
- respiratory cancers
 - lung
 - trachea
 - larynx
 - bronchus
- prostate cancer
- soft tissue sarcoma
- Hodgkin's disease
- porphyria cutanea tarda
- peripheral neuropathy
- spina bifida in children of veterans



Spina Bifida in Veteran's Children Agent Orange Act of 1996

- created benefit eligibility to veteran's children with spina bifida
- cash allowances are awarded for job training, health care and rehabilitation
- Monthly compensation awards are \$205, \$715 or \$1226 depending upon disability
- Assistance may also be found at the Shriners Hospitals for Children

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) is offered to Veterans, with emergency needs, from the American Legion. Call your local Post or National Headquarters to see if you qualify.

Eligibility for Veterans Benefits

If a veteran suffers from a condition mentioned to the left there is no need to prove exposure occurred.

Proof is needed of:

- service in Vietnam during war time (January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975)
- medical documentation of the condition(s) listed and
- a few conditions require that a veteran prove his/her symptoms started to appear within a particular time frame, determined by VA, after war time service
- **If a veteran suffers from a condition(s) not mentioned in this brochure** they can submit a claim with the following documentation
- evidence that exposure to Agent Orange occurred
- Doctor's statement that they suffer from the condition and
- an opinion from a medical expert claiming it is as likely as not that Agent Orange exposure caused the condition

Family Members Eligibility

Parents, children and spouses of deceased Vietnam veterans may qualify to receive benefits. Proof is needed of:

- relationship to veteran and
- veteran served during war time and
- veterans condition as a result of such service

The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization, 2.8 million strong.