



# PACT ACT VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

The law **expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans** who may not have been eligible before and requires VA to phase in hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness to three new categories of Veterans:

**Category 1:** Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.



**Category 2:** Veterans assigned to a duty station (including airspace above) on or after:



**August 2, 1990**, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or United Arab Emirates

**September 11, 2001**, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen, or any other country determined relevant by VA

**Category 3:** Veterans who deployed in support of:



Operation Enduring Freedom    Operation Freedom’s Sentinel  
Operation Iraqi Freedom    Operation New Dawn  
Operation Inherent Resolve    Resolute Support Mission

Between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023, **Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities** after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care.

**Veterans** who served in certain countries during specific time periods:

**Republic of Vietnam**  
January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1975

**Thailand**  
*Any U.S. or Royal Thai base*  
January 9, 1962 - June 30, 1976

**Guam or American Samoa**  
*(or in their territorial waters)*  
January 9, 1962 - July 31, 1980

**Laos**  
December 1, 1965 - September 30, 1969

**Cambodian**  
*at Mimot or Krek,  
Kampong Cham Province*  
April 16, 1969 - April 30, 1969

**Johnston Atoll**  
*(or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll)*  
January 1, 1972 - September 30, 1977

## Toxic Exposure Screening



Every enrolled Veteran will receive an **initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans not enrolled but who are eligible will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



## KEY ELIGIBILITY DATES

**AUGUST 10, 2022:**  
PACT Act signed into law.

**OCTOBER 1, 2022:**  
Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, certain provinces in Cambodia, Guam, or American Samoa (or their territorial waters), or the Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) during specific time periods. Applies for health care eligibility.

**NOTE:** This will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.

**OCTOBER 1, 2022 - OCTOBER 1, 2023:**  
Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care.

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022:**  
Begin incorporating toxic exposure screening for enrolled Veterans.

**OCTOBER 1, 2024:**  
Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released August 2, 1990 - September 11, 2001.

**OCTOBER 1, 2026:**  
Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released September 12, 2001 - December 31, 2006.

**OCTOBER 1, 2028:**  
Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2012.

**OCTOBER 1, 2030:**  
Phase in enrollment for Categories 1 and 2 for Veterans discharged or released January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2018.

**OCTOBER 1, 2032:**  
Phase in enrollment for Category 3 Veterans.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

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