



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Service Officer Newsletter



This Newsletter will be published monthly for all Post Service Officers and accredited Service Officers.

As the newly appointed Chairperson of the Veterans Service Committee, I would like to thank everyone for their dedication and work for all Veterans and their families.

With the passing of the PACT Act we have started to experience an increase in claims related to the PACT Act and the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (Camp Lejeune Water). I encourage all Service Officers to read the attached guidance given by the National Veterans Service Office.

Address all questions and concerns to the Chairperson:

Charles.vfwerie@gmail.com

Work Cell (717).614.3319

The NVS has announced the deployment of a webpage designed to inform veterans about benefits they may qualify for due to the PACT Act. The webpage is www.pactactinfo.org.

Encourage your veterans to not sign with a Law Firm as the guidance for offset has not been published. If the Veteran has expressed the desire to sign with a Law

Firm the VFW has endorsed the Law Firm of Baird Bookstedt Federico & Cordea
(410).421.7777

All claims under the PACT Act will begin to be reviewed after January 1, 2023.

Post Service Officers are reminded that they cannot sign any forms related to a VA Claim, only Accredited Services Officers can sign the forms. Post Officers that sign off on the forms face legal action.

The National Veterans Office will have a representative at the Mid-Winter Conference to conduct a briefing and also training if needed. All Post Service Officers are encouraged to attend the Mid-Winter Conference and receive this training.

In closing, we need to continue to work as a Team with the end result of
“TAKING CARE OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.”

Charles J. Beattie

Department of Pa

Dept. Service Officer



CAMP LEJEUNE CONTAMINATED WATER FACT SHEET PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION

Presumptive Compensation

[38 CFR.3.309(f)]

CONDITIONS

Kidney Cancer	Multiple Myeloma
Liver Cancer	Parkinson's disease
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
Adult leukemia	Bladder cancer

SERVICE

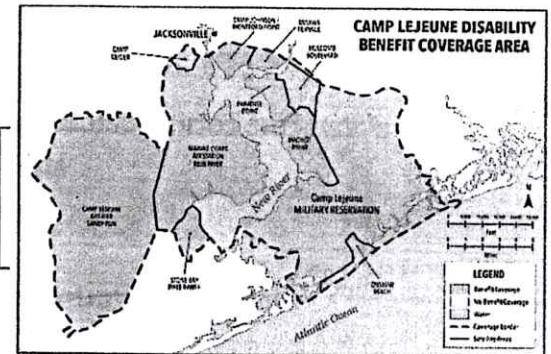
30 days total service Camp Lejeune/MCAS New River [38 CFR 3.307(a)(7)]

Veterans, former Reservists, and former National Guard

August 1
1953

TO

December 31
1987



EFFECTIVE DATES

March 14, 2017 [38 CFR 3.309(f)]

- For claims filed at any time before March 14, 2018

One Year Prior to Claim Date [38 CFR 3.114]

- If filed after March 14, 2018
- AND disability existed one year prior to claim

Earlier than March 14, 2017 [38 CFR 3.400/3.156/3.816]

- Claim or appeal was pending on March 14, 2017 (or potential effective date earlier than March 14, 2017: ITF/BDD/DIC filed within a year)
- AND service connection is granted on a different basis than 38 CFR 3.309(f) (*Nehmer* for herbicide related presumptives; Date of claim if direct S/C)

CAMP LEJEUNE CONTAMINATED WATER FACT SHEET HEALTH CARE

Health Care

15 medical conditions

Esophageal Cancer	Female infertility	Leukemia
Breast Cancer	Scleroderma	Myelodysplastic syndromes
Kidney Cancer	Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Hepatic Steatosis
Multiple Myeloma	Lung Cancer	Miscarriage
Renal Toxicity	Bladder Cancer	Neurobehavioral Effects

A compensation claim **DOES NOT** have to be filed in order to obtain health care

Veterans: 38 CFR 17.400

- Priority Group 6 Health Care
- No co-payments for treatment of any of the 15 conditions
- Enroll at local VAMC

Family Members: 38 CFR 17.410

- Dependent at time of exposure, does not have to be dependent today
- Reimbursement for out-of-pocket treatment expenses for any of the fifteen (15) conditions
- Expenses must be incurred on or after date of law: August 6, 2012*
- Requests for reimbursement must be made within two (2 years) of treatment
<https://www.cf/familymembers.fsc.va.gov/>

*If exposed at Camp Lejeune before January 1, 1957, treatment must be on or after December 16, 2014

Eligible for CHAMPVA if receiving DIC or veteran rated 100%

Family members **ARE NOT** entitled to disability compensation based on their exposure

CAMP LEJEUNE CONTAMINATED WATER FACT SHEET SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Survivors Benefits

Accrued Benefits/Substitution for Presumptive Service Connection

- Claimant dies while prosecuting a claim related to CLCW exposure
- Effective Date: March 14, 2017 or date of claim, whichever is later
- Survivor **must** file for accrued benefits or substitution within a year of death

Accrued: no new evidence, can be granted only on what is in file at time of death

38 CFR 3.1000; VA Form 21-534EZ or 21p-601

Substitution: may submit new evidence (proof of service, disability)

38 CFR 3.1010; VA Form 21-534EZ or 21p-0847

Note: if survivor of veteran dies while pursuing claim, administrator of survivor's estate may file for substitution and receive accrued benefits

Burial Benefits [VA Form 21p-530]

Service-connected burial benefits may be applied for at any time after death

If previously received non-service-connected burial benefits, can receive difference

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (Service-Connected Death)

Survivors of veterans who qualify under the presumptive criteria may file a claim for service connected death due to one of the eight (8) presumptive disabilities

Even if the veteran was never service connected and never filed a claim during his or her lifetime!!

No time limit to apply, but must be submitted within one (1) year of death for earliest effective date

Evidence: Proof of dependency, service, cause of death

Death certificate, amended death certificate, or medical opinion showing one of the eight presumptive disabilities as a primary or contributory cause of death

Contributory cause of death includes acceleration of death: 38 CFR 3.312

Note: Camp Lejeune service may not have been previously raised, ask about Camp Lejeune service for all veterans who served between 1953 and 1987.