



Veterans Service Program Newsletter



November 2009

VA Extends “Agent Orange” Benefits to More Veterans

Parkinson’s disease, Two Other Illnesses Recognized
WASHINGTON Oct 13, 2009—Relying on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange. **The illnesses affected by the recent decision are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson’s disease; and ischemic heart disease.**

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange. In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a “presumed” illness don’t have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits. The Secretary’s decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). “We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will,” Shinseki added. “Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence.” Other illnesses previously recognized under VA’s “presumption” rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are: Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis, Chloracne, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2), Hodgkin’s Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Prostate Cancer, Respiratory Cancers, and Soft Tissue Sarcoma

(other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)
Additional information about Agent Orange and VA’s services and programs for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange

Information from Bob Harvey Ancillary benefits for veterans receiving compensation under 38 CFR 1151:

The question was recently raised about what benefits were available to veterans receiving compensation under the provisions of 38 CFR 1151. Compensation under 1151 is not considered service connected, but is paid as if the specific condition were actually service connected. The law provides for compensation if a veteran acquires a disability, or has a condition worsen, or dies, as a result of VA treatment, lack of treatment, negligence, etc., or some Voc Rehab incident. The VA regulation is 38 CFR 3.358.

Veterans receiving 1151 compensation may receive the additional allowances for having dependents. However, there is no eligibility for Dependents Educational Allowance under Chapter 35.

The ancillary benefits allowable are:

- Specially Adapted Housing Allowance
- Special Home Adaptation Grant
- Automobile allowance
- Clothing allowance

The above are allowable if the veteran meets the VA regulatory requirements for the specific disability. The veteran is also entitled to VA medical care for the 1151 disability while he/she receives the compensation.

If you have news or events you would like to post, please submit the information to:
Cindy Stivers, VSO at Cindy.Stivers@mvc.dps.mo.gov or
Karla Alsberge, OSA at Karla.Alsberge@mvc.dps.mo.gov for submission
www.mvc.dps.mo.gov



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Veterans Day November 11, 2009

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

On this Veterans Day, we honor the courage of those who were lost in our current struggle. We think of the families who lost a loved one. We pray for their comfort. And we remember the men and women in uniform whose fate is still undetermined -- our prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Past, Present and Future Veterans

A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his/her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life." Unknown author

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH Central Office/Veterans Services Program/Cemeteries Program.

Sid Smith, VSO for the Southeast Region, was selected for his willingness to step forward with the resignation of the MVH St. James VSO to handle all responsibilities in both the Cape Girardeau and St. James area with a high quality of care. He covered as many of the details as possible by informing, educating and helping coordinate with the Veterans and their families the information and support that they needed. His compassionate care for the Veterans is a very valuable asset to the Veterans Services Program.
Congratulations, Sid!

REMINDER

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

Missouri Veterans Commission is planning its first annual leadership conference for December 1-4, 2009 at Embassy Suites in St Charles, MO.

December 1- 2 will be for the Veterans Service Program

December 2 - 4 will be for the leadership from VSP, Cemeteries and Homes



NOVEMBER Birthdays

David Schad	11/24
Tracy Harper	11/28

Happy Birthday!!