



# PACT ACT & GULF WAR, POST-9/11 ERA VETERANS



The **PACT Act**, signed into law August 10, 2022, **expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans** who may not have been eligible before.



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.



Veterans assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time 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



Veterans who deployed in support of:

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



### SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD:

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 enroll in VA health care **between October 1, 2022 and October 1, 2023.**



### Toxic Exposure Screenings

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- Air Pollutants
- Radiation
- Occupational Hazards
- Chemicals
- Warfare Agents

**ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022:** VA will begin incorporating toxic exposure screenings. Every Veteran enrolled for VA health care will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Eligible Veterans who have not enrolled will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



The PACT Act adds **20+ new presumptive conditions.** Learn more online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT).

Participate in the [VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) to help VA better understand potential health effects of exposures and proactively identify health concerns Veterans can discuss with their health care providers for follow-up care.

**Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran** may qualify for various VA benefits due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. More information for survivors is available online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT).

### 4 EASY WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE



**Apply online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



**Call the toll-free hotline** at 877-222-8387 Mon – Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET



**Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits [VA Form 10-10EZ](#)



**Bring** a completed, signed [VA Form 10-10EZ](#) to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.

### 4 EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED WITH CLAIMS



**Learn more** at [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/](https://VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/)



**Visit a VBA Regional Office** [VA.gov/benefits/offices.asp](https://VA.gov/benefits/offices.asp)



**Call the Benefits hotline** (for specific questions) at 1-800-827-1000



**Work with an accredited VSO** [VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](https://VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT)  
Download the **VA Health and Benefits App**  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://VA.gov/find-locations/)