



VFW PACT Act Fact Sheet

SITUATION

1. **Historic.** The historic Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 was signed into law on Aug. 10, 2022. It expands Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances and is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history.
2. **Scammers.** Passage of the PACT Act has resulted in scammers taking advantage of new opportunities. There has been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing, vishing and social media scams targeting veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf for a fee.
3. **Free.** Veterans do not need to pay for legal or other assistance to pursue PACT Act benefits because more health conditions than ever before have been deemed presumptive to military service, so the burden of proof is minimal. Without a health condition being deemed presumptive, veterans have the burden of proving that the condition was as result of their military service. To do so they must provide documentation of an in-service event, injury, or disease and obtain a medical opinion stating their medical condition is a result of the in-service event.
4. **Help.** Although the burden of proof is minimal, navigating the VA claims process can be difficult. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a team of 2,000 VFW Accredited Service Officers whose job it is to help veterans file claims, at no cost. Veterans are urged to contact a VFW Service Officer at PACTActInfo.org.

ABOUT THE PACT ACT

1. Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War and post-9/11 eras.
2. Adds 20-plus more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic exposures.
3. Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.
4. Requires the VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.
5. VA has opened Enhanced Enrollment for health care to ALL eligible veterans from Oct. 1, 2022, through Oct. 1, 2023.