

Hospital Blog 7/29/23

## PACT Act Information

Dear Members,

I received information about the PACT Act Friday from the CDCE Chief at Mather VA Hospital and I thought it was important to share:

- File your PACT Act claim by August 9, 2023 to be eligible for backdated benefits. There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits, but if you file your PACT Act claim-or quickly submit your intent to file-by **August 9, 2023**, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022. So don't wait, apply today. Call 800-698-2411 for more information.
- The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is **The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act**.
- The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or presume) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans -and their **survivors**-with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.
- The PACT Act will bring these changes:
  1. Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 ears
  2. Adds 20+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 VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veterans enrolled in VA health care.
  5. Helps improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

I realize that most of us are not Veterans, however please share this information with the Veterans you know and love. It is important for us to understand what the PACT Act is and try to get this information to out. We as VFW Auxiliary members and Hospital Volunteers are a vital connection to the information our Veterans need for good VA health care. We help the lives of our Veterans better through our volunteering. Thank you for everything you do.

Kathy Walery

Dept. Hospital Chairman

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