



Idaho Division of **VETERANS SERVICES**

*Caring for
America's
Heroes*

The Office of Veterans Advocacy Bulletin April 2026



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To be connected to a VA Suicide prevention and mental health professional, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Hotline, and indicate you are a veteran.

Call or Text **988**

ALL EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED IN A NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE EEO AND CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

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JFIdaho@Veterans.Idaho.Gov



FROM BILL'S DESK



I don't know about everyone else, but this year is flying by! One moment, the Indiana Hoosiers are winning the College Football National Championship and Seattle Seahawks are winning the Super Bowl and the next thing you know, we are in the month of May, and everything is green again! I want to thank the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Veterans Service, for most of the updates that I am providing.

Personnel- As mentioned in the last Bulletin, we had to replace our long-time Administrative Assistant in our Lewiston Office who retired after 24 years (Anita Monroe). We are pleased to announce that we hired Michael Regan for that position. Michael is a Coast Guard Veteran with vast amounts of experience in the private sector as well as having worked at the VA's Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Lewiston. Our next personnel change was having Stacy Whitmore (Veteran Service Officer at our Lewiston Office) retire on April 1st. Stacy has been with our Team since August 2018 and previously served as a County Veteran Service Officer in Eastern Idaho. To fill her vacant position, we hired Jennifer Dreadfulwater. Jennifer is a Sergeant First Class in the Utah Army National Guard and has served in combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Jordan. Out of the Caldwell Office, Kelly McCartney retired on May 1st, and she has been on our Team for 10 years. We are currently conducting interviews for Kelly's replacement. I want to wish Stacy and Kelly the best in their retirement and look forward to working with Michael and Jennifer!

Speaking of personnel changes, the Boise VA Regional Office has a new Acting Director- Kristina (Tina) Tallerico. She currently works for the Pacific District of Veterans Benefit Administration and this is a temporary assignment until the permanent Director is named. Tina works out of the Phoenix, AZ VA Regional Office

The Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise continues to be under construction and as expected, the Federal Grant Opportunity for the Lewiston State Veterans Home was approved. We look forward that that project moving forward soon.

The **Veterans Benefit Administration** has some initiatives under the **America 250 Campaign** (celebrating America's 250th Birthday) which include:

- Reducing Backlog Claims (125 days or older) to 64,782 by June 30th
- Working with contract examiners to stay within the 30-day limit for exams to be completed and returned as many exams are being held up at the Contractor's Quality Assurance Teams
- Improvements to VA's Automation. If multiple contentions are on a claim but 1 or 2 contentions are something that can be approved quickly with automation, the VA will grant a partial decision and defer the contentions that cannot be sped up through automation.
- Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E)- (which was impacted greatly by being sent home during the last Government Shutdown)- allowing furthering education through a plan called Positive Outcome.
- Goal to have 9,050 VR&E cases completed by June 30th
- Nationwide, VR&E will hire an additional 328 Counsellors and Specialists to work on VR&E cases.
- VBA wants to expand Automation for pre-discharge BDD Claims
- Service Members will not have to provide Service Treatment Records (like they do now) or DD-214s to complete claims as Automation will pull all Service Treatment Records and DD-214s into the VA's Veteran Benefits Management System.

Apportionments- On Friday, January 9, 2026, VA posted a final rule in the Federal Register that discontinues the authority for VA to make need-based apportionment awards. This means that effective February 9, 2026, Veterans and family members can no longer request apportionments unless the veteran or surviving spouse is incarcerated, or the veteran is incompetent without a fiduciary and institutionalized at government expense. VA will not process apportionments for other situations such as child or spousal support after February 8, 2026. **Please note:** VA will not discontinue any current apportionments because of this rulemaking.

Brady Handgun Protection Act Reporting- Previously, if the Veteran or surviving spouse was being considered for incompetency (unable to manage their own finances), the VA would notify that under the Brady Handgun Protection Act, is a decision of incompetency was made, the claimant would no longer be able to purchase, possess or transfer any firearms and ultimately, report them to the Federal NICS system as those individuals met the requirement as set forth by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Effective March 4, 2026, the VA will no longer report Veterans and surviving spouses found incompetent to the ATF or NICS system.

Class Action Suit under the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC): **Freund v. Collins** - Readers Digest Version... The VA's old appeals tracking system (VACOLS) tracked when a Notice of Disagreement were received by the VA, Statements of the Case were released and whether a VA Form 9 was received within 60 days of the date on the Statement of the Case. If the Form 9 was not received within 60 days, the appeal was considered not timely and the appeal was closed out. As far back as 1990, the legacy VACOLS system automatically closed appeals "on the first day of the month following" the expiration of the appeal period if the Form 9 was not entered into the system. Thousands of appeals were closed erroneously as it did not take into consideration if the mail was received but just not logged in time.... and No notice was sent to these Veterans.

- In 2021, Mr. Freund's attorney petitioned to certify a class of Veterans whose appeals were improperly closed. CAVC originally denied the class motion in 2022 as moot because Mr. Freund's appeal was reopened. In August 2024, the Federal Circuit found that the CAVC erred and remanded the case. In December of 2025, the parties filed a Joint Motion to Approve the Proposed Settlement.
- The class is based upon the period from December 12, **1990**, to February 6, **2025**.
- **Phase 1** – 28,000+ appeals with a timely Form 9 in VBMS
 - VA will individually review and automatically reactivate.
 - These Veterans will receive notice of the date of the SOC and appeal that has been reactivated.
- **Phase 2** – 64,000+ appeals with a VA Form 21-4138 in VBMS
 - VA will attempt to screen out blank 21-4138s.
 - Remaining Veterans will receive generic notice that they may have had an appeal improperly closed.
 - If they respond within one year, VA will review for reactivation.
- VA should have posted notice of the settlement last week.
- Actual letters to veterans should go out this summer.
- The CAVC still needs to decide who will get letters.
- Representatives may need to examine what was filed within the relevant timeframe and submit argument that there was a valid appeal.
- Once the legacy appeal is reopened, the claimant will need help with the merits.
- VBA will likely send a Supplemental Statement of the Case and there will be an opportunity to opt into the AMA system at that point.

The 2026 County and Post Service Officer Training will be held **August 5-7, 2026**, at the Riverside Hotel in Garden City/Boise. I will be working on the agenda and will try to pass it out to everyone as soon as I can get something solidified. Reservations can be made by calling (208) 343-1871 and asking for the **Veteran Services Training** group rate (\$191.00). The deadline for reservations is **07/10/2026**.

Please contact myself or one of my Team Members if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Bill Heyob

Bill Heyob
Bureau Chief/State Service Officer
Idaho Division of Veterans Services
Boise VA Regional Office
(208) 780-1380



2026



Annual County and Post Veteran Service Officer Training

August 5th-7th

Riverside Hotel - Boise, ID

Topics covered in past trainings:

- Current Information and updates from the Veterans Affairs and Veterans Health Administration
- New information regarding benefits for veterans, surviving spouses, and their family members
- Classes on how to correctly fill out and file claims for Compensation, and Pension
- Presentations and information regarding VA debts, Appeals, Compensation, Non-Service Connected Pension, PACT Act, Suicide Prevention, Rating Tables, to include so much more!

This is an Outstanding 3-day Training full of great information on Everything VA!

Brought to you by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the Riverside Hotel at **(208) 343-1871** and asking for the ***Veteran Services Training*** group rate (\$191.00). The deadline for reservations is **07/10/2026**

If you would like to be included in the Invitation Distribution List, please email

Tiffany Barrett at

tiffany.barrett@veterans.idaho.gov. Invitations will go out by June 2026!!

VA announces major improvements in benefits processing and delivery

April 15, 2026

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a dramatic reduction in processing times for both Veteran disability claims and pension and survivor benefits, which shows that the Trump Administration's year-long push to make VA work better for Veterans is paying off.

VA receives millions of claims from Veterans each year for disability benefits and continues to process them faster than ever while maintaining high accuracy rates. This means more Veterans are receiving the benefits they've earned through their service on a timely basis. For example:

- After processing a record of more than 3 million claims in fiscal year 2025, VA is on a similar pace in FY2026 and has processed more than 1.5 million claims halfway through FY2026.
- In FY2026, VA completed 1 million disability claims faster than ever and hit this milestone on Feb. 2, 2026.
- VA's claims-processing accuracy has increased to 94.02%, which is the highest 12-month accuracy rate in the last two years.
- The average number of days needed to complete a claim has fallen from 141.5 days to 80.7 days since the start of the second Trump Administration, a 43% decrease.

VA also receives hundreds of thousands of claims for Veterans Pension, Survivors Pension, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation each year. DIC benefits are for the surviving spouses, the children, or the parents of a service member who died in the line of duty or through a service-related injury or illness.

During the second Trump Administration, VA has stepped up its levels of service to ensure Veterans and Survivors receive the benefits they deserve:

- In February, the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits fell to less than 100,000 claims for the first time since 2020.
- VA has decreased the average time to complete an initial Veterans Pension claim from 170 days to 57 days, a 66% reduction. The average time to complete an initial Survivors Pension claim has dropped from 172 days to 73 days, a drop of more than 55%.
- VA has nearly eliminated initial Veterans Pension claims that are part of the VA disability claims backlog (older than 125 days), reducing this backlog from 3,514 claims to just 71 claims, a 98% reduction. The Survivors Pension backlog has decreased from 3,391 claims to 115 claims, a 96% reduction.
- The average time to complete DIC claims has dropped from 163 days to 73 days, a decline of more than 50%.
- The number of DIC claims in the VA disability backlog (older than 125 days) has dropped from 13,501 claims to 2,257, an 83% reduction.

Additionally, VA has cut the average time to complete burial claims from 70 days to 31 days, a reduction of more than 50%.

VA achieved these milestones through focused leadership, hard work and targeted use of overtime. About half of VBA's claims processors are Veterans, and their firsthand understanding of military service strengthens VA's ability to deliver benefits with both precision and compassion.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-announces-major-improvements-in-benefits-processing-and-delivery/>

VR&E: Improving development and delivery of individualized rehabilitation plans

May 6, 2026

The Veterans Readiness and Employment program has long used Vocational Rehabilitation Panels (VRP)—a panel typically made up of vocational rehabilitation counselors, medical professionals and other specialists—to craft individualized rehabilitation plans for Veterans.

The process can be slow and cumbersome because it involves gathering a group of professionals who may not know the Veteran or have direct knowledge of their specific needs. That’s why VA is proposing to eliminate them to ensure VR&E decisions are based on the most accurate and timely information from those who know the Veteran’s needs best. Doing so will make VR&E more efficient and easier for Veterans to access the services they need.

[VR&E](#) will continue to rely on information from the Veteran’s current treatment providers. This means the professionals who are already familiar with their case will provide the necessary information, leading to more precise and timely decisions.

So, what does this mean for you?

- **Faster access to services:** Without the need for a panel, you can get the rehabilitation services you need much quicker. This change is all about reducing wait times and making the process smoother for you and your dependents.
- **Relevant and accurate information:** By using information from your current doctors and treatment providers, VA ensures that the details about your condition and needs are up-to-date and specific to you.
- **Improved program administration:** Streamlining this process not only speeds things up but also helps maintain the quality of services provided. It supports more efficient and effective program administration.

VA is committed to keeping you informed and [welcomes your feedback](#).

<https://news.va.gov/146560/vre-improving-individualized-rehabilitation-plans/>

Notice of proposed settlement agreement for VA benefits claimants whose timely, substantive appeals have not been processed

April 15, 2026

On March 18, 2026, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (court) certified the Freund v. Collins lawsuit (Freund) as a class action. The court also appointed counsel to represent the certified class's interests (class counsel).

The Freund lawsuit's parties have filed a proposed class wide settlement agreement (proposed class settlement), which the court will review to ensure that it is fair, reasonable and adequate. If the court approves the proposed class settlement, the settlement's terms will bind VA and all of the certified class's members.

The court ordered VA to provide notice of the proposed class settlement and of class members' right to object to it if they believe the proposed class settlement's terms to be unfair, unreasonable or inadequate.

Does this notice pertain to me?

The class that the court certified in Freund consists of "all claimants with an appeal file in the Veterans Appeals Control and Locator System (VACOLS) that has been closed in the period between December 12, 1990, and February 6, 2025, due to the lack of a timely filed Substantive Appeal and which appeal remains closed."

This means that you are a Freund class member if you are a VA benefits claimant whose case was closed between Dec. 12, 1990, and Feb. 6, 2025, on grounds that you did not file a timely Substantive Appeal, and your case is still closed (original claimant). Alternatively, you are a class member if you have substituted or are eligible to substitute as claimant for a class member (substitute claimant). If you are a Freund class member, this notice pertains to you.

- What is VACOLS? VACOLS is an electronic database for VA to track and to control benefits claimants' appeals in VA's "legacy" system.
- What is a Substantive Appeal? A Substantive Appeal is a filing that a claimant could make in VA's "legacy" system. It permitted the claimant to appeal benefits decisions to VA's highest tribunal, the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board).

What is a Substantive Appeal? A Substantive Appeal is a filing that a claimant could make in VA's "legacy" system. It permitted the claimant to appeal benefits decisions to VA's highest tribunal, the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board).

The Substantive Appeal's place in VA's "legacy" system was as follows: If a claimant notified VA that the claimant disagreed with a benefits decision, VA generally had to issue a "Statement of the Case" summarizing the evidence, applicable laws and reasons for VA's determination(s) with respect to which the claimant expressed disagreement. If the claimant desired Board review after receiving the Statement of the Case, the claimant generally had to file a document with VA communicating that desire within either one year of the date of VA's initial decision or 60 days from the date of the Statement of the Case. That filing was the Substantive Appeal.

- Notes:
 - The Freund class definition refers only to Substantive Appeals, not any other VA filings. This means that Substantive Appeals are the only kind of VA filing that would cause any individual to be a Freund class member.
 - The Substantive Appeal is a filing specific to VA's "legacy" appeals system and was made in response to a Statement of the Case, within either one year of the date of VA's initial decision or 60 days from the date of the Statement of the Case. For a claim to be within VA's "legacy" appeals system, VA must have issued its initial decision regarding the claim before Feb. 19, 2019. This means that you (or, if you are a substitute claimant, then the original claimant) only would have filed a Substantive Appeal if the claim was initially decided before Feb. 19, 2019, and led to a Statement of the Case. If the claim is within VA's newer appeals system (the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, or "AMA," system) or otherwise has not led to a Statement of the Case, then the claim is not one that would cause any individual to be a Freund class member.

What is the proposed class settlement?

In connection with the Freund lawsuit, VA has attempted to identify potential class members. VA has done so using a search methodology that class counsel has reviewed on class members' behalf. Under the proposed class settlement, VA would take certain actions with respect to closed appeal files that it identified when searching for potential class members. VA also would take the same actions with respect to additional individuals who come forward as Freund class members.

In particular, under the proposed class settlement, VA would:

- Manually review, in search of timely Substantive Appeals, each of 28,258 appeal files that VA has identified as being closed while having one or more documents that a VA system of records, the Veterans Benefits Management System ("VBMS"), indicates as potentially having a timely Substantive Appeal;
- Reactivate each such appeal file that contains a timely Substantive Appeal;
- Notify the claimant of each such reactivation;
- Complete these actions in under 18 months; and
- Process the reactivated cases expeditiously.

VA would also, upon request, review additional cases for a timely Substantive Appeal and potential reactivation. To make such a request, a class member would need to affirmatively raise with VA the prospect that their timely Substantive Appeal was not processed. Under the proposed class settlement, VA would send individualized notices to claimants for up to 64,599 closed appeal files of the right to seek such review. These are appeal files that met most but not all of the parameters that VA used when searching for potential class members.

The proposed class settlement is a public record. You may access a copy of it for free through Freund's public docket sheet, which can be found in the court's [Case Management / Electronic Case Filing System](https://efiling.uscourts.cavc.gov) (<https://efiling.uscourts.cavc.gov>) by searching for case number 21-4168. The parties filed the proposed class settlement on December 16, 2025.

Am I required to do anything?

No. If you do nothing, and the court approves the proposed class settlement, your case may receive the review or notice described above. You would be bound by this settlement, though VA has committed to reactivating any case in which it becomes aware of a timely Substantive Appeal that was not processed.

What if I object to the proposed class settlement?

If you object to the proposed class settlement, by May 15, 2026, you must send an explanation of your objection by email to freundobjection@carpenterchartered.com or by mail to:

John D. Niles
Carpenter Chartered
P.O. Box 2099
Topeka, KS 66601
Attn: Freund Objection

Also include:

- Your full name and reference number “Freund, 21-4168.”
- Your objection will be conveyed to the court, which will hold a hearing to determine if the proposed class settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate.

Whom do I contact with questions about Freund?

Class counsel is John D. Niles. His best contact information for Freund-related inquiries is by email to freundclass@carpenterchartered.com or by mail to

John D. Niles
Carpenter Chartered
P.O. Box 2099
Topeka, KS 66601
Attn: Freund Inquiry

You can also contact your VA-accredited attorney or representative, if you have one.

Please do not contact the court directly with Freund-related inquiries. The court is part of the United States judiciary. It is not part of VA, and individuals should not expect the court’s staff members to be able to respond to Freund-related inquiries.

<https://news.va.gov/146172/notice-proposed-settlement-substantive-appeals/>

VA limits apportionment of disability benefits

January 13, 2026

Currently, in limited situations, VA may pay a portion of a beneficiary's monetary benefits directly to the beneficiary's dependent, referred to as an apportionment. VA has implemented a new ruling that will limit the circumstances in which compensation, pension, and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits are apportioned and will stop making need-based apportionments going forward. This change serves to avoid conflicts with awards granted by state family courts. State family courts are usually more familiar with family circumstances and therefore better suited to make decisions regarding financial matters.

Understanding apportionments

An apportionment is when VA pays a portion of monetary benefits directly to dependents, rather than to the Veteran or beneficiary. A beneficiary must specifically request an apportionment by submitting an [apportionment claim](#).

Need-based apportionment claims are challenging for many reasons. These usually involve complex issues of family law. Additionally, claims for apportionment require a substantial amount of information, which is typically available to state courts, but not readily accessible by VA. This requires VA beneficiaries and dependents to be contacted multiple times by VA to gather this information and can be a lengthy process.

Because of their proximity, state courts have more expertise and authority in family law and therefore are better equipped to handle apportionment claims. VA apportionment decisions may conflict with the awards of better-situated state family courts which have the authority and expertise to make fully informed, accurate and economically appropriate awards.

Limitations on new apportionments

For these reasons, VA will no longer grant need-based apportionments of compensation, pension, and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) awards in most circumstances.

VA will continue to make apportionments where a Veteran or surviving spouse is incarcerated and where an incompetent Veteran without a fiduciary is institutionalized at government expense. For example, if a Veteran is incarcerated at a federal penitentiary on felony charges, or institutionalized at a VA Medical Center, a portion of their benefits can be paid directly to their dependents if they are eligible.

Current apportionments

Dependents who currently receive an apportionment will not be affected by these changes. VA will continue apportionments currently being paid; however, adjustments to current need-based apportionments will not be made.

These changes will go into effect on Feb. 9, 2026.

Additional Information

Eligible Veterans and surviving spouses who wish to request apportionments under the stated exceptions can do so using VA Form 21-0788, "Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award." VA forms are available at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms>.

The rulemaking can be viewed in the Federal Register under [2026-00237](https://www.federalregister.gov/?date=2026-01-13&title=Disability Compensation, Pension, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Apportionment). <https://news.va.gov/144460/va-limits-apportionment-disability-benefits/>

VA undoes decades-old wrong and protects Veterans' Second Amendment rights

February 17, 2026

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a major new step to protect Veterans' Second Amendment rights. Effective immediately, VA will not report Veterans to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as "prohibited persons" only because they need help from a fiduciary in managing their VA benefits.

This corrects a three-decade-old wrong that deprived many thousands of Veterans in VA's Fiduciary Program of their constitutional right to own a firearm without a legal basis.

After a thorough review, VA recognized that many Veterans had been deprived of their Second Amendment rights without hearings or adequate determinations that they posed a sufficient risk of danger to themselves or others. In consultation with the Department of Justice, VA has determined this practice violates both the Gun Control Act and Veterans' Second Amendment rights. According to federal law, a decision by a judicial or quasi-judicial body is needed before someone can be reported to NICS.

A determination by the VA that a fiduciary is needed to help manage a Veteran's VA benefits falls far short of this legal standard.

In addition to immediately stopping the reporting of VA Fiduciary Program participants to NICS, the department is working with the FBI to remove all past VA reporting from NICS, so no Veterans are unfairly deprived of their Second Amendment rights based solely on participation in VA's Fiduciary Program.

"Many Americans struggle with managing their finances, and Veterans' Second Amendment rights shouldn't be stripped just because they need help in this area. But for too long, Veterans who needed the services of a VA fiduciary were deprived of their right to bear arms," **said VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "Under the leadership of President Trump, we're correcting this injustice and ensuring Veterans get the same due-process and constitutional rights as all Americans."

The Department of Justice supports this action.

"It is both unlawful and unacceptable for Veterans who serve our country to have their constitutional rights threatened," **said Attorney General Pamela Bondi**. "It has been my pleasure to partner with Secretary Collins on this project, and I am directing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to review its regulations and propose changes that will prevent current and future violations of our Veterans' Second Amendment rights."

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-undoes-decades-old-wrong-and-protects-veterans-second-amendment-rights/>

VA moves to speed delivery of survivors' benefits

February 13, 2026

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today announced [a new regulation](#) that will lead to faster decisions and quicker payments for certain types of survivors' claims.

Previously, VA was required to address claims for [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) and [Survivors Pension](#) separately, resulting in a longer claims process, as a formal decision was required for both benefits.

With this change, effective Feb. 23, VA will pay the higher of the two benefits, which is generally DIC — without delaying the process to develop the lesser benefit.

“This commonsense change streamlines the survivors claims process, reduces administrative burdens, and delivers quicker decisions to beneficiaries during challenging times,” said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**.

DIC is a tax-free monthly monetary benefit paid to eligible surviving spouses, children and parents of a service member who died in the line of duty or Veterans who died from service-connected injuries or illnesses. Survivors Pension offers tax-free monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress.

In most instances, DIC provides a greater economic benefit than Survivors Pension. This is not the case if all the following conditions are met:

- The claimant is the Veteran's surviving spouse,
- Has no dependents,
- Is residing in a nursing home,
- Has applied for or is currently receiving Medicaid.

If all these criteria are met, Survivors Pension — rather than DIC — will be awarded, and the DIC claim will not be further developed.

For more information, contact the VA benefits hotline on 800-827-1000.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-moves-to-speed-delivery-of-survivors-benefits/>

Vietnam Veteran?

Or

Know a Vietnam Veteran with One or More of the following Conditions?

- | | |
|---|---|
| √ AL Amyloidosis | √ Multiple Myeloma |
| √ Bladder Cancer | √ Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma |
| √ Chronic B Cell Leukemias | √ Parkinsonism or Parkinson-Like Symptoms |
| √ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia | √ Parkinson's Disease |
| √ Chloracne (<i>must occur within one year of exposure</i>) | √ Peripheral Neuropathy, early onset |
| √ Diabetes ,Type II (adult –onset) | √ Porphyria Cutanea Tarda |
| √ High Blood Pressure /Hypertension | √ Prostate Cancer |
| √ Hodgkin's Disease | √ Respiratory Cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea) |
| √ Hypothyroidism | √ Soft Tissue Sarcomas (<i>other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma</i>) |
| √ Ischemic Heart Disease | |
| √ Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undermined Significance (MGUS) | |

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge who served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975 and served for any length of time in at least one of these locations you may be entitled to service connected benefits:

- In the **Republic of Vietnam**, or
- Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or
- On a vessel operating not more than **12 nautical miles** seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of **Vietnam** and **Cambodia**, or
- Any **U.S.** or **Royal Thai** military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976, or
- **Laos** from December 1, 1965-September 30, 1969
- **Guam** or **American Samoa** from January 9, 1962-July 30, 1980
- **Cambodia** at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969-April 30, 1969
- **Johnston Atoll** or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972-September 30, 1977

Or at least one of these must be true:

- You served in or near the **Korean DMZ** for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, or
- You served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a **C-123 aircraft** with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, or
- You were involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service, or
- You were assigned as a Reservist to certain flight, ground, or medical crew duties at one of the below locations:

Eligible Reserve locations, time periods, and units include:

- **Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base** in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadrons)
- **Westover Air Force Base** in Massachusetts, 1972 to 1982 (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, or 901st Organizational Maintenance Squadron)
- **Pittsburgh International Airport** in Pennsylvania, 1972 to 1982 (758th Airlift Squadron)

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Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran?

Or

**Know a Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran
Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions listed?**
(or one or more conditions listed as a contributing factor in
the Veteran's death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualified Vietnam Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed on the first page, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to *Dependency and Indemnity Compensation* benefits based on the Veteran's death.

Please Call Us Today to See if You May Qualify!

Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

444 W. Fort St., Room 140

Boise, ID 83702

(208) 780-1380

www.veterans.idaho.gov

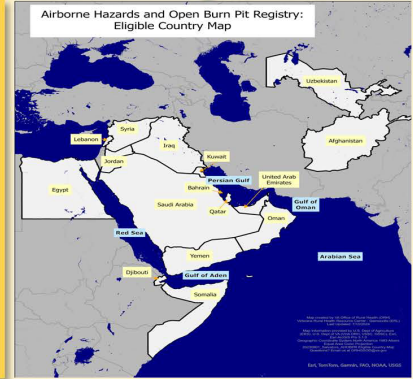


AIRBORNE HAZARDS

Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

Did you serve or know someone who served in

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen or the airspace above any of these locations during the Persian Gulf War, from September 11, 2001, to the present, **OR**
- Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), or the airspace above any of these locations of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present, were exposed to:



- Smoke and fumes from open burn pits
- Sand, dust, and particulate matter
- General air pollution common in certain countries
- Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes
- Smoke from oil well fires

Diagnosed with one or more of these conditions

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • Acute and Chronic Leukemias | • Chronic Sinusitis | • Pleuritis |
| • Multiple Myelomas | • Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) | • Pulmonary Fibrosis |
| • Myelodysplastic syndromes | • Constrictive Bronchiolitis or Obliterative Bronchiolitis | • Reproductive Cancer of any type |
| • Myelofibrosis | • Emphysema | • Sarcoidosis |
| • Urinary Bladder, ureter and related genitourinary cancers | • Gastrointestinal Cancer | • Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the trachea or larynx |
| • Male Breast Cancer | • Glioblastoma | • Adenocarcinoma of the trachea |
| • Urethral Cancer | • Granulomatous Disease | • Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea |
| • Cancer of the Para-Urethral Glands | • Head Cancer of any type | • Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung |
| • Asthma (<i>that was diagnosed after service</i>) | • Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) | • Large cell carcinoma of the lung |
| • Brain Cancer | • Kidney Cancer | • Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung |
| • Chronic Bronchitis | • Lymphatic cancer of any type | • Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung |
| • Chronic Rhinitis | • Lymphoma of any type | • Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung |
| | • Melanoma | • Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type |
| | • Neck Cancer | |
| | • Pancreatic Cancer | |

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge and served during the time mentioned above, and you are diagnosed with one of these conditions, you may be entitled to service-connected disability benefits from the VA.



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Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

Surviving Spouse of a Veteran?

Or

**Know a Surviving Spouse of a Veteran
Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions Above?**
(or one of the above conditions was listed as contributing
factor in the Veteran's death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualifying Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed above, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits based on the Veteran's death.

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CPL Carrie L French

STATUE DEDICATION AND CEREMONY

Join us to honor Carrie L. French
and her family with refreshments
and speakers.



Location: Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall
1101 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell, ID 83605



FRIDAY

5 JUNE 2026

11:00 AM



208-402-6590

CALDWELLVETERANS@GMAIL.COM

WWW.CVMH-VETS.ORG



REFRESHMENTS & DRINKS
WILL BE SERVED.





Brigade "Armor" Farewell

Saturday, June 6th

Armor Day

Representing the unit's past and future

Food Trucks - History
New & Historic Machinery

Warhawk Air Museum
Nampa, ID

Scan to view
Event Page



IDNGMWR.com/BrigadeFarewell

GO GREEN AND GET THE BULLETIN VIA EMAIL



In our continual effort to reduce costs and lessen our “ecological footprint,” the Office of Veterans Advocacy is again asking for your help. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs, as well as the amount of paper used, we are asking you to volunteer to receive the bulletin via email.

The bulletin will arrive in your in-box every quarter as a PDF document, which will allow to you forward or print and disseminate as many copies as you like.

If you can help us with our goal of reducing costs and the saving paper, please email

JFIdaho@Veterans.Idaho.Gov

Thanks for your help with this most worthwhile endeavor! And don’t forget you can always view and print the Bulletin by visiting our website at www.veterans.idaho.gov.

VETERAN RESOURCE GUIDE
QUICKLY FIND VETERAN RESOURCES NEAR YOU

Benefits Education Social Work Legal Housing & more

Where Idaho Veterans Can:

- Find trusted organizations in your area
- Search anonymously from anywhere
- Customize search options to find all local available resources

www.idahoveteransguide.org

DATES TO REMEMBER



American Legion

National August 28- September 3, 2026, Louisville, KY

Disabled American Veterans

National August 1-4, 2026, Orlando, FL

Marine Corps League

National August 10-14, 2026, Indianapolis, IN

Military Order of the Purple Heart

National July 13-17, 2026 -New Bern, NC

Veterans of Foreign Wars

State June 4-7, 2026, Boise, ID

National July 24-30, 2026, Reno, NV



DAV VAN CONTACTS TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call James Rosetti or Phil Johnson at (208) 422-1177.

LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (509) 434-7019.

LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (509) 434-7019.

COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (509) 434-7019.

SANDPOINT & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (509) 434-7019.

LEWISTON TO WALLA WALLA VAMC

Due to limited staffing, this service is currently not available at any of Jonathan M. Wainwright VA locations.

POCATELLO, IDAHO FALLS, & SURROUNDING ARE TO SALT LAKE CITY VAMC

All appointments for rides should be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or appointment, call the VTS/DAV Transportation Office at (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003 or 1027.

