

# NEED HELP WITH A CLAIM?

For free assistance filing a VA disability claim, find a VFW service officer at [vfw.org/NVS](http://vfw.org/NVS) or call 1-800-VFW-1899.

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# VFW Demands Answers on Agent Orange Diseases

VFW in October called on VA to answer for the delayed decision to add more Agent Orange-linked diseases to VA's presumptive diseases list. This came after an October *Military Times* report that said White House officials are responsible for the delay in adding four diseases to the list.

"The VFW is extremely upset and dissatisfied with the backdoor political games that are being played in Washington, as the lives of our veterans are at stake," VFW Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz said. "The health and welfare of our nation's veterans should, and must, be our number one priority."

The *Military Times* reported hypertension, bladder cancer, Parkinson's-like symptoms and hypothyroidism were the conditions that VA officials wanted to add to the presumptive conditions list in 2017. But as of Nov. 1, VA has not added these conditions.

"Every time we send our men and women to war, we end up deliberating for decades as to whether or not they were exposed to toxic chemicals," said Patrick Murray, deputy director of VFW National Legislative Service. "This type of absurdity must stop."

Schmitz, a Vietnam War veteran, said VA "must do the right thing" by approving additional Agent Orange presumptive conditions.

"We cannot, and will not, stand by and allow another veteran to lose their life because of the bureaucracy of Washington," Schmitz said. "The time for waiting is over."

VFW encourages veterans who served in or off the coast of Vietnam or Thailand or their caregivers to contact a VFW service officer to discuss whether they are eligible to file a VA claim for Agent Orange exposure.

Visit [www.vfw.org/nvs](http://www.vfw.org/nvs) to find a nearby VFW service officer.

## 14 Presumptive Agent Orange Conditions

To qualify for Agent Orange-related benefits, a veteran must have one or more of the 14 conditions VA presumes to have been caused by exposure, which are:

- Chronic B-cell Leukemia
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas
- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Parkinson's Disease
- Early onset Peripheral Neuropathy
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda