



# RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency  
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County Executive

PETER K. GOEBEL  
Director

## Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans

VA's Agent Orange Registry health exam alerts Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

### Van Transportation...

- \* Don't drive and need to get to the Albany VA Medical Center ?
- \* We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details call:  
270-2760.



Contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator about getting an Agent Orange Registry health exam:

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center 113 Holland Avenue Albany, NY 12208	James Arrington (518) 626-6721 James.Arrington@va.gov Fax: (518) 626-6725
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### About the Agent Orange Registry health exam

This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure history, medical history, physical exam, and any tests if needed. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the Veteran and in a follow-up letter.

### Important points about registry health exams:

- Free to eligible Veterans and no co-payment
- Not a disability compensation exam or required for other VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary
- Based on Veterans' recollection of service, not on their military records
- Will not confirm exposure to Agent Orange
- Veterans can receive additional registry exams, if new problems develop
- Veterans' family members are not eligible for an Agent Orange Registry health exam.

### VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

\*\*Confidential chat at Veterans CrisisLine.net or text to 838255\*\*  
TTY service 1-800-799-4889

Confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, for veterans and their loved ones.

### Eligibility for Agent Orange Registry health exam

These Veterans are eligible for the Agent Orange Registry health exam: (Continued Page 2)

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## **Vietnam**

- **Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, regardless of length of time.**
- **Veterans who served aboard smaller river patrol and swift boats that operated on the inland water ways of Vietnam (also known as “Brown Water Veterans”)**
- **“Blue Water Navy” Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23.**

## **Korea**

- **Veterans who served in a unit in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) anytime between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971.**

## **Thailand**

- **U.S. Air Force Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases near U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.**
- **U.S. Army Veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.**
- **U.S. Army Veterans who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the Army Veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned a military occupational specialty whose duty placed him or her at or near the base perimeter.**

## **C-123 Airplanes**

- **Veterans (including some Reservists) who state that they flew on or worked on a C-123 aircraft between 1969 and 1986.**

## **Other potential Agent Orange exposures**

- **Veterans who may have been exposed to herbicides during a military operation or as a result of testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes. Learn about herbicide tests and storage outside Vietnam.**

## **VA establishes presumptive service connection for rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter.

The following list of rare respiratory cancers will be added to VA's regulations through an Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on April 26, 2022:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biological plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract — and the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

The rarity and severity of these illnesses and the reality these conditions present, is a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence, prompted VA to take this action.

VA will begin processing disability compensation claims for Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present.

Any Veteran who has or had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after separation from military service may be eligible for disability compensation benefits. Veterans, survivors or dependents who had claims previously denied for any of these respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a supplemental claim for benefits. If you are a Veteran, survivor or dependent applying for the first time.

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. The official version of this rule is scheduled to publish in the Federal Register April 26, 2022. However, the document is available for previewing.

### A Message from the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency Director

Memorial Day will soon be here, as well as numerous opportunities to honor those who gave up their lives in defense of our freedom. This is a perfect time to help posts put out flags on our County Veterans graves and to participate in Memorial Day parades and ceremonies.

Remember and honor them by living above the common level of life and assisting your fellow veterans in whatever way that you can. Join with other veterans, to make it easier to see the cumulative effects of our efforts, and to help veterans who may not be aware of the aid that is out there for them, and for the less fortunate in our communities.

Join each post you are eligible for. Get out there and join us to help out Veterans. "Find Your Niche"!

All Veterans should have their DD-214's or discharge documents registered at the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency and the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office. Honorably Discharged Veterans can get their Return-the-FAVOR card at the County Clerk's Office at 150 Third Street, Troy, New York or call them at (518) 270-4080.

Remember to find those deceased Veterans that we can honor. Everyone at your Posts and every Veteran out there should know at least one Veteran that the Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Committee can remember in the monthly poignant ceremony, and each Post and Veteran in Rensselaer County should also contact the Rensselaer County Legislature to honor our living Veterans at (518) 270-2880 or email: [Renscoleg@rensco.com](mailto:Renscoleg@rensco.com). This is a straight forward process and won't take much time, and is much appreciated.

Enjoy your spring and remember Memorial Day when we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation and Flag Day when we honor our National Standard.

Yours in Patriotism,

*Peter K. Goebel*

### Upcoming Events:



*Call us at (518) 270-2760 to have your event listed in the newsletter.*

May 9th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

*Armand J. Mancuso-USA, Pfc-Korea*

May 26th... Melrose/Schaghticoke/Valley Falls/Johnsonville Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 7pm in Valley Falls

May 27th-30th...Field of Honor in Schaghticoke, NY

May 28th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am

May 29th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, ceremony @ 1pm - step off @ 2 pm

May 30th... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

May 30th... Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am

May 30th... Hoosick Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 30th... Castleton Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 30th... Berlin Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11am

May 30th... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am

May 30th... North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 1:30 pm

May 30th... Nassau Memorial Day Ceremony @ 2pm

June 13th... Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

*James F. Pratt-USA, SP5 -Vietnam*