

# Montgomery County, MD - Veterans Network Directory

## Agent Orange

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs. To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: [MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov), 240-777-1252 (V), MD Relay 711.

### Blue Water Navy Veterans and Agent Orange

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. This is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The law was signed on June 25, 2019 and takes effect on January 1, 2020.

#### Can I get disability benefits from VA?

You may be able to get disability benefits if the below descriptions are true for you.

#### This must be true:

- You have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange (called a presumptive disease)

**And at least one of these must also be true. Your military record must show that between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you:**

- Were aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, **or**
- Served on a vessel not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia (as detailed in [Public Law 116-23](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019)

[Review list of diseases related to Agent Orange](#)

#### Who's covered?

- Veterans
- Qualified dependents

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### Birth Defects Research for Children

E-mail: [staff@birthdefects.org](mailto:staff@birthdefects.org)  
[www.birthdefects.org/veterans-research](http://www.birthdefects.org/veterans-research)

407-566-8304 (V)

Non-profit working with Vietnam veterans' families since 1986 when the first Agent Orange Class Assistance Programs were funded. Set up the National Birth Defect Registry, partly to collect the information being reported by the veterans. Created a series of fact sheets on the disabilities veterans' families were reporting in their children. Supported by a grant from Vietnam Veterans of America.

### National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine - Health and Medicine Division

500 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Email: [contact@nas.edu](mailto:contact@nas.edu)  
[www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/](http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/)

202-334-2000 (V)

Publish reports on Agent Orange and the health effects of herbicides/dioxin exposure.

### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Agent Orange

[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange)

1-800-827-1000 (VA Benefits)  
1-800-749-8387 (Special Health Issues)

Information for veterans, their families and others about VA health care programs related to Agent Orange. The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a comprehensive program to respond to these medical problems and concerns. The principal elements of this program include quality health care services, disability compensation for veterans with service-connected illnesses, scientific research, outreach, and education.

## Veterans of Foreign Wars

Joseph Thornton, VFW Department Service Officer  
Email: [vfw.vbabal@va.gov](mailto:vfw.vbabal@va.gov)  
[www.vfw.org/Assistance](http://www.vfw.org/Assistance)

410-230-4480 (V)

Information on Agent Orange and benefits available to veterans who suffer from health problems, which may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure. VFW Accredited Service Officers can help you file a compensation claim free of charge for a current disability related to Agent Orange. VFW Accredited Service Officers are trained experts, helping veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations and medical histories. They can assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Also can request hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed.

## Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Sadie Wilson, Chair, Agent Orange/Dioxin  
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Email: [swilson@vva.org](mailto:swilson@vva.org)

301-585-4000 (V)

<https://vva.org/what-we-do/outreach-programs/agent-orange/>

Outreach program provides information about Agent Orange and dioxin and actively pursues the recognition of presumptive disabilities from exposure. The program also provides assistance to state councils, chapters and service programs in the handling of Agent Orange-related problems. Additional priorities are to foster sponsorship of legislation to help the victims of Agent Orange and Dioxin and encourage scientific and medical research in the field of dioxin-related ailments. Brochure: [VVA Self-Help Guide to Service-Connected Disability Compensation for Exposure to Agent Orange](#).