

C-123 AIRCRAFT AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE CLAIMS

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The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that a select group of Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel were exposed to herbicides through regular and repeated duties as ground, flight, or medical crew members on contaminated Operation Ranch Hand (ORH) C-123 aircraft that were used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any Air Force Veteran or Air Force Reservist who was assigned to one of the affected Reserve or active duty units as a ground, flight, or medical crew member on a contaminated aircraft and later developed a disability that has been linked to Agent Orange exposure should file a claim. VA has information indicating that few Air Force units (active duty and Reserve) had one or more of the contaminated aircraft during the period 1969 through 1986 (depending upon unit of assignment). VA compiled a list of these units and the dates on which they had the aircraft, which is publicly available at

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/residue-c123-aircraft/index.asp

WHO TO CONTACT AT DOD FOR RECORDS?

If you are a Veteran or <u>next-of-kin of a **deceased** Veteran</u>, you may now use <u>vetrecs.archives.gov</u> to order a copy of your military records. For all others, your request is best made using a <u>Standard Form 180</u>. It includes complete instructions for preparing and submitting requests. **Please Note:** All requests **must** be in writing, signed and **mailed** to the following address:

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive

St. Louis, Missouri 63138



HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

Claimants are encouraged to <u>apply online</u> through the eBenefits portal. You can apply by filling out <u>VA Form 21-526</u>, Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension, or <u>VA Form 21-526EZ</u>, Fully Developed Claim (Compensation). Please ensure that each C-123 related disability is specifically annotated (e.g., Diabetes/C-123) on *Part II*, *Block 14* of VA Form 21-526, or *Section I*, *Block 11* of VA Form 21-526EZ. If you have any of the following material, please submit it with your application:

If you have any of the following material, please attach it to your application:

- Discharge, separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)
- USAF Form 2096 (unit where assigned at the time of the training action)
- USAF Form 5 (aircraft flight duties)
- USAF Form 781 (aircraft maintenance duties)
- Dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

HOW DO ELIGIBLE SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS APPLY?

Eligible survivors and dependents can apply by filling out <u>VA Form 21-534</u>, Application for DIC, Death Pension & Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child. Or <u>VA Form 21-534EZ</u>, Fully Developed Claim (Survivors Benefits). Please ensure "*C-123 claim*" is annotated on *Section I, Block 7* of VA Form 21-534 **or** *Section I, Block 16* of VA Form 21-534EZ.

Applications for benefits should be mailed to the following location (or faxed to 608-373-6694):

Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center Attention: C123 Claims PO Box 5088 Janesville, WI 53547-5088

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

All C-123 claims are processed at the St. Paul Regional Office. Veterans can call 1-800-749-8387, or email VSCC123.VAVBASPL@va.gov.



