

National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.



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(A Non-Profit Veterans Service Organization since 1979)

America's Atomic-Veterans

The **National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.** has been assisting America's **A-Vet** Community (and their families) since **1979**, in the areas of dealing with health issues precipitated by their exposure to Ionizing radiation while on active (military) duty assignments. We have been able to do this with funds generated by membership dues and contributions from good Samaritans, and other sympathetic individuals or groups. Should you wish to assist us with a contribution for these purposes, we would be most pleased and will acknowledge such generosity on your part. The information contained in this transmittal will define an **Atomic-Veteran**, and offer instructions to obtain an official U.S. Government "**letter-of-participation**" in a nuclear, or thermo-nuclear radiation exposure event, for the purposes of filing radiogenic health issue claims, or obtaining other due benefits, from the Department of Veterans Affairs (**VA**).

What is an Atomic-Veteran ??

An "**Atomic-Veteran**" (as described by the U.S. Congress) is any veteran who was assigned to participated in an atmospheric (or underwater) nuclear weapon test from **1945** to **1962**, or any veteran who was assigned to participate in a "post-test" radiation exposure event, or any veteran who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki (Japan) shortly after the (atomic-bomb) destroyed those cities, or any American **POW** who may have been incarcerated near those two cities when they were destroyed. Those **Atomic-Veterans** who have developed one (or more) of several specific cancers, or non-malignant conditions, may be eligible for compensation and / or free **VA** medical care, and / or **Rx** prescription drugs at the low (military) co-pay. If a qualified condition has been cured, or is no longer an issue, the veteran may still be entitled to compensation if a residual disability from that condition still exists. This compensation would be in the form or partial, or full service-connected disability allowances, including potential payments to a surviving spouse, or children, under certain conditions. This compensation is for ionizing radiation particle exposure, during active military service, that may have precipitated such adverse and debilitating health conditions. All other duty assignments that may have exposed the veteran to ionizing radiation particles are classified as an "**Occupational-Exposure**" event.

In 1996, the U.S. Congress repealed the **Nuclear Radiation Secrecy Agreement Act**. This law rescinded the Atomic-Veteran "**oath-of-secrecy**," thus allowing all Atomic-Veterans the opportunity to tell the stories of their participation in Nuclear-Weapon testing, and post test event activities, without legal penalty. By this time, however; many thousands of Atomic-Veterans, the majority of whom were afflicted with a host of radiation induced health issues, had taken that "oath-of-secrecy" with them, to their graves. We hope the additional information (attached) will assist you in filing claims with the **VA** or **DOJ** for service connected radiogenic health issues, and in accordance with your current ?? situations.

Yours truly;

R. J. Ritter - CEM

Managing Director & National Commander

Member: Veterans Advisory Board on (radiation) Dose Reconstruction



Dr. H. L. Grahlfs - Director
R. L. Guidry - Director

G. H. Jenkins - Director
B. E. Clark - Director



How can I prove that I am an “Atomic-Veteran” ??

The first step is to call the **Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)** at: **800-462-3683**, then ask to speak with **Ms. Miriam Gates**. She will require the following information: Your full name, service branch, service (and / or S.S.) number, ship or unit name & number, the year(s) that you were involved in the radiation exposure event(s), atomic tests, or post test assignments. She will then send you a letter confirming the event assignment, and qualifying you as an **“Atomic-Veteran.”** This letter is important when filing a claim for (radiation-induced) health issues with your local **VA** office or clinic. **Atomic-Veteran** radiation illness claims, filed under **Title 38, (CFR) Section 3.309** (presumptive), will be automatically accepted by the **VA** as being service connected, requiring no radiation dose assessment. Claims filed under **Title 38, (CFR) Section 3.311** (non-presumptive), will require a radiation dose reconstruction and probability of causation (**PC**) assessment (**RDA**) from the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (**NTPR**) group. All other radiation health issue claims (filed by non Atomic-Veterans) are classified as **“Occupational”** radiation exposure risk events, and will also require an **RDA** from **NTPR**.

What are “Presumptive” Radiation Health Issues ??

A **“Presumptive”** health issue is **presumed to have been caused** by your radiation exposure event, including close proximity to actual atomic tests, or participation in any post test assignments that would produce a radiation exposure event. If you develop a presumptive health issue, the **VA** will accept the fact that your radiation exposure caused the health issue, and it will be classified as being a **“service-connected”** event, and will not require a radiation exposure dose assessment.

What are Presumptive Cancers ??

Currently, there are **22** (presumptive) health anomalies, as defined by current law. These are: Leukemia (except chronic lymphocytic leukemia), cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile-ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, kidneys, renal pelvis, ureter, urinary bladder and urethra, bone, brain, colon, lung and ovary; lymphomas (except Hodgkin’s disease); multiple myeloma; primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated), and bronchio-alveolar carcinoma (a rare lung cancer). Please note that Prostate cancer is not included in this group.

What are Non-Presumptive Cancers or Conditions ??

If you have developed a “non-presumptive” cancer, or condition, i.e. a cancer or condition not on the above list, the **VA** will consider additional factors to determine your entitlement to compensation based on radiation exposure factors, including the amount of radiation exposure, the lapsed time between exposure dose events and the onset of the disease. An estimate of your radiation dose will be prepared by the **NTPR** group. That estimate is based on scientific principles, records maintained by the Dept. of Defense, and information you have provided to the **VA** and **DTRA**. In some cases, a cancer on the presumptive list may require a dose estimate in order for the **VA** to establish entitlement. Most often, this is necessary if the date of diagnosis occurred before the date that the specific disease was added to the presumptive list. Also, some non-malignant conditions (such as non-malignant thyroid nodular disease, posterior sub-capsular cataracts, and parathyroid adenoma) may be eligible for compensation.

What is Dose Reconstruction, and How Long Does It take ??

Dose reconstruction is a commonly accepted scientific method that is used to estimate how much radiation a veteran received during military service. All assumptions used in estimating the radiation exposure dose are made in favor of the veteran, so as to maximize the likelihood that compensation will be awarded. Time constraints may vary, from a few weeks to several months.

What is the Ionizing Radiation Registry ??

All Atomic-Veterans (**A-Vet's**) are eligible to get a free Ionizing Radiation Registry (**IRR**) physical examination, that must include complete blood and urinalysis tests. To set this up, the **A-Vet** should take a copy of his letter of participation to the local **VA** and request this test, and requesting to be registered with the **VA** as an **Atomic-Veteran**. The **A-Vet** must insure that the **VA** physician understands that there must be a full physical examination, as described above, and not just a question & answer session !

After taking the **IRR** physical, the **A-Vet** must request that he / she be placed into the **VA Priority Group 6** medical treatment level, that will allow the purchase of all medical Rx prescriptions from the **VA** at the low (military) co-pay. To do this, the **A-Vet** must have his / her private doctor re-write the required prescriptions, then have their local **VA** pharmacy for filling. This will also allow for a three month supply, with four re-fills / year. Thus, the **A-Vet** is eligible to be in the same Priority Group as the Viet-Nam Veterans who were exposed to Agent-Orange, regardless of whether there are any symptoms of radiation exposure health issues. (Note: This applies to **A-Vets** who are not currently receiving any Rx benefits from the **VA**).

What about Skin Cancers ??

Skin cancers are not considered to be “presumptive,” however; at this time, and in most cases, **NTPR** , will assess a high enough radiation dose assessment (**RDA**) to allow the **VA** to approve a claim for skin cancers as being “service-connected” with / or without compensation. If the skin cancer removal produces scarring, or requires additional treatment, the **VA** will allow the **A-Vet** to receive a limited amount of compensation

Are there any other Compensatory Options ??

Yes, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (**RECA** ,) administered by the Department of Justice (**DOJ**) is a viable option. It is a different compensation program for which the **A-Vet** may be eligible. **RECA** will pay the **A-Vet** a (one time) lump sum of **\$75,000** for any radiation health issue that qualifies as being “presumptive.” It is possible to receive an additional **\$75,000** for a second “presumptive” illness. It is also possible for the **A-Vet** to receive compensation for one type of “presumptive” cancer from the **VA**, while applying for the lump sum from **RECA** for a second type of presumptive cancer, without the loss of the **VA** compensation. And, the **VA** will treat both types of cancers at no cost to the **A-Vet**. Additionally, the surviving spouse (and in some cases, the children) of a deceased **A-Vet** can apply for survivor (**DIC**) benefits from the **VA**, if the death was caused by a “presumptive” health condition.

If the Atomic-Vet is deceased, his surviving widow can apply for the **RECA** compensation award. If the Atomic-Vet's widow is deceased, the surviving children of an Atomic-Vet can apply for the **RECA** compensation award.

(Note: The RECA program does not include Atomic-Vets who may have been exposed to ionizing radiation during the Occupation of Japan shortly after the end of WWII).

In all cases, the **VA** will treat the **A-Vet** for all Radiogenic health issues that may have been associated with his / her (active duty) military assignments. When an **A-Vet** receives compensation (from **RECA**), the **VA** will continue to treat the **A-Vet** for a “service-connected” radiogenic health issue, at no cost to the **A-Vet**.

If, while receiving compensation from the **VA** for a “service-connected” health issue, the the **A-Vet** develops a separate Radiogenic health issue, not associated with the previous issues, the **A-Vet** can apply for the **RECA** compensation award, and continue to receive his **VA** compensation for the earlier issues.

Contact Information for Additional Assistance:

Dept. of Veterans Affairs: 800-827-1000 or www.va.gov/irad

**Nuclear Test Personnel Review: 800-462-3683 or www.dtra.mil
(Request to speak with Ms. Miriam Gates)**

Dept. of Justice (RECA): 800-729-7327 or www.usdoj.gov/civil/torts/const/reca

Veterans Advisory Board on (radiation) Dose Reconstruction: 866-657-8237 or www.vbdr.org

National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc: 281-481-1357 or www.naav.com

Many A-Vets (or the surviving Spouse of a deceased A-Vet) do not use computers, however; they should ask a family member, or friend to assist them in obtaining additional information, as may be required, from the internet addresses shown above.

Note: The National Association of Atomic-Veterans (NAAV) is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization, founded in the fall of 1979, for the purposes of assisting America's Atomic Veterans secure proof of participation in Ionizing Radiation exposure events, while on active duty.

The Officers & Directors of NAAV are all Atomic-Veterans, and do not receive any compensation for their efforts to assist their fellow A-Vets, or the surviving families of deceased A-Vets in these areas. Our only source of income, to defray the costs of operation, is from membership dues and "Good-Samaritan" contributions.

There are approximately 123,000 surviving Atomic-Veterans, however; we are expiring at the rate of 1,600 per month. If you, or a friend, would wish to assist us, your monetary kindness and good will would be most appreciative. Should you choose to assist us, we would be pleased to send you our "tax-exempt" info for your records

If you are an Atomic-Veteran, are a surviving family member of a deceased Atomic-Veteran, and wish to support our efforts as a NAAV member, we have attached an application for such purposes. Please note the Name, Service Branch and approx. dates of service of the deceased A-Vet.

National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.
 11214 Sageland - Houston, Texas 77089 - Ph: 281-481-1357

MEMBER APPLICATION

Revised: 02-6-10

First Name	Initial	Last Name	Spouse			Phone	Date of Birth
Address		City	St.	Zip 5	Zip 4	E-mail address	
Branch of Service	Ship (or) Unit (or) Squadron		Name of Operation or Test			Year	Location

Describe your radiation exposure event: (Atomic test, or Post test assignments, or Depleted Uranium exposure, etc., etc.)

Notes: 1. Please include, on the back of this application, any other radiation exposure events you may have experienced while in the military, or any illnesses suffered by you, your children, or your grandchildren, if any, and the correct name and address of anyone who might be filling this application for an Atomic Veteran.
 2. Spouses & children of Atomic Veterans, or Veterans who may have been exposed to radiation from Depleted Uranium munitions or armor plate during the Gulf War or any middle east conflict are qualified to be a member of NAAV, Inc.

Date:	Signature	NAAV has my (our) permission to publish this information:	Yes	No
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ANNUAL dues are \$ 25.00 ----- or ----- **LIFE** dues are \$ 250.00

Please send money orders or personal checks (only) to:
 NAAV 11214 Sageland Houston, Tx. 77089

NAAV (Atomic-Veteran) ITEMS FOR SALE

Item #	Description	Qty.	\$ ea.	Total \$\$
02-C	NAAV (A-bomb) Auto (rear) Decal	___	10.00	___
04-S	NAAV "Atomic Veteran" (Inside) Windshield Sticker	___	10.00	___
06-C	NAAV "Atomic Veteran" Jacket Patch	___	10.00	___
09-C	NAAV "Atomic Veteran" Baseball Cap (blue only)	___	15.00	___
12-C	NAAV "Atomic Veteran" Certificate * (8 x 11 - 4 color)	___	10.00	___
	* Furnish your full name, branch of service, ship, or unit, or squad. Info, and test (or Operation) name & date (or year) for Certificate accuracy			
14-P	NAAV "Atomic Bomb Test" Photo ** (8 x 11 color **)	___	10.00	___
	** State your Operation, or test name so we can furnish the proper photo			
16-CD	"Atomic Veterans - The Real Story" (2.5 hr. CD presentation)	___	35.00	___

"All prices include postage fees "

Total Stores Purchase: \$ _____
 Dues: \$ _____

We could use your kind assistance with a (Tax-exempt) donation: \$ _____

Total funds submitted with this order: \$ _____

