

BLUE WATER NAVY TOOK EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2020

NAVIGATING THE BLUE WATER NAVY CLAIMS PROCESS

The Blue Water Navy (BWN) Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) encourages BWN Veterans, dependents, and survivors to file a claim for disability compensation if they believe they are entitled.



I am a Blue Water Navy Veteran who...

filed an herbicide exposure claim or appeal prior to Jan. 1, 2020 and it was stayed (currently in system).

DO NOTHING

Stayed BWN claims are now being decided

never filed an herbicide-related claim but wants to now.

**USE VA FORM
21-526EZ**

filed an herbicide exposure claim before, but was denied in the past and wants to file another claim now.

**USE VA FORM
20-0995**

WAYS TO FILE A CLAIM

- ▶ Apply using the guidance at <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>
- ▶ Contact VA-accredited Veterans Service Organization Representative or claims agent by searching here: <https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>
- ▶ Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>

Additional information and resources about the Blue Water Navy Act, eligibility requirements and how to file an initial or supplemental claim can be found online at <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>.

VA



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of Veterans Affairs