Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure

In March 2016, the Institute of Medicine, a division of the National Academies of Sciences, evaluated the available scientific and medical information about possible health effects, including bladder cancer, due to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam.

This report changed bladder cancer's category of association with exposure to Agent Orange, moving from “inadequate or insufficient” evidence of association, up to “limited or suggestive” evidence of association.

Why it Matters

Bladder cancer’s reclassification calls for more research for this disease, and brings it one step closer to being added to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ presumptive list.

This means veterans with bladder cancer due to herbicide exposure could possibly receive benefits from the VA.

Camp Lejeune: Past Water Contamination

In July 2015, the VA released a report warning past residents of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune of their potential exposure to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals.

15 health conditions, including bladder cancer, have been linked to this exposure, and qualify for VA health benefits.

If you lived on Camp Lejeune for longer than 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, contact your local VA healthcare facility to start the enrollment process.