

The Winnebago County Veterans Service Office Stands Ready to Assist Those Who served at Camp Lejeune and were exposed to the Contaminants in the Water Supply

The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs has published new regulations to establish eight new presumptive conditions for Active Duty (veterans), Reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune due to exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C., MCAS New River and including satellite camps and housing areas.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The presumption of service connection applies to Active Duty (veterans), Reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

Adult Leukemia,

Aplastic Anemia and other myelodysplastic Syndromes

Bladder Cancer

Kidney Cancer

Liver Cancer

Multiple Myeloma

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Parkinson's disease

What does presumption mean? VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain individuals were caused by their military service. VA does this because of the unique circumstances of their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in an individual identified above, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded.

Veterans, Reservist or National Guard members with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. See this link for more information: www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-postservice-exposures-camp-lejeune-water.asp

