

Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 – Overview



Honoring Our PACT Act



The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee named the bill after **Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson**, who deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the Ohio National Guard.

After returning home from his last deployment, doctors diagnosed him with an autoimmune disorder and late-stage lung cancer—both associated with burn pit exposure.

SFC Robinson passed away in May 2020. He was 39 years old.

How does the PACT Act serve VA Veterans?

- VA remains committed to ensuring all Veterans and their family members receive the benefits and care they have earned and deserve.
- The PACT Act is one of the largest expansions of Veteran benefits and health care in VA's history and impacts several million Veterans.
- VA ensures that a “Veteran-centric” approach to timely and efficient delivery of health care and benefits is always executed.
- The law includes the tools and resources to ensure VA can effectively implement it and meet the growing needs of Veterans today and in the future.

Toxic Exposure

The PACT Act defines the term "toxic exposure," but as a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service.

Chemicals	Herbicides (Agent Orange) used during Vietnam era, burn pits, sulfur fire in Iraq, Camp Lejeune water supplies, pesticides used during Gulf War, depleted uranium, industrial solvents.
Air Pollutants	Burn pits, oil well fire during Gulf War, sulfur fire in Iraq, Atsugi (Japan) waste incinerator, sand, dust, and very small, fine particles or liquid droplets.
Occupational Hazards	Asbestos, industrial solvents, lead, radiation, vibration, noise, fuels, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), and special paint used on military vehicles.
Radiation	Nuclear weapons and testing, x-rays, depleted uranium.
Warfare Agents	Chemical weapons, Project 112/Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD), herbicide tests and storage, and chemical experiments.

VA Toxic Exposure Screening Quick Facts

- **Who:** All Veterans enrolled in VA health care.
- **What:** A brief screening averaging 5–10 minutes to identify and document any potential exposures to toxins during military service.
- **When:** At least once every 5 years.
- **Where:** At VA medical centers/clinics, including virtual encounters.
- **Why:** To support the long-term health plan of the Veteran—ensuring they receive informed, whole-health care—and connect them with follow-up resources as requested.

⇒ **EXPOSURE-INFORMED CARE**

