



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

P.O. BOX 4444  
JANESVILLE WI 53547-4444

August 2, 2021

## **You May Qualify for Disability Benefits**

To whom it may concern,

Due to a recent regulatory change, you may be eligible for additional VA benefits.

### **What is Happening**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently issued new regulations to address health conditions associated with particulate matters exposures during military service. These regulations establish a presumptive of service connection for three respiratory health conditions: chronic asthma, rhinitis and/or chronic sinusitis.

### **How This May Affect You**

You may be eligible for disability compensation benefits and are encouraged to apply if you meet the following criteria:

- You served in Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War beginning August 2, 1990 to present and/or in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, or Uzbekistan on or after September 19, 2001, and,
- You developed chronic asthma, chronic rhinitis and/or chronic sinusitis within 10 years of military separation.

### **What We Need from You**

- If you *have not* previously submitted a claim for disability compensation for asthma, rhinitis and/or sinusitis and would like to do so, please submit **VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**.
- If you *have* previously submitted a claim for disability compensation for asthma, rhinitis and/or sinusitis, but were not found eligible, please submit **VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim**.
- With your application you may submit additional evidence, such as medical records, showing the current severity of your asthma, rhinitis or sinusitis condition. In addition, VA can assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support your claim.
- You may have your provider complete a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQs) based on your current condition. For more information and for access to the DBQs, see [https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq\\_publicdbqs.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_publicdbqs.asp).

## If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

VA Website	<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a>
VA Forms Website	<a href="http://www.va.gov/vaforms">www.va.gov/vaforms</a>
Frequently Asked Questions	<a href="https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/list">https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/list</a>
Submit a Question: <i>Include your full name and VA file number</i>	<a href="https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask">https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask</a>
Mailing Address: <i>Include your full name and VA file number on the inside of mailed correspondence (not on envelope)</i>	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center PO Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547-4444
Toll Free Number	1-800-827-1000
TTY, Federal Relay	711
Veterans Crisis Line	1-800-273-8255 and press 1
VA Regional Office Location	<a href="http://www.va.gov/find-locations">www.va.gov/find-locations</a>

Thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Beth Murphy  
Executive Director, Compensation Service  
Veterans Benefits Administration