

MITCHELL COUNTY VETERAN'S AFFAIRS
Larry Klemesrud Director

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PRESUMED PARTICULATE MATTER EXPOSURES

The Department of Veterans Affairs began processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria, or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

For further information and claim filing please contact Larry Klemesrud, Mitchell Co. Veteran Affairs, at 641-220-1759 or 641-832-2920 for an appointment to file a claim.