

Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable who served in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations, which includes the areas specified by regulation, but not Afghanistan, may be entitled to disability compensation for certain undiagnosed illnesses, certain diagnosable chronic disability patterns, and certain presumptive diseases ( as described below) even though these disorders did not become manifest during qualifying service. Veterans who served in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001, may be entitled to disability compensation for certain presumptive diseases.

Eligibility Requirements

Qualifying undiagnosed illnesses or diagnosable chronic disability patterns, that appeared either during a qualifying period of active service or prior to December 31, 2021, must meet the following conditions:

There must be no other cause for your disability or illness than service in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations.

your disability existed for 6 months or more, AND

If your disability or illness did not appear during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations, then it must have appeared prior to December 31, 2021, to a degree that is at least 10-percent disabling (for VA rating purposes).

The disability must be one or more of the following:

Undiagnosed illnesses. These are illnesses that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

Diagnosable functional gastrointestinal disorders. Functional gastrointestinal disorders are a group of conditions characterized by chronic or recurrent symptoms that are unexplained. These disorders may include but are not limited to irritable bowel syndrome, functional dyspepsia, functional vomiting, functional constipation, functional bloating, functional abdominal pain syndrome, and functional dysphagia.

Diagnosable Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Diagnosable Fibromyalgia

Certain presumptive diseases, which will be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated by service even if there is no evidence of such disease during active service. With three exceptions (see asterisks), one of the following must have become manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more within 1 year of the date of separation from a qualifying period of active service:

-Burcellosis            -Campylobacter jejuni            -Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)

-Malaria\* (if not 10 percent or more within one year of separation, may be 10 percent or more at a time when standard or accepted treatises indicate that the incubation period commenced during qualifying period of service)

-Mycobacterium tuberculosis\* (no time limit)            -Nontyphoid Salmonella            -Shigella

-Visceral leishmaniasis\* (no time limit)            -West Nile Virus

Evidence Requirements

The evidence must show you served in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations, as defined by regulation or served in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001, for benefits associated with certain presumptive diseases.

Medical evidence of treatment of the claimed disability or illness.

If there is no medical evidence that you have been previously treated for a disability pattern and the only significant evidence is a lay statement describing the disability pattern, a VA examination may be needed (VA will request an examination).

• For undiagnosed illness claims, the evidence may be medical evidence or nonmedical indications that can be independently observed or verified such as lost time from work, changes in appearance, changes in physical abilities, and changes in mental or emotional attitudes (Note: Independently verified means it must be possible for VA to obtain verification of the nonmedical indicators from an independent source).

Gulf War Service

For VA benefit purposes under 38 CFR 3.317, Gulf War service is active military duty in any of the following areas in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations at any time August 2, 1990 to present. This includes Veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-2010) and Operation New Dawn (2010-2011).

- Iraq                    -Kuwait                    -Saudi Arabia                    -The neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia
- Bahrain                    -Qatar                    -The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)                    -Oman
- Gulf of Aden                    -Gulf of Oman                    -Waters of the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and the Red Sea
- The airspace above these locations

Note: Service in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001, is considered qualifying service for disability benefits associated with certain presumptive diseases. VA offers eligible Veterans a free Gulf War Registry health exam.



1. Horatio Herbert Kitchener was an important figure in the early part of the 20th Century for what country's military ?
  - A) Germany
  - B) United States
  - C) United Kingdom
  - D) Netherlands
2. General Peter Bagration, who played a prominent role at the Battle of Austerlitz, fought for what country during the Napoleonic Wars?
  - A) Russia
  - B) France
  - C) Germany
  - D) Austria
3. What country developed a supersonic fighter aircraft known as the HAL Tejas?
  - A) Spain
  - B) Mexico
  - C) Pakistan
  - D) India

Last Month's Trivia Answers:

1. Philippines
2. Arthur Percival
3. Operation Mercury

New Superintendent Named at the Ohio Veterans Homes

*Retired U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Dedicates Heart, Mind and Strength to Veterans*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Veteran Services has named Terry Prince, a retired U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman, the new Superintendent of the Veterans Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown.

“We are excited to have Terry Prince part of our team,” says Director Chip Tansill. “Terry brings a senior level of healthcare experience to our homes after leading teams in the military regional healthcare systems, medical centers and hospitals.”

Prince began his military career in 1986, serving in the Dental Technician and Hospital Corpsman ratings. Over the years, Force Master Chief Prince was assigned to 14 different duty stations including service as the Command Master Chief of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and later, the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Additionally, he was the senior enlisted advisor to the Defense Health Agency and finally, the Director of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps and Force Master Chief of Navy Medicine.

“I am honored to be selected as Superintendent and serve veterans, their families and our staff at the Ohio Veterans Homes with the full force and effort you would expect from a retired U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman.” says Prince. “There is no greater calling than to help others and my family and I are so excited to have this opportunity to do just that.”

The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky is a 427-bed nursing home facility. Two levels of care are offered: standard care for those veterans in need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. The home opened in 1888 to care for veterans of the Civil War, and has been in continuous operation since. The Domiciliary offers 206-beds and necessary medical care to eligible veterans who need medical care but are capable of living independently.

The Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown offers 168 beds for nursing home care. Two levels of care are offered: standard care for veterans in need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. The home opened in 2003, and is located in the scenic countryside of Brown County.



## This Month in Military History

The month of July was a busy month in military history.

Back on July 28, 1931, General Douglas MacArthur defeated the Bonus Army in a grim police action in Washington D.C. After the D.C. police failed to disperse the veterans who were in Washington to collect cash bonuses from Congress for the adjusted compensation certificates, President Hoover called in Federal Troops. MacArthur mounted his horse and took personal command of four Cavalry units, one column of Infantry and six tanks. These forces easily ousted the veterans and their families from their encampment. MacArthur's troops set fire to the shanty town, killing a small baby.

During World War 2, the Army Air Force got it's first sure "Kill" of the war. On July 7, 1942, a B-18 of the 396th Bombardment Squadron sank a German submarine near Cherry Point, North Carolina.

The battle of Kula Gulf occurred on July 6, 1943. The U.S. Navy won the first victory of the South Pacific offensive. Rear Adm. W.L. Ainsworth's forces of three cruisers and four destroyers fought a night action against 10 destroyers at the cost of one American Destroyer. Due to this action, the Japanese were unable to reinforce their troops on Munda, New Georgia.

On July 10th of that same year, Allied Forces invaded Sicily in one of the largest amphibious landings of the war. Paratroopers, who had landed the night before, delayed the main German forces in the western portion of the island while Generals Patton and Montgomery landed their troops in Southern Sicily. Eleven days after the invasion, Patton reached Palermo, marching through the streets crowded with people yelling, "Down with Mussolini."

In July of 1944, Guam and Tinian Islands became the focus of U.S. attention. On the 21st, the Third Marine Division, the First Marine Brigade, with reinforcements by the 77th Army Infantry Division, began a bloody three week campaign that when completed, secured the Marianas for the United States. On the 24th of the month, 20,000 Marines in a masterful assault on Tinian, in the Marianas, caught the Japanese off guard. The battle lasted for two weeks and was a perfect amphibious operation.

On July 10, 1945, the U.S. Navy began the final assault in a series of heavy carrier strikes at Japan's industrial centers and remaining airfields. These attacks continued until the Japanese surrendered in August.

The first Atomic Bomb testing took place on July 16, 1945. The explosion at Alamogordo, New Mexico gave the United States a short lived but important monopoly on Atomic weapons, and thus a great deal of leverage in post-war negotiations.

On July 26th of that same year, the Big Three at Potsdam presented the "Unconditional Surrender", ultimatum to the Japanese. Truman, Stalin and Churchill signed the agreement that stated, "the alternative for Japan is complete and utter destruction."

During the Korea War, on July 3, 1950, U.S. Carrier planes saw their first combat action in Korea when aircraft from the U.S.S. Valley Forge raided transportation and supply facilities in Pyongyang. The Navy fighters from Fighter Squadron 51 also recorded the first "Kill" of the war when they shot down a YAK - 9 aircraft.

## This Month in Military History

Korea was the first shooting war for the newly independent US Air Force. The war saw the first large-scale combat use of jet aircraft. Within Months of the war's outbreak, Korea produced the first ever jet to jet combat.

In July of 1950, President Truman appointed General MacArthur, Commander of United Nations Forces in Korea, and General Walton "Johnnie" Walker became Commander of all U.S. ground troops in Korea.

According to the VFW magazine, on the morning of July 25, 1950, the 757 men of the 3rd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, marched toward a low pass on the road near Hadong, South Korea. A small group of North Korean soldiers were spotted, and the Americans pursued them. The 29th Infantry Division ceased to exist that day.

The 29th Infantry was an undermanned, unremarkable regiment assisting with the occupation of Okinawa. Most of the men were performing clerical work. Many were fresh from Basic Training. Most were still teenagers. But the young men of the 29th were soldiers, and America desperately needed soldiers, any soldiers, to help halt the North Korean southward march. More than 300 were killed, and more the 100 were captured. It is not known how many of the remaining men were wounded, but few men of the 29th came out unscathed.

The first of several Armistice negotiations began on July 10, 1951 at Kaesong. These negotiations continued with several interruptions until July 23, 1953. Four days later, on July 27, 1953, the Korean Cease Fire went into effect at 10:00pm. The two grim delegations met finally at Ponmunjon, where the agreement was signed at separate tables.

During the Vietnam War, the first U.S. Air Force air to air combat victory occurred on July 10, 1966. Two F-4C aircrews of the 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron shot down two communist Mig-17 jet fighters over North Vietnam.

July 8, 1969 saw the first withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. 25,000 troops were airlifted from Vietnam to McChord Air Force Base, Washington.

And on July 9, 1971, American troops completed the DMZ turnover. About 500 American troops at Fire Base Charlie 2, four miles below the Demilitarized Zone, turned over the stronghold to South Vietnamese troops, thus completing the transfer of defense responsibilities for the border area.

