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Entry: 74279
Korean DMZ Agent Orange
Information Center

Agent Orange (AO) at Camp Casey

Tom Courbat wrote on 2010-04-09 18:45:44.0

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Comments: I was at Camp Casey from June 1968 to August 1969. I never went to the DMZ. Camp Casey is considered to be "in the vicinity of the DMZ" and thus qualifies for consideration of exposure to Agent Orange (AO).

NOTE: Nearly all 7th Division soldiers passed through Camp Casey to receive their destination assignments (like to the DMZ, etc.) and to ETS back to the states. This fact should help 7th ID folks a lot.

In 2001, I was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma (MM), a terminal bone marrow/blood cancer that the VA acknowledges can be caused by exposure to AO (added to the list in 1994). The list is now almost 40 long.

In 2003, I was awarded 100% service-connected disability for my MM due to presumptive exposure to AO while at Camp Casey. I also have percent ratings for conditions secondary to MM including anxiety, depression, peripheral neuropathy (PN), and obstructive sleep apnea. I also receive a special monthly compensation (SMC) for ED.

The point is, if you know and can show evidence of even having passed through Camp Casey, you can then cite cases of soldiers who were stationed at Camp Casey being approved and make the case that you should also be approved because you were at Camp Casey to receive your assignment shortly after arrival in Korea and upon your departure. Here is one case to get you started - <http://www4.va.gov/vetapp99/files1/9906724.txt>. It is Citation No. 9906724 dated 3/12/99. Enter the http address in the address line of your browser to view the case.

For a more recent case, go to <http://www4.va.gov/vetapp09/files2/0911782.txt>. It is citation No. 0911782 dated 03/30/09 (decision date). This case also incorporates "benefit of the doubt" in the decision.

Try <http://www4.va.gov/vetapp08/files3/0823342.txt> as well. It is Citation # 0823342 dated 7/15/08. It reopened a case that had been denied "final" due to introduction of "new and material evidence". This is a very important and rare exception that allows the case to be reopened.

"New evidence means existing evidence not previously submitted to agency decisionmakers. Material evidence means existing evidence that, by itself or when considered with previous evidence of record, relates to an unestablished fact necessary to substantiate the claim. New and material evidence can be neither cumulative nor redundant of the evidence of record at the time of the last prior final denial of the claim sought to be reopened, and must raise a reasonable possibility of substantiating the claim. 38 C.F.R. § 3.156(a)."

Lastly, try <http://www4.va.gov/vetapp09/files1/0903323.txt>, Citation # 0903323 dated 1/30/09. Relevant language in the decision included "Accordingly, if the veteran is found to have served in or along the DMZ during his time in Korea, the preponderance of the evidence will show presumptive exposure to Agent Orange."

I hope these citations (you can do more research by going to <http://www.bva.va.gov/> and clicking on "Search Decisions" in the left column). Enter key words like "Camp Casey" and your particular disease, although the decision doesn't have to be about YOUR disease, just about any of the approximately 40 diseases now considered to be "presumptive for exposure to Agent Orange".

Happy hunting!

Keywords: Agent Orange, AO, Camp Casey, DMZ, Spraying, Service-connected, disability, presumptive eligibility, benefit of the doubt