

November 21, 2022

New Toxic Exposure Screening for Veterans: If you are a veteran enrolled in VA health care, you can now receive the toxic exposure screening at VA medical centers and clinics across the country. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you will be eligible for the screening once you complete the enrollment process. These screenings will become a regular part of your medical appointments and, if you believe that you experienced toxic exposure during your military service, you will be connected to support and resources. [Read more.](#)

Men's Health Awareness Month: According to VA, male veterans die five years earlier than most female veterans. Detection and proper attention to conditions such as [prostate](#) or testicular cancer, [mental health](#) issues, and [suicide prevention](#) factors may help to avert premature deaths. VA created a [recommendation chart](#) for preventive care that lists recommended screenings and immunizations. Veterans who are overdue for preventive care are encouraged to schedule appointments as soon as possible.

Senate Hearing on PACT Act Implementation: VFW National Legislative Assistant Director Kristina Keenan provided a statement for the record for a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on VA's implementation of the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022*. She included observations made by VFW Service Officers who have been assisting veterans with their VA disability claims for toxic exposure conditions. "About one-third reported that they have already seen PACT-Act-related claims adjudicated and some being granted by VA, primarily for Vietnam War veterans with hypertension and for those who served in Thailand," said Keenan. She added that while VA has reported a large increase in claims since the passage of the PACT Act, VA is also processing claims faster at nearly the same rate as the increase. She stated that the VFW recommends that VA maintains its overtime staffing in order to continue managing the increased claims workload. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 17:03 mark, or [read the testimony](#).

Women Veterans Task Force Holds Roundtable: Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Women Veterans Task Force, VA, women veterans, and veteran organizations discussed child care, sexual harassment and assault, and intimate partner violence, which are included in Title V - Deborah Sampson of the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020*. VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet discussed VA's briefing on the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program launch. VFW National Legislative Assistant Director Kristina Keenan noted the importance of VA helping veterans obtain child care so they are able to schedule Compensation and Pension examinations and other VA benefit appointments.

Holiday Timely info

Holiday Overseas Mail Deadlines Approaching: The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. In order to ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: Dec. 9 for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and Dec. 16 for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding zip 093). The Postal

Service offers a free “military care kit,” which consists of the items most often requested by military families. [Read more](#) details on holiday shipping deadlines.

Bring Christmas Joy Through Toys for Tots: Since 1947, Marine Toys for Tots has been bringing the joy of Christmas to America’s less-fortunate children and fostering community engagement. Every holiday season, new, unwrapped toys are distributed to children in need. Donated items may be dropped off at designated locations, or you may make a virtual donation. [Learn more](#).