
VA NEWS



USS Cabildo (LSD-16) Crewmembers Associaton

USS Cabildo LSD-16 Classified as a Brown Water Ship

By Dale Bittle

Just in case some of our crew members were not aware that the Cabildo had been classified as a brown water ship I wanted to remind everyone of this change. There are two time frames in which the Cabildo qualifies for the brown water designation.

Number 1: Cabildo conducted numerous troop, supply and equipment landings at DaNang, Cam Rahn Bay and Vung Tau from July 1965 to November 1968.

Number 2: Cabildo delivered equipment to NhaBe via the Long Tau River during June 1968.

Both Number 1 & 2 are quoted directly from the VA list of Brown Water Ships.

I recently became involved with the VA, for the first time, after a dear friend of mine suggested that I visit with a Veterans Advocate associated with the American Legion. This gentleman was extremely helpful to me and helped me apply for and receive disability benefits I had no idea that were available to me, especially since I served on the Cabildo during one of the time periods listed above.

I have attached a list of diseases directly from the VA website that are considered "presumptive diseases." If you have any of these listed diseases or suspect that you may have any of them I would suggest you get in contact with a veterans advocate through the American Legion, VFW or other such veterans association to see if they can be of service to you. You might be just as surprised as I was.

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service.

We call these "presumptive diseases."

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for disability compensation or survivors' benefits for these diseases.

- **AL Amyloidosis**
A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs
- **Chronic B-cell Leukemias**
A type of cancer which affects white blood cells
- **Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)**
A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**
A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin
- **Hodgkin's Disease**
A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**
A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain
- **Multiple Myeloma**
A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow
- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**
A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue
- **Parkinson's Disease**
A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement
- **Peripheral Neuropathy, Acute and Subacute**
A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Currently, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure and resolve within two years. VA proposed on Aug. 10, 2012, to replace "acute and subacute" with "early-onset" and eliminate the requirement that symptoms resolve within two years.
- **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**
A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- **Prostate Cancer**
Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

- **Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)**
Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**
A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

I hope this has been of assistance to you.

Dale

For more information go to the following sources:

Link to [VA Ships List](#)

Link to [American Legion Brown Water Ships Article](#)

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