



Orange County Government
Office of the County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

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**Local veterans who served at Camp Lejeune may be eligible to file
benefits claims due to new Department of Veterans Affairs rule**

*Applies to veterans who served for 30 days or longer at Camp Lejeune between
August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus and Veterans Services Agency (VSA) Director Christian Farrell want to inform local veterans who were stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina about a new U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs rule that could affect them.

It applies to veterans who served for 30 days or longer at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987. This new rule provides for presumptive service connection for certain Camp Lejeune veterans who were exposed to contaminated water at the base.

“I urge veterans to file a claim for compensation with the Department of Veterans Affairs if they meet the criteria of this this new regulation,” Neuhaus said. “One of the VSA’s primary missions is to assist local veterans when filing a VA claim for a potential service connected disability. The County will proudly continue to provide our veterans with the support and services they deserve.”

For assistance filing a claim for VA disability compensation, contact the County’s VSA at 291-2470 to schedule an appointment. Veterans should file a claim for compensation with the VA if they have one or more of the following presumptive conditions, including adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic

syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Parkinson's disease.

According to Farrell, there may also be benefits payable to a surviving dependent if a Camp Lejeune veteran died due to one of the presumptive conditions.

“We will continue to reach out to veterans and ensure that these men and women receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled,” Farrell said. “If you feel that you meet the criteria for this new VA rule about Camp Lejeune, I urge you to contact my office to see if you might be eligible to file a claim.”

What is Presumptive Service Connection?

VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. VA does this because of the unique circumstances of their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a Veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded. **Source:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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