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## ***VIETNAM BLUE WATER SAILORS (VA AO CLAIMS)***

### VA Blue Water Claims:

The VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development in Haas related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans.

To date, they have received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam.

They have also identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development:

All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS] Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour

- a) USS Carronade (IFS 1)
- b) USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]
- c) USS Francis River (LSMR 525)
- d) USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] & LCM [Landing Craft, Mechanized] during their entire tour. This designation includes many variations, modified for river service.

All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters] Most were assigned to River Patrol Force 117.

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]. Most all were assigned to the River Patrol Force 116.

- USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] Operated on Saigon River, OCT 24-25, 1965
- USS Mansfield (DD-728) [Destroyer] Operated on Saigon River AUG 8-19, 1967 and DEC 21-24, 1968
- USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer] Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, JUN 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge
- USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] Operated on Saigon River, MAY 24-25, 1966
- USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, AUG 15-SEP 1, 1966
- USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] Operated on Saigon River, early AUG 1966
- USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] Operated on Mekong River, JUN 16-21, 1966
- USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] Operated on Saigon River, JUL 13-19, 1966
- USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] Operated on Saigon River 3 days during JAN 1964
- USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] Operated on Saigon River OCT 24-28, 1964
- USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] Operated on Saigon River JUL 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and AUG 5-6, 1968
- USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, APR 22-25, 1968]. Also, Cam Rahn Bay is a qualifying location for "inland waterway" service.

If you served on any of those vessels during the times specified, you will be granted, without further development and delay, a presumptive exposure to herbicides for the purpose of health care and monetary compensation.

Note: This list is not complete. If you served on a ship that entered the inland waterways of Vietnam, please contact [navy@bluewaternavy.org](mailto:navy@bluewaternavy.org) (mailto:[navy@bluewaternavy.org](mailto:navy@bluewaternavy.org)) with as much detail as possible so they can provide this information to the DVA for processing and inclusion in their data base.