

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association

The BWNVVA is a non-profit corporation currently representing Navy, Coast Guard, Marine, and Air Force personnel who served in the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1975 off the mainland of Vietnam. What these Vietnam veterans have in common is their pain and suffering. They have disabilities from their exposure to the herbicides sprayed throughout South East Asia and stored in many places.

Many of these veterans served in the waters offshore Vietnam, while others were located at distant air bases where the herbicides were loaded and the equipment that sprayed the jungles of Vietnam were cleaned, maintained and loaded with more herbicides. All of the herbicides contain components hazardous to animal as well as plant life. The most notorious of these was Agent Orange, which contained dioxin. Dioxin is a known carcinogen and the Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledges that certain diseases which a vast number of Vietnam veterans suffer from were caused by dioxin exposure. Dioxin is unarguably the most potent poison ever made.

The difference between these veterans and other veterans of that Vietnam War is, since they did not literally touch their feet on the ground in Vietnam, they are not eligible for service-connected health care or monetary compensation to off-set the medical expenses and often the remodeling of their houses to accommodate their disabilities. Some of these personnel handled the Agent Orange. Some of these personnel sat in the water for weeks at a time, while the Agent Orange from spray missions drifted out to their sea-based locations. The Agent Orange naturally washed off the leaves and into the local water flow, which emptied into rivers that carried the dioxin to the South China Sea. Blue Water Navy (BWN) ships patrolled the coast line of Vietnam and circled at the mouths of rivers in order to provide supplies, search and rescue, and gunfire support for the troops on land. Often their ships were no more than 100 yards from the beach, and some went up rivers in order to carry out their missions.

All the while, their ships were taking in the surrounding sea and river water and transforming it into desalinated water needed for the ships boilers and for fresh water to drink, prepare food with, and wash or shower in. The VA is ignoring many medical and scientific studies which conclusively show that Blue Water Navy veterans have cancer rates as much as 20% higher than in-country Vietnam veterans. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK have acknowledged these studies as proof that their own Blue Water Navy veterans, who served in the same place at the same time as American BWN veterans, deserve and are provided the health care and compensation given for injuries received during time of war. The United States Blue Water Navy veterans, including veterans of the Coast Guard, Marines and Air Force, are the only members of the Armed Forces of any allied country that fought in the Vietnam War to be denied these service benefits. This is WRONG!

The BWNVVA is working in the preparation of legislation which will change this discriminatory and groundless action of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Your assistance in contacting congressional representatives about this injustice is needed. We stepped forward on this country's behalf during the Vietnam War. Won't you please help us now?



Blue Water Navy Association
303-762-9450

navy@bluewaternavy.org

PO Box 1035
Littleton, CO 80120