OMB Control No. 2900-0747
Respondent Burden: 25 minutes
Expiration Date: 11/30/2025

Department of Veterans Affairs

VA DATE STAMP
(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

APPLICATION FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND RELATED COMPENSATION BENEFITS

IMPORTANT: Please read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on Page 14 before completing the form. Use this form to determine your eligibility for compensation. For more information, you can contact us online through Ask VA: https://ask.va.gov. Ask us a question online or call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 (TTY: 711). If you prefer you may complete and submit the form online at www.va.gov. VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms.

1. SELECT THE TYPE OF CLAIM PROGRAM/PROCESS THAT APPLIES TO YOU. **NOTE**: Your claim will be processed as described on pages 1 through 8 unless one of the following special programs is selected. See Instruction pages 1 through 3 for definitions of the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program (Optional Expedited Process) or the Standard Claim Process.

- [X] FDC PROGRAM
- [ ] STANDARD CLAIM PROCESS
- [ ] IDES (Select this option ***only*** if you have been referred to the IDES Program by your Military Service Department)
- [ ] BDD Program Claim (Select this option ***only*** if you meet the criteria for the BDD Program specified on Instruction Page 5)

SECTION I: VETERAN'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION
(If claim is not an original claim, only Section I, IV (if applicable), V and a signature are required)

NOTE: You may *either* complete the form online or by hand. If completed by hand, print the information requested in ink, neatly, and legibly, insert one letter per box, and completely fill in each applicable check box to help expedite processing of the form.

2. VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

John A Doe

3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)

111 – 11 – 1111

4. HAVE YOU EVER FILED A CLAIM WITH VA?

[ ] YES [X] NO (If "Yes," provide your file number in Item 5)

5. VA FILE NUMBER

6. DATE OF BIRTH (MM-DD-YYYY)

01 – 01 – 1970

7. SERVICE NUMBER/DOD ID NUMBER (If applicable)

111111111

8. **BDD CLAIMS ONLY: PROVIDE THE DATE OR ANTICIPATED DATE OF RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY** (MM-DD-YYYY)

– –

9. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Optional) (Include Area Code)

123 – 245 – 7890

Enter International Phone Number (If applicable)

10. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, P.O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code and Country)

No. & Street: 123 Veteran Rd

Apt./Unit Number:

City: Houston

State/Province: TX

Country: US

ZIP Code/Postal Code: 12345 –

11. EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) [ ] I agree to receive electronic correspondence from VA in regards to my claim.

johndoe@gmail.com

[ ] 12. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A VA EMPLOYEE, CHECK THE BOX (Includes Work Study/Internship) (If you are not a VA employee skip to Section II, if applicable).

SECTION II: CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NOTE: If you are temporarily or permanently changing your address, complete Items 13A through 13C.

13A. TYPE OF ADDRESS CHANGE (Complete if applicable) (Check only one box)

[ ] TEMPORARY [ ] PERMANENT

13B. NEW ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, P.O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code and Country)

No. & Street:

Apt./Unit Number:

City:

State/Province:

Country:

ZIP Code/Postal Code: –

13C. EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF NEW ADDRESS (If your change of address is **temporary**, complete both the beginning and ending date of your temporary address) (If your change of address is **permanent**, please enter your effective date in the beginning date only)

	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
BEGINNING DATE:	–	–		**ENDING DATE:**	–	–

VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 1 1 1 – 1 1 – 1 1 1 1

SECTION III: HOMELESS INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: The following questions (Items 14A through 14F) should **only** be completed if you are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. If this item does not apply to you, skip to Section IV.

14A. ARE YOU CURRENTLY HOMELESS?

☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Item 14B regarding your living situation)

☐ NO

14B. CHECK THE BOX THAT APPLIES TO YOUR LIVING SITUATION:

☐ LIVING IN A HOMELESS SHELTER

☐ NOT CURRENTLY IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT (e.g., living in a car or tent)

☐ STAYING WITH ANOTHER PERSON

☐ FLEEING CURRENT RESIDENCE

☐ OTHER (Specify)

14C. ARE YOU CURRENTLY AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS?

☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Item 14D regarding your living situation)

☐ NO

14D. CHECK THE BOX THAT APPLIES TO YOUR LIVING SITUATION:

☐ HOUSING WILL BE LOST IN 30 DAYS

☐ LEAVING PUBLICLY FUNDED SYSTEM OF CARE (e.g., homeless shelter)

☐ OTHER (Specify)

14E. POINT OF CONTACT (Name of person VA can contact in order to get in touch with you)

14F. POINT OF CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

– –

Enter International Phone Number (If applicable)

SECTION IV: EXPOSURE INFORMATION

15A. ARE YOU CLAIMING ANY CONDITIONS RELATED TO TOXIC EXPOSURES? **NOTE**: See Page 4 of the Instructions for further information on the evidence needed to support your claim for presumptive service connection. (You can also refer to the following websites for more information: PACT ACT (https://www.va.gov/PACT) and PUBLIC HEALTH MILITARY EXPOSURES (https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp))

☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Items 15B, 15C, 15D and 15E) ☒ NO (If "No," skip to Item 16, Section V: Claim Information)

15B. DID YOU SERVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING GULF WAR HAZARD LOCATIONS?
Iraq; Kuwait; Saudi Arabia; the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia; Bahrain; Qatar; the United Arab Emirates; Oman; Yemen; Lebanon; Somalia; Afghanistan; Israel; Egypt; Turkey; Syria; Jordan; Djibouti; Uzbekistan; the Gulf of Aden; the Gulf of Oman; the Persian Gulf; the Arabian Sea; and the Red Sea.

☒ YES ☐ NO

WHEN DID YOU SERVE IN THESE LOCATIONS? (MM-YYYY)
Note: Please provide an approximate time frame (month and year).

FROM: 0 1 – 2 0 1 0 TO: 0 1 – 2 0 1 1

15C. DID YOU SERVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING HERBICIDE (e.g., Agent Orange) LOCATIONS?
Republic of Vietnam to include the 12 nautical mile territorial waters; Thailand at any United States or Royal Thai base; Laos; Cambodia at Mimot or Krek; Kampong Cham Province; Guam or American Samoa; or in the territorial waters thereof; Johnston Atoll or a ship that called at Johnston Atoll; Korean demilitarized zone; aboard (to include repeated operations and maintenance with) a C-123 aircraft known to have been used to spray an herbicide agent (during service in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves).

Please list other location(s) where you served, if not listed above:

☐ YES ☒ NO

WHEN DID YOU SERVE IN THESE LOCATIONS? (MM-YYYY)
Note: Please provide an approximate time frame (month and year).

FROM: – TO: –

15D. HAVE YOU BEEN EXPOSED TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING? (Check all that apply)

☐ ASBESTOS ☐ MUSTARD GAS ☐ RADIATION

☐ SHAD (Shipboard Hazard and Defense) ☐ MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY (MOS)-related toxin ☐ CONTAMINATED WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE

☒ OTHER (Specify) exposed to burning feaces, chemicals and garbage

WHEN WERE YOU EXPOSED? (MM-YYYY)
Note: Please provide an approximate time-frame (month and year).

FROM: 0 1 – 2 0 1 0 TO: 0 1 – 2 0 1 1

15E. IF YOU WERE EXPOSED MULTIPLE TIMES, PLEASE PROVIDE ALL ADDITIONAL DATES AND LOCATIONS OF POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

SECTION V: CLAIM INFORMATION
(For additional space, use Section XIII: Claim Information (Addendum))

16. LIST THE CURRENT DISABILITY(IES) OR SYMPTOMS THAT YOU CLAIM ARE RELATED TO YOUR MILITARY SERVICE AND/OR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY (If applicable, identify whether a disability is due to a service-connected disability; confinement as a prisoner of war; exposure to Agent Orange, asbestos, mustard gas, ionizing radiation, or Gulf War environmental hazards; or a disability for which compensation is payable under 38 U.S.C. 1151)
NOTE: List your claimed conditions below. **See the following three examples for guidance on how to complete Section V**.

EXAMPLES OF DISABILITY(IES)	EXAMPLES OF EXPOSURE TYPE	EXAMPLES OF HOW THE DISABILITY(IES) RELATES TO SERVICE	EXAMPLES OF DATES
Example 1. HEARING LOSS	NOISE	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR IN SERVICE	JULY 1968
Example 2. DIABETES	AGENT ORANGE	SERVICE IN VIETNAM WAR	DECEMBER 1972
Example 3. LEFT KNEE, SECONDARY TO RIGHT KNEE		INJURED LEFT KNEE WHEN BRACE ON RIGHT KNEE FAILED	6/11/2008

VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 1 1 1 – 1 1 – 1 1 1 1

SECTION V: CLAIM INFORMATION (Continued)
(For additional space, use Section XIII: Claim Information (Addendum))

	CURRENT DISABILITY(IES)	IF DUE TO EXPOSURE, EVENT, OR INJURY, PLEASE SPECIFY (e.g., Agent Orange, radiation, burn pits)	EXPLAIN HOW THE DISABILITY(IES) RELATES TO THE IN-SERVICE EVENT/EXPOSURE/INJURY	APPROXIMATE DATE DISABILITY(IES) BEGAN OR WORSENED
1.	**Gulf War Syndrome**	**exposed to burn pits**	**deployed to Iraq**	July 2013
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

17. LIST VA MEDICAL CENTER(S) (VAMC) AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES (MTF) WHERE YOU RECEIVED TREATMENT AFTER DISCHARGE FOR YOUR CLAIMED DISABILITY(IES) LISTED IN ITEM 16 AND PROVIDE APPROXIMATE BEGINNING DATE (Month and Year) OF TREATMENT. IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND ITEM NUMBER.

NOTE: If treatment began from 2005 to present, you **do not** need to provide dates in Item 17B.

A. ENTER THE DISABILITY TREATED AND NAME/LOCATION OF THE TREATMENT FACILITY	B. DATE OF TREATMENT (MM-YYYY)	C. CHECK THE BOX IF YOU DO NOT HAVE DATE(S) OF TREATMENT
Chronic Fatigue: **Houston, TX VA Medical Facility**	0 7 – 2 0 1 3	☐ Don't have date
Severe headaches: **Houston, TX VA Medical Facility**	0 2 – 2 0 1 5	☐ Don't have date
Sleep Disturbances: **Houston, TX VA Medical Facility**	0 5 – 2 0 1 5	☐ Don't have date

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO CLAIM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, COMPLETE AND ATTACH THE REQUIRED FORM(S) AS STATED BELOW. (VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms)

For:	Required Form(s):
Supplemental Claims	VA Form 20-0995
Dependents	VA Form 21-686c and, if claiming a child aged 18-23 years and in school, VA Form 21-674
Individual Unemployability	VA Form 21-8940 and 21-4192
Mental Health Condition(s)	VA Form 21-0781
Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation	VA Form 26-4555
Auto Allowance	VA Form 21-4502
Veteran/Spouse Aid and Attendance benefits	VA Form 21-2680 or, if based on nursing home attendance, VA Form 21-0779

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SECTION VI: SERVICE INFORMATION

18A. DID YOU SERVE UNDER ANOTHER NAME?
☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Item 18B) ☒ NO (If "No," skip to Item 19A)

18B. LIST THE OTHER NAME(S) YOU SERVED UNDER:

19A. BRANCH OF SERVICE
☒ ARMY ☐ NAVY ☐ MARINE CORPS
☐ AIR FORCE ☐ COAST GUARD ☐ SPACE FORCE
☐ NOAA ☐ USPHS

19B. COMPONENT
☐ ACTIVE ☐ RESERVES ☐ NATIONAL GUARD

20A. MOST RECENT ACTIVE SERVICE DATES

	Month	Day	Year
ENTRY DATE:	01	01	1992
EXIT DATE:	01	01	2015

20B. PLACE OF LAST OR ANTICIPATED SEPARATION
Ft Knox KY

20C. DID YOU SERVE IN A COMBAT ZONE SINCE 9-11-2001?
☐ YES ☒ NO

20D. ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF SERVICE (Indicate enlistment and discharge date(s), if applicable)

	Month	Day	Year
FROM:			
TO:			

21A. ARE YOU CURRENTLY SERVING OR HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE RESERVES OR NATIONAL GUARD?
☒ YES (If "Yes," complete Items 21B through 21F)
☐ NO (If "No," skip to Item 22A)

21B. COMPONENT
☐ NATIONAL GUARD
☒ RESERVES

21C. OBLIGATION TERM OF SERVICE

	Month	Day	Year
FROM:	01	01	2016
TO:	01	01	2020

21D. CURRENT OR LAST ASSIGNED NAME AND ADDRESS OF UNIT:
45th BN
124 Veteran Blvd., Ft. Knox, KY 12345

21E. CURRENT OR ASSIGNED PHONE NUMBER OF UNIT (Include Area Code)
(123)456-7979

21F. ARE YOU CURRENTLY RECEIVING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING PAY?
☐ YES ☒ NO

22A. ARE YOU CURRENTLY ACTIVATED ON FEDERAL ORDERS WITHIN THE NATIONAL GUARD OR RESERVES?
☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Items 22B & 22C)
☒ NO

22B. DATE OF ACTIVATION: Month – Day – Year

22C. ANTICIPATED SEPARATION DATE: Month – Day – Year

23A. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A PRISONER OF WAR?
☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Item 23B)
☒ NO

23B. DATES OF CONFINEMENT

	FROM: (Month – Day – Year)	TO: (Month – Day – Year)
1		
2		

SECTION VII: SERVICE PAY (Retired Pay, Separation Pay, and Disability Severance Pay)

24A. ARE YOU RECEIVING MILITARY RETIRED PAY?
☒ YES (If "Yes," complete Items 24C and 24D)
☐ NO

24B. WILL YOU RECEIVE MILITARY RETIRED PAY IN THE FUTURE?
☐ YES (If "Yes," explain below (e.g. future Reserve/National Guard retirement, pending MEB/PEB and also complete Items 24C and 24D)
☐ NO

24C. BRANCH OF SERVICE
☒ ARMY ☐ NAVY ☐ MARINE CORPS
☐ AIR FORCE ☐ COAST GUARD ☐ SPACE FORCE
☐ NOAA ☐ USPHS

24D. MONTHLY AMOUNT
$ 3,200.00

25. RETIRED STATUS
☒ RETIRED ☐ PERMANENT DISABILITY RETIRED LIST
☐ TEMPORARY DISABILITY RETIRED LIST

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON MILITARY RETIRED PAY (Includes all Uniformed Services Retired Pay):
Submission of this application constitutes a waiver of military retired pay in an amount equal to VA compensation awarded, if you are entitled to both benefits. Your retired pay may be reduced by the amount of VA compensation awarded. Receipt of the full amount of military retired pay and VA compensation at the same time ***may*** result in an overpayment, which ***may*** be subject to collection. If you qualify for concurrent receipt of VA compensation and military retired pay, the waiver of retired pay will not apply. If you do not want to waive any retired pay to receive VA compensation, you should check the box in **Item 26**.

Note that if you check the box in Item 26, you will not receive VA compensation, if granted. If you are currently in receipt of VA compensation and you check the box in Item 26, your VA compensation will be terminated, if you are also eligible for military retired pay.

IMPORTANT: VA COMPENSATION PAY IS NON-TAXABLE. THEREFORE, VA COMPENSATION PAY MAY BE THE GREATER BENEFIT.

☐ **26. Do NOT pay me VA compensation. I do NOT want to receive VA compensation in lieu of retired pay.**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEPARATION/SEVERANCE PAY:
VA compensation, if granted, may be withheld to recoup any disability severance or separation pay such as involuntary separation pay, voluntary separation pay, or special separation benefit, you receive from your branch of service. In addition, if you receive a Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI), your VSI payments may be reduced if you are awarded VA compensation. Receipt of VA compensation and VSI at the same time may result in an overpayment of VSI, which **may** be subject to collection.

27A. HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED SEPARATION PAY, DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY, OR ANY OTHER LUMP SUM PAYMENT FROM YOUR BRANCH OF SERVICE?

☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Items 27B through 27D)

☒ NO

27B. DATE PAYMENT RECEIVED (MM-DD-YYYY)	27C. BRANCH OF SERVICE	27D. AMOUNT RECEIVED (Provide pre-tax amount)
– –	☐ ARMY ☐ NAVY ☐ MARINE CORPS ☐ AIR FORCE ☐ COAST GUARD ☐ SPACE FORCE ☐ NOAA ☐ USPHS	$, .00

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING PAY:
You may elect to keep the active or inactive duty training pay you received from the military service department. However, to be legally entitled to keep your training pay, you must waive VA benefits for the number of days equal to the number of days for which you received training pay. In most instances, it will be to your advantage to waive your VA benefits and keep your training pay.

If you waive VA benefits to receive training pay by checking the box in **Item 28**, VA will retroactively adjust your VA award to withhold benefits equal to the total number of training days waived and at the monthly rate in effect for the fiscal year period for which you received training pay. This action may result in an overpayment of compensation, which ***may*** be subject to collection.

IMPORTANT: VA COMPENSATION PAY IS NON-TAXABLE. THEREFORE VA COMPENSATION PAY MAY BE THE GREATER BENEFIT.

☐ **28. Do NOT pay me VA compensation. I do NOT want to receive VA compensation in lieu of training pay.**

SECTION VIII: DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION
(Note: If you have already signed up for direct deposit, skip to Section IX)

The Department of the Treasury requires all Federal benefit payments be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT), also called direct deposit. **To enroll in direct deposit, provide the information requested below.** If you ***do not*** have a bank account, please visit https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/banking.asp. This website provides information about the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP), and a link to banks and credit unions that may fit your needs. You may also call 1-800-827-1000. If you elect not to enroll, you must contact representatives handling waiver requests for the Department of the Treasury at 1-888-224-2950. They will encourage your participation in EFT and address any questions or concerns you may have.

☐ 29. I CERTIFY THAT I DO NOT HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OR CERTIFIED PAYMENT AGENT. (If you check this box skip to Section IX)

30. ACCOUNT NUMBER (Check only **one** box below and provide the account number)

Account No.: 0 1 2 7 8 7 7 7 3 2 1 4 5 5 6 ☒ CHECKING ☐ SAVINGS

31. NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (Provide the name of the bank where you want your direct deposit)	32. ROUTING OR TRANSIT NUMBER (The first nine numbers located at the bottom left of your check)
Bank of America	0 1 0 2 3 4 4 5 5

SECTION IX: CLAIM CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify and authorize the release of information. I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize any person or entity, including but not limited to any organization, service provider, employer, or government agency, to give the Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me. For the limited purpose of providing VA with this information as it may relate to my claim, I waive any privilege that may apply and would otherwise make the information confidential and not discloseable.

I certify I have received the notice attached to this application titled, ***Notice to Veteran/Service Member of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Veterans Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.***

I certify I have enclosed all the information or evidence that will support my claim, to include an identification of relevant records available at a Federal facility such as a VA medical center; **OR,** I have no information or evidence to give VA to support my claim; **OR**, I have checked the box in Item 1, on page 9, indicating I want my claim processed under the standard claim process because I plan to submit additional evidence in support of my claim.

33A. VETERAN/SERVICE MEMBER SIGNATURE (**REQUIRED**)	33B. DATE SIGNED (MM-DD-YYYY)
John A. Doe	0 2 – 0 2 – 2 0 2 5

SECTION X: WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE

34A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (**Note**: Only sign if veteran signed in Item 33A using an "X")	34B. PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS
35A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (**Note**: Only sign if veteran signed in Item 33A using an "X")	35B. PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS

VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 1 1 1 – 1 1 – 1 1 1 1

SECTION XI: ALTERNATE SIGNER CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE (NOTE: REQUIRED ONLY IF ITEM 33A IS BLANK)

NOTE: An alternate signer signature **will not** be accepted unless a valid VA Form 21-0972, *Alternate Signer Certification*, is of record or attached to this request.

I certify that by signing on behalf of the claimant, that I am a court-appointed representative; **OR**, an attorney in fact or agent authorized to act on behalf of a claimant under a durable power of attorney; **OR**, a person who is responsible for the care of the claimant, to include but not limited to a spouse or other relative; **OR**, a manager or principal officer acting on behalf of an institution which is responsible for the care of an individual; **AND**, that the claimant is under the age of 18; **OR**, is mentally incompetent to provide substantially accurate information needed to complete the form, or to certify that the statements made on the form are true and complete; **OR**, is physically unable to sign this form.

I understand that I may be asked to confirm the truthfulness of the answers to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. I also understand that VA may request further documentation or evidence to verify or confirm my authorization to sign or complete an application on behalf of the claimant if necessary. Examples of evidence which VA may request include: Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN); a certificate or order from a court with competent jurisdiction showing your authority to act for the claimant with a judge's signature and a date/time stamp; copy of documentation showing appointment of fiduciary; durable power of attorney showing the name and signature of the claimant and your authority as attorney in fact or agent; health care power of attorney, affidavit or notarized statement from an institution or person responsible for the care of the claimant indicating the capacity or responsibility of care provided; or any other documentation showing such authorization.

36A. ALTERNATE SIGNER SIGNATURE (**REQUIRED**)	36B. DATE SIGNED (MM-DD-YYYY)
	– –

SECTION XII: POWER OF ATTORNEY (POA) SIGNATURE (NOTE: POA'S CANNOT SIGN FOR AN ORIGINAL CLAIM ONLY)

I certify that the claimant has authorized the undersigned representative to file this claim on behalf of the claimant and that the claimant is aware and accepts the information provided in this document. I certify that the claimant has authorized the undersigned representative to state that the claimant certifies the truth and completion of the information contained in this document to the best of claimant's knowledge.

NOTE: A POA's signature ***will not*** be accepted unless at the time of submission of this claim a valid VA Form 21-22, *Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative,* or VA Form 21-22a, *Appointment of Individual As Claimant's Representative,* indicating the appropriate POA is of record with VA.

37A. POA/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	37B. DATE SIGNED (MM-DD-YYYY)
	– –

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false, or for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled.

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: The form will be used to determine allowance to compensation benefits (38 U.S.C. 5101). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may disclose the information that you provide, including Social Security numbers, outside VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Veteran Readiness and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure for: civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration. Your response is required in order to obtain or retain benefits. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or State agencies for the purpose of determining your eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of your participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Social Security information: You are required to provide the Social Security number requested under 38 U.S.C. 5101(c)(1). VA may disclose Social Security numbers as authorized under the Privacy Act, and, specifically may disclose them for purposes stated above.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 2900-0747, and it expires 11/30/2025. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 25 minutes per respondent, per year, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to VA Reports Clearance Officer at **VACOPaperworkReduAct@VA.gov**. Please refer to OMB Control No. 2900-0747 in any correspondence. Do not send your completed VA Form 21-526EZ to this email address.

VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 1 1 1 – 1 1 – 1 1 1 1

SECTION XIII: CLAIM INFORMATION (ADDENDUM)

(Please submit this page with the completed application if you have additional disabilities to add to your claim. If more space is needed, please make additional copies of this page to submit with your application.)

LIST THE CURRENT DISABILITY(IES) OR SYMPTOMS THAT YOU CLAIM ARE RELATED TO YOUR MILITARY SERVICE AND/OR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY (If applicable, identify whether a disability is due to a service-connected disability; confinement as a prisoner of war; exposure to Agent Orange, asbestos, mustard gas, ionizing radiation, or Gulf War environmental hazards; or a disability for which compensation is payable under 38 U.S.C. 1151)

NOTE: List your claimed conditions below. **See the following three examples on guidance on how to complete Section XIII**.

EXAMPLES OF DISABILITY(IES)	EXAMPLES OF EXPOSURE TYPE	EXAMPLES OF HOW THE DISABILITY(IES) RELATES TO SERVICE	EXAMPLES OF DATES
Example 1. HEARING LOSS	NOISE	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR IN SERVICE	JULY 1968
Example 2. DIABETES	AGENT ORANGE	SERVICE IN VIETNAM WAR	DECEMBER 1972
Example 3. LEFT KNEE, SECONDARY TO RIGHT KNEE		INJURED LEFT KNEE WHEN BRACE ON RIGHT KNEE FAILED	6/11/2008

	CURRENT DISABILITY(IES)	IF DUE TO EXPOSURE, EVENT, OR INJURY, PLEASE SPECIFY (e.g., Agent Orange, radiation, burn pits)	EXPLAIN HOW THE DISABILITY(IES) RELATES TO THE IN-SERVICE EVENT/EXPOSURE/INJURY	APPROXIMATE DATE DISABILITY(IES) BEGAN OR WORSENED
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES | THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. SAFEGUARD IT. | ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF UNIFORMED SERVICE

When completed, this form contains personally identifiable information and is protected in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and DoD 5400.11-R, DoD Privacy Program.

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)	2. BRANCH AND COMPONENT	3. DOD ID NUMBER	4. SERIAL NUMBER:
Doe, John A	ARMY	111111111	111111111

5a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK	b. PAY GRADE	6. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)
E-7	E-7	19700101

7a. MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)	b. RESERVE STATUS FOR OBLIGATION (SELRES/IRR)	c. CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (Civilian)	d. CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS (Civilian)
20150101		(123)456-7890	johndoe@gmail.com

8a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY	b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known)
HOUSTON, TX	123 Veteran Rd., Houston, TX 12345

9a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND	b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED
18th Airborne Corps	Ft. Knox, KY 458521

10. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED	11. SGLI COVERAGE / AMOUNT: $
88th Ready Reserve, Ft. McCoy, WI 45787	☐ NONE

12. SPECIALITY *(List number, title, and years and months in specialties involving periods of one or more years.)*

11B INFANTRYMAN - 15 YRS 0 MOS//NOTHING FOLLOWS

13. RECORD OF SERVICE	YEAR(S)	MONTH(S)	DAY(S)
a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD	1992	10	01
b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD	2015	09	03
c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD	0023	00	00
d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE	0000	00	00
e. TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE	0023	00	00
f. TOTAL INACTIVE SERVICE	0000	00	00
g. FOREIGN SERVICE	0001	00	00
h. SEA SERVICE	0000	00	00
i. INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING			
j. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE	2010	01	01

14. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED *(All periods of service)*

BRONZE STAR MEDAL//ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (2ND AWARD)//ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (2ND AWARD)//NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2ND AWARD)//ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL//GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY//CONT IN BLOCK 18

15. UNIFORMED SERVICE EDUCATION *(Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed)*

16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID	17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION
	☒ YES ☐ NO

18. RETIREMENT SYSTEM OPTION					19. DD214-1 (Accompanies this DD214)	
☐ FINAL	☐ HIGH-3	☒ REDUX	☐ BRS		☒ YES	☐ NO

20. REMARKS

SERVED IN A DESIGNATED IMMINENT DANGER PAY AREA/ SERVICE IN IRAQ 20100101-20110101//
INDIVIDUAL COMPLETED PERIOD FOR WHICH ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR PURPOSE OF POST SERVICE BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS//ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM IAW 10 USC 12302//MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE//CONT FROM BLOCK 13: MEDAL//
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL//ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)//IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ CAMPAIGN STAR//ARMY SERVICE RIBBON//OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON (2ND AWARD)//ARMED FORCES

The information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for, and/or continued compliance with, the requirements of a Federal benefit program.

21a. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code)	21b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include ZIP code)
123 Veteran Rd., Houston, TX 12345	Mary Doe 123 Veteran Rd., Houston, Tx 12345

22. MEMBER REQUESTS DATA SHARE WITH *(Specify state/locality)* **OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** ☒ YES ☐ NO

23a. MEMBER SIGNATURE	b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	24. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN	
		a. NAME, GRADE AND TITLE	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
		b. SIGNATURE	

INJURY STATEMENT

John A. Doe
123 Veteran Rd.
Houston, TX 12345

March 3, 2025

Department of Veterans Affairs
To Whom It May Concern,

I, **John A. Doe**, am submitting this statement in support of my **VA disability claim for Gulf War Syndrome**. My exposure to **environmental hazards, toxins, and chemical agents** during my deployment to **Baghdad, Iraq (January 2010 – January 2011)** has resulted in **chronic, unexplained medical symptoms** that have severely impacted my physical health, mental well-being, and daily functioning.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

After my deployment, I began experiencing multiple unexplained health problems that were later diagnosed as **Gulf War Syndrome in July 2013**. My symptoms include:

- **Chronic fatigue**, leaving me constantly exhausted, even after rest.
- **Persistent joint pain and muscle aches**, making movement and daily tasks difficult.
- **Severe headaches**, occurring frequently and interfering with concentration.
- **Sleep disturbances**, including insomnia and unrefreshing sleep, worsening my fatigue.
- **Cognitive difficulties**, such as brain fog, memory lapses, and difficulty concentrating, affecting my ability to complete tasks.

Medical Treatment and Ongoing Care

I have been receiving treatment for my condition at the **Houston, TX VA Medical Facility**, with documented treatment dates including:

- **July 2013**
- **February 2014**
- **May 2015**

My current treatment includes:

- **Pain management** with **Naproxen** to alleviate joint and muscle pain.
- **Antidepressants** to help manage associated symptoms of **depression and anxiety**.
- **Acupuncture therapy** to assist in pain relief and relaxation.

Despite ongoing treatment, my symptoms persist, and **there is no known cure** for Gulf War Syndrome.

Impact on Daily Life

My **quality of life has been severely impacted** by this condition, preventing me from functioning as I once did. The effects of Gulf War Syndrome have made it **difficult to work, participate in social activities, and maintain relationships**. The most significant ways in which this condition has altered my life include:

- **Difficulty maintaining employment** due to chronic pain, fatigue, and concentration issues.
- **Social withdrawal**, as I can no longer participate in activities with family and friends.
- **Mental health struggles**, including **depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**, which have further impacted my ability to function in daily life.
- **Loss of independence**, as simple tasks have become exhausting and painful.

Request for VA Disability Compensation

Due to the **severe, chronic, and disabling symptoms caused by Gulf War Syndrome**, I am requesting **service-connected disability compensation** under VA guidelines for Gulf War-related illnesses. My medical history, **deployment exposure, ongoing treatment, and significant decline in quality of life** provide clear justification for my claim.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing my case. I certify that the statements in this letter are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,

John A. Doe

John A. Doe

NEXUS STATEMENT

[Physician's Letterhead]
Houston VA Medical Facility
124 Bronson Street
Houston, TX
Phone: (718) 242-5255

DATE: March 11, 2025

TO: Department of Veterans Affairs

RE: Medical Nexus Statement for John A. Doe
123 Veteran Rd.
Houston, TX 12345

SUBJECT: Nexus Letter in Support of VA Disability Claim for Gulf War Syndrome

To Whom It May Concern,

I am **Dr. Javier Jarez, MD, PCM**, currently practicing at the **Houston VA Medical Facility**, and I am writing this letter in support of **John A. Doe's** VA disability claim for **Gulf War Syndrome (GWS)**. Based on my medical expertise, his symptoms, and his service history, I strongly believe that his condition is directly related to his military service during the Gulf War era.

Medical History and Diagnosis

Mr. Doe has been under my care for the treatment of **Gulf War Syndrome**, which was officially diagnosed in **July 2013** following the appearance of multiple chronic symptoms. His condition has persisted despite ongoing treatment, significantly affecting his **physical and cognitive functioning**.

His primary symptoms include:

- **Chronic fatigue**
- **Persistent joint pain and muscle aches**
- **Severe headaches**
- **Sleep disturbances**
- **Cognitive difficulties (brain fog, memory issues, difficulty concentrating)**

These symptoms first appeared while he was residing in **Houston, TX**, after his military service. His treatment began in **February 2014** and has continued since **May 2015** at the **Houston VA Medical Facility**. His treatment regimen includes the use of **Naproxen (for pain management), antidepressants (to address the psychological effects of his condition), and acupuncture (for symptom relief).**

Link Between Military Service and Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Doe was deployed during the Gulf War era and was likely exposed to **environmental hazards, toxic exposures, and other service-related conditions that have been linked to Gulf War Syndrome**. The constellation of symptoms he experiences is consistent with those documented in veterans diagnosed with **chronic multi-symptom illness**, often referred to as **Gulf War Syndrome**.

Given the well-documented prevalence of **undiagnosed illnesses among Gulf War veterans**, and based on my review of Mr. Doe's medical records and military history, **it is my professional medical opinion that his condition is at least as likely as not (≥50% probability) caused by his military service.**

Impact on Quality of Life

Mr. Doe's condition has **severely diminished his ability to work, maintain relationships, and engage in social activities**. His **chronic fatigue and pain prevent him from maintaining stable employment**, and his **cognitive difficulties make it challenging for him to function in daily life**. In addition, he experiences **depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**, further compounding his disability.

Conclusion

Considering the medical evidence, his **deployment history**, and the symptoms he has suffered since his service, **it is my medical opinion that Mr. Doe's Gulf War Syndrome is at least as likely as not (≥50% probability) related to his military service**.

I respectfully request that the VA consider this medical evidence in support of his disability claim. If any further information or clarification is needed, I am available for consultation.

Sincerely,

Javier Jarez

Javier Jarez, MD
Primary Care Physician
Houston VA Medical Facility

BUDDY LETTER #1

Fredrick Wilson
2101 Swain Blvd.
Houston, TX 77101
Email: fredrickWilson@gmail.com
Phone: (813) 444-5454

DATE: March 11, 2025

TO: Department of Veterans Affairs

RE: Buddy Letter in Support of VA Disability Claim for John A. Doe

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is **Fredrick Wilson**, and I am writing this letter in support of my friend, **John A. Doe**, regarding his **VA disability claim for Gulf War Syndrome**. I have known John for many years and have personally witnessed the debilitating symptoms he experiences due to this condition.

Since **May 2022**, I have observed John suffering from **severe headaches and chronic fatigue**, which significantly affect his daily life. A specific instance that stands out occurred in **August 2023**, when we planned to meet for lunch at a local restaurant. When I arrived at his house, John was lying on the couch, barely able to keep his eyes open. He mentioned that he had been experiencing an intense headache since the morning and felt completely drained of energy. He struggled to get up and told me that this happens frequently, making it difficult for him to leave the house or engage in normal activities.

Over time, I have noticed that his **fatigue and headaches have worsened**. He often has to cancel plans, rest for long periods, and limit his activities due to exhaustion. Tasks that once seemed simple—such as walking short distances or holding a conversation—now leave him visibly fatigued.

I fully support John's disability claim and attest that the information provided in this letter is true to the best of my knowledge. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Fredrick Wilson

Fredrick Wilson

BUDDY LETTER #2

Karen Hope
2311 Southwest Blvd.
Houston, TX 12345
Email: karenhope@gmail.com
Phone: (807) 207-2425

DATE: March 11, 2025

TO: Department of Veterans Affairs

RE: Buddy Letter in Support of VA Disability Claim for John A. Doe

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is **Karen Hope**, and I am writing this letter in support of my friend, **John A. Doe**, regarding his **VA disability claim for Gulf War Syndrome**. I have known John for many years, and during this time, I have personally witnessed the struggles he faces due to his chronic symptoms.

Since **January 2022**, I have observed John experiencing **chronic fatigue, severe headaches, and cognitive difficulties** that significantly impact his ability to function in daily life. One specific instance that stands out occurred in **June 2023**, when we attended a community gathering in Houston. John was visibly exhausted upon arrival and mentioned that he had been struggling with **overwhelming fatigue and a pounding headache** since the morning. During the event, he frequently had to sit down to rest, and at one point, he seemed confused and had difficulty remembering details of our previous conversation. He eventually had to leave early because his symptoms became too overwhelming.

Over time, I have seen John's **condition worsen**. He struggles to complete basic daily tasks, often forgetting important details or losing focus in the middle of conversations. His **headaches seem to be persistent**, and his **fatigue has made it difficult for him to engage in social activities or maintain his usual routine**. These symptoms have significantly reduced his quality of life and his ability to remain independent.

I fully support John's disability claim and attest that the information provided in this letter is true to the best of my knowledge. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Karen Hope

Karen Hope

ADD MEDICAL DOCUMENTS HERE