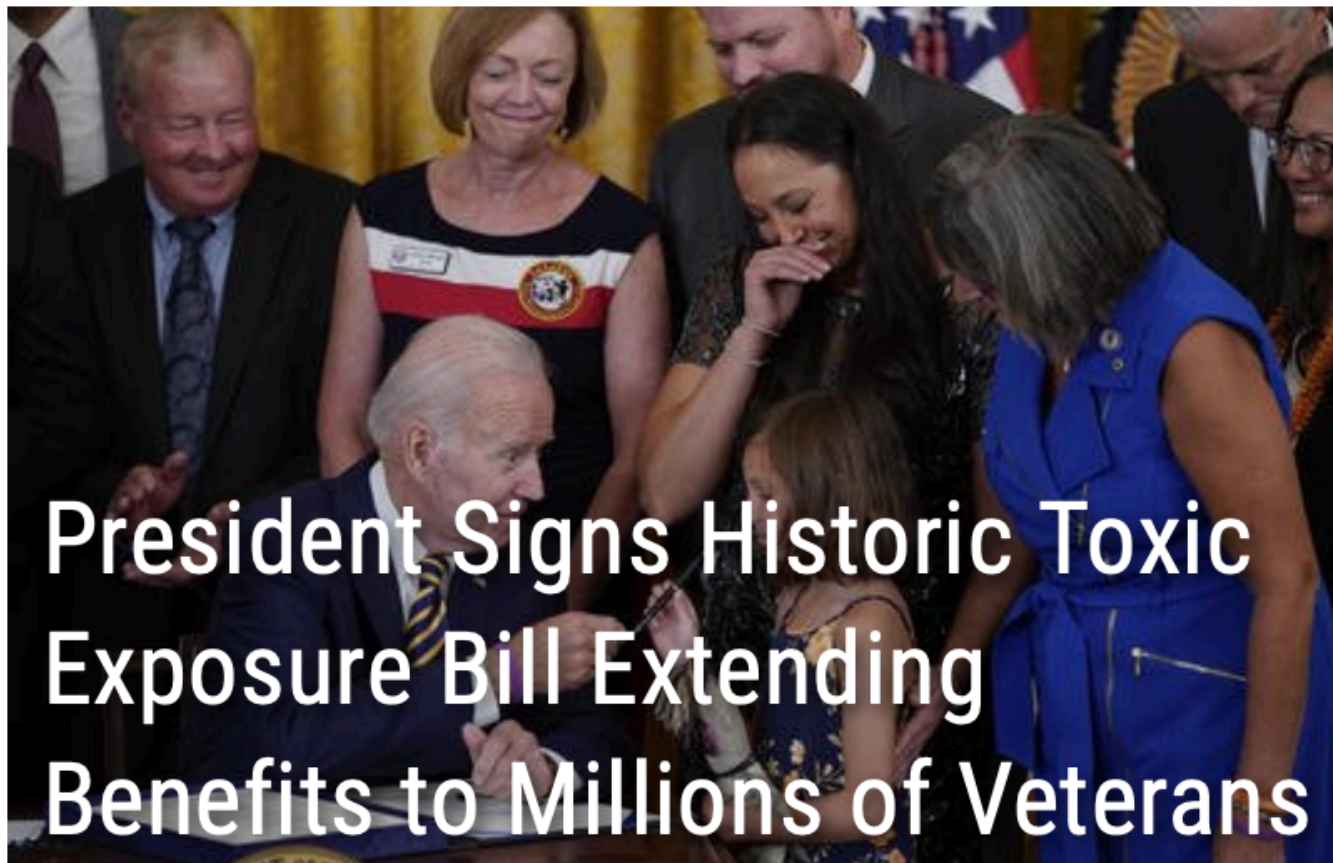


**Armed Services & Veterans Affairs Committee**

**News Update for the Veterans Newsletter- August 2022**



## The PACT Act is now Law!



The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This new act, signed into law on Wednesday, August 10, 2022:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive\* conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care; and
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

Survivors may also be eligible for VA benefits based on the PACT Act.

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits. You can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting (The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs) or calling the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-MyVA411.

\* What is a presumptive condition? To get a VA disability rating, you need to prove that your service caused your health condition. But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or "presume") that your service caused your condition. We call these "presumptive conditions." If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption. Learn more at [VA.gov/PAC](https://www.va.gov/PAC)





Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests | Aug 2022

# Women in Wildfire

Sept. 23rd-25th &  
Sept. 30th-Oct. 2nd



Learn more and apply at:  
[tinyurl.com/bdd22ba5](https://tinyurl.com/bdd22ba5)  
Applications due Aug. 21st



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Time and travel paid,  
equipment provided.  
Anyone from anywhere can apply.  
**Primary Contacts**  
Naomi Corkish: (928) 333-6247  
Matt Sigg: (316) 617-9898



*From the US Forest Service:*

The US Forest Service will be hosting the annual Women in Wildfire Training this fall in Arizona. This is a fast paced, six-day training where women from around the nation have an opportunity to participate in hands-on wildland fire training in a simulated fire assignment. Anyone is welcome to apply, no experience necessary. After the completion of the training, students become certified as FFT2 (Firefighter Type 2) and will be provided with information on how to apply in USAjobs if interested in working on a fire crew.

The camp will be held at the [Pinedale Work Center](#) on the Lakeside District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona. The dates for the training are Sept 23rd-25th and Sept 30th-Oct 2nd. Participants must attend both timeframes. Time and travel are paid, and equipment is provided. [Apply by August 21, 2022.](#)

If you have any questions, contact:

Naomi Corkish ([naomi.corkish@usda.gov](mailto:naomi.corkish@usda.gov), 928-333-6247) or  
Matt Sigg ([matthew.sigg@usda.gov](mailto:matthew.sigg@usda.gov), 316-617-9898).

Source: US forest Service

# MILITARY TRIVIA



1. How many times have African American been in America's Wars?
  - a. 9 wars
  - b. 12 wars
  - c. 15 wars
  
2. . When was the first all-Black Paratrooper company, 555th Parachute Company activated?
  - a. 1953
  - b. 1943
  - c. 1963
  
3. How long did Cathay Williams, a woman who listed in Army as a man( William Cathay) remain in the Army?
  - a. 3 years
  - b. 5 years
  - c. 2 years

# Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can occur following a life-threatening event like military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults like rape. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time. However, some people have stress reactions that don't go away on their own, or may even get worse over time. These individuals may develop PTSD.

People who suffer from PTSD often suffer from nightmares, flashbacks, difficulty sleeping, and feeling emotionally numb. These symptoms can significantly impair a person's daily life.

[More information on PTSD.](#)

PTSD is marked by clear physical and psychological symptoms. It often has symptoms like depression, substance abuse, problems of memory and cognition,



and other physical and mental health problems. The disorder is also associated with difficulties in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital problems, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

If you are suffering from PTSD, or know someone who is, you should contact the VA for assistance.

Each VA medical center has PTSD specialists who provide treatment for Veterans with PTSD. Plus, the VA provides nearly 200 specialized PTSD treatment programs. A referral is usually needed to access the specialty programs.

The VA offers [several PTSD treatment options](#), including medical, mental health, and family services.

[Check out the VA's PTSD website for details.](#)

NOTE: If you are in crisis dial 911 or 800-273-TALK (800-273-8255).

Source: Military.com

**Armed Services & Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**Linda Collins**  
**Madeline Ferrell**  
**Irma Cooper, Chair**