

# FACTS ABOUT LUNG CANCER SCREENING VETERANS SHOULD KNOW



## Early detection is a game-changer.

Early detection can drastically improve survival rates. Detected at an early stage, **the 5-year survival rate is around 60%**, but unfortunately, **only 1 out of 4** lung cancer cases are diagnosed at this stage.

## Your service may have put you at a heightened risk.

This heightened risk is primarily due to **exposure to carcinogenic substances** during their service and higher rates of smoking.

**"Agent Orange** is responsible for my lung cancer and the VA told me and has taken full responsibility, covering all the costs of interventions and therapies."



## Lung cancer screening is an easy, painless procedure



Join Veteran Bryan Crandall as he walks you through his lung cancer screening.

## ScreenAVet.org



See how easy getting scan is...

An LDCT scan is the most effective method for detecting lung cancer.

**20% reduction in lung cancer deaths** among those screened with LDCT compared to chest X-rays.

## Hurrah to all Veterans who quit smoking!

A 2021 survey found that the rate of Veterans enrolled in VA health care who identified as smokers dropped **nearly 20% in 21 years**, from 33% in 1999 to 13.3% in 2020. It's never too late to quit!



## You may be eligible for lung cancer screening.

It's estimated that **1.5M Veterans are eligible for lung screening** with annual low-dose chest CT scans.

## Know your risks and get screened.



# LUNG CANCER RISK FACTORS THAT VETERANS SHOULD KNOW



## Radon

Military personnel stationed in certain geographic locations or buildings may have been exposed to **radon**, a naturally occurring **radioactive gas** that can increase lung cancer risk.

## Asbestos

This heightened risk is primarily due to **exposure to carcinogenic substances** during their service and higher rates of smoking. Veterans who worked in specializations such as shipbuilding or construction, may have been exposed to asbestos, a known carcinogen.

## Air Pollution

In some deployment locations, air quality may have been compromised due to factors like **burn pits, dust, smoke, or chemical emissions**, increasing the risk of lung cancer.

## Prior Lung Disease

Military personnel with a history of **lung diseases**, like **COPD or tuberculosis**, have an increased risk of lung cancer. Regular check-ups are vital for early detection.

See how easy getting scan is...



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## Family History

Military personnel with a history of **lung diseases**, like **COPD or tuberculosis**, have an increased risk of lung cancer. Regular check-ups are vital for early detection.

## Smoking

Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. Military personnel, especially those **who started smoking during service**, are at a higher risk. Get screened - learn more about VA screening.

## Secondhand Smoke


**Exposure to secondhand smoke** can also increase the risk of lung cancer. This is particularly pertinent in **shared living or recreational areas** in military environments.

Are you eligible for a lung cancer screening?

Know your risks and get screened.



Lung Cancer Foundation of America



## SPECIFIC LUNG CANCER RISK EXPOSURES BY MILITARY BRANCHES VETERANS SHOULD KNOW

Veterans face a higher risk of developing lung cancer due to:

- Working where there were occupational exposures during their time in service
- Working in areas of conflict or natural disasters where exposure to environmental hazards occur such as asbestos and burn pits
- Higher smoking rates

### U.S. Air Force

Veterans are at risk of asbestos exposure on Air Force planes, buildings, and vehicles due to the use of **asbestos-based products to prevent fires**.

These occupations also exposed Veterans to potential cancer-causing elements:

**Aircraft mechanics, Aviation machinist's mates, Boiler tenders, Gunner's mates, HVAC specialists, Pilots, Plumbers and pipefitters, and Welders**

### U.S Marines

Marine Corps Veterans may have been exposed to asbestos during their service, both **in buildings and vehicles**. This exposure puts them at risk of developing lung cancer later in life. Those who were **stationed at Navy bases, shipyards, or aboard Navy ships** may have faced even higher levels of asbestos exposure.

### U.S. Army

**Asbestos** was commonly used in the U.S. Army for **vehicle parts like brakes**. It was also present in **construction materials** used in Army bases, such as **cement and paint**. Soldiers may still encounter **asbestos and other carcinogens in buildings overseas**.

### U.S. Navy

Veterans who served in the U.S. Navy are **most at risk of asbestos exposure**. The Navy used more asbestos-containing materials than any other military branch.

