

## BERGMANN &amp; MOORE: BEYOND THE CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT

## Unexplained cancers and diseases related to military service

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are human-made chemicals found in many products, including firefighting foams like aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), used by civilian and military firefighters. Often called “forever” chemicals, they do not break down in the environment.

The government has been aware of PFAS contamination around military bases for many years. In 2021, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a report on PFAS-identified military fire training areas as one of the principal sources of contamination in the United States. Although the greatest exposure to these chemicals involves those who worked with the substances as part of their MOS – especially firefighters and servicemembers who employed AFFF for training – contamination is believed to be widespread, including in drinking water.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS can be detected in the blood of most people. The likelihood of health problems from PFAS depends on several factors, including the concentration, frequency and duration of exposure. More research is needed to understand the link between exposure to PFAS and health effects in humans.

**Testing for PFAS** Some veterans may want blood testing to find out their PFAS levels. Although PFAS testing is not currently available at VA medical centers, VA is re-evaluating blood testing in accordance with new federal research.

ATSDR has suggested that certain PFAS exposure may be associated with:

- Fertility issues and pregnancy-induced hypertension/preeclampsia
- Increased cholesterol



- Changes in the immune system
- Increased risk of certain cancers (e.g., testicular, breast, bladder, ovarian, kidney, and leukemia and other blood cancers)
- Changes in fetal and child development
- Liver damage
- Increased risk of thyroid disease
- Increased risk of asthma

In addition to reviewing the potential health effects of PFAS, ATSDR is also involved in several communities with documented contamination. It conducts exposure assessments and provide technical assistance to local officials to help inform members of these communities about their exposure.

Veterans or family members who may have lived on base, and who believe they may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals and are suffering from a disease or illness related to this exposure, may speak to someone personally by calling toll-free **877-838-2889**, or going to Bergmann & Moore's website at [vetlawyers.com/toxicexposure](https://vetlawyers.com/toxicexposure). Their staff will evaluate the claim and provide a no-cost assessment of the merits of a potential case.

*Bergmann & Moore is a national law firm managed by former VA attorneys, and has worked with The American Legion over the past seven years providing veteran service officer training and litigation support. Over the past 20 years, the firm has successfully represented more than 12,000 veterans and their family members in VA disability compensation claims in federal court.*

**On Sept. 9, 1776, the Continental Congress officially declared that our country would be called the “United States of America.”** As History.com explains, “This replaced the term ‘United Colonies,’ which had been in general use. In the congressional declaration ... the delegates wrote, ‘That in all continental commissions, and other instruments, where, heretofore, the words ‘United Colonies’ have been used, the stile be altered for the future to the United States.’”



**MY GI BILL VETERANS  
& EDUCATION**  
BY VALERIE VIGIL

## Chapter 33 and financial aid

**Q:** I am enrolled full-time in school using my Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. My tuition and fees are paid, but I struggle with rent and everyday expenses. Can I apply for assistance?

**A:** College students may apply for grants to supplement GI Bill benefits, including:

**Federal Pell Grants** Based on financial need, can help cover education expenses beyond tuition

**Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)** For students with exceptional financial needs

**Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants** For students whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan

**Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants** Support students pursuing teaching careers in high-need fields; students agree to a teaching-service obligation

To apply for any of these grants, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online via [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). Follow the guidelines for each grant to avoid repayment obligations.

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## IF YOU'RE A VETERAN WEARING ADULT DIAPERS TO CONTROL URINARY INCONTINENCE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

**“** I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It's a Godsend. **”**

— John, Men's Liberty user



### Did you know that over 18%<sup>1</sup> or almost twice as many men with military service experience urinary incontinence?

If you're a veteran looking for urinary incontinence solutions for daily leaks or as a result of an injury while serving our country, Men's Liberty™ can help you get out of absorbent products, condom catheters or pads and start living your life without letting incontinence get in your way.

	MEN'S LIBERTY	ADULT DIAPERS
<b>Keeps you dry 24/7?</b>	<b>YES</b> Can be worn comfortably, cleanly and securely for up to 24 hours	<b>NO</b> Must be changed regularly when they fill up or overflow — often every few hours
<b>Directs urine away from the skin?</b>	<b>YES</b> Completely external design collects fluid into a discreet pouch — leak-free	<b>NO</b> Traps moisture which stays in contact with skin causing discomfort or infection
<b>Reduces the risk of infections?</b>	<b>YES</b> More than 5 million Men's Liberty units have been sold, with reduced risk of infections or skin injuries	<b>NO</b> High incidence of diaper rash, sores, yeast infections and dermatitis
<b>Invisible under clothing?</b>	<b>YES</b> Men's Liberty is unnoticeable — only you know it's there	<b>NO</b> Awkward diapers can be ill-fitting, bulky and uncomfortable
<b>Little to no out-of-pocket cost?</b>	<b>YES</b> Covered by Medicare, most Medicaid plans, many private insurance plans, workers compensation and VA/Tricare	<b>NO</b> Adult diapers are not covered by Medicare, costing users up to \$300 a month

Live your life on your own terms — not in diapers!

### FREE INFORMATION. FREE BONUS OFFER.

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<sup>1</sup>Vaughan CP, Johnson TM 2nd, Goode PS, Redden DT, Burgio KL, Markland AD. Military exposure and urinary incontinence among American men. J Urol. 2014 Jan; 191(1):125-9. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.07.016. Epub 2013 Jul 16. PMID: 23871759.