

NEW US LAW ALLOWS **BRITISH SERVICEMEN/WOMEN AND RELATIVES** STATIONED THERE WITH THEM TO SEEK COMPENSATION FOR CANCERS CAUSED BY CONTAMINATED WATER AT US MARINE BASE CAMP LEJEUNE

A historic piece of legislation which was signed by President Joe Biden earlier this year has been making the headlines in the United States.

It relates to the causes of cancers and other serious illnesses through contaminated water supplies - to former servicemen and women, and their families who were stationed there with them, at the Camp Lejeune US Marine base in the US state of North Carolina between the 1950s and 1980s.

The new legislation paves the way for thousands of former US military personnel to seek compensation, **and the law applies to former British servicemen and women too!**



Paul McClorry, a solicitor at UK-based Hudgell Solicitors, and Mike Doyle, an American attorney specialising in military and maritime claims at Doyle Dennis LLP Trial Lawyers, answer some key questions relating to the case.

WHAT KIND OF DISEASES DID THE WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE CAUSE?

It's believed the contaminated water has been responsible for causing numerable cancers as well as Parkinson's disease, renal failure and more. Some of the illnesses linked to toxic tap water at Camp Lejeune include:

- **Adult leukaemia**
- **Bladder cancer**
- **Kidney cancer**
- **Liver cancer**
- **Oesophageal cancer**
- **Lung cancer**
- **Multiple myeloma**
- **Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma**
- **Parkinson's disease**
- **Auto-immune diseases**

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED AND WHO MAY BE ABLE TO CLAIM?

It's estimated that, over a 34-year period, as many as a million people may have been exposed to the local toxic water supply.

It has been identified as impacting not just serving personnel, but also members of their families, especially children, relying on the base's contaminated water over the years.

CAN I CLAIM NOW?

Victims can submit their claim for two years from the date of enactment of the Pact Act, which came into effect on 10th August 2022.

Think you might have a claim? Call us now on 0808 115 8354.

WHAT ABOUT FORMER **BRITISH SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN** AND THEIR DEPENDENTS?

The law allows former British servicemen and women to seek compensation. However, we are talking about a period of time stretching back up to 70 years ago, so those affected are likely to be older generations who may not be aware of the cause of their illness or this new legal development.

It's important for families to think about their loved ones, especially if they have gone on to suffer from serious illnesses such as cancer, and ask questions as to whether they were ever stationed in the US, and if so whether it was at this camp, during this time.

Veterans groups and associations can also help by making members aware.

The exact numbers of former British servicemen and women affected are presently unclear, but research suggests it is likely there were thousands stationed at the camp on training exercises during the period of risk.



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WHO IS ENTITLED TO SEEK DAMAGES?

This action is available to individuals exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days, regardless of whether they are veterans, family members or civilians.

The 30 days do not need to have been consecutive; as long as time spent at the camp totals 30 days, the victim is eligible.

Primary carers, including spouses and children of the individuals who were directly exposed, can sue for damages on behalf of the poisoned.

Even if the carers were not poisoned themselves and loved ones have since died, they can now seek compensation.

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ABOUT THE LEGAL SPECIALISTS

Paul McClorry is co-chair of the American Association for Justice's International Practice Section (an association of personal injury lawyers acting for UK claimants in American courts).

He has extensive experience of working alongside US lawyers and experts on cases relating to compensation for injuries.

Mike Doyle's practice includes the representation of plaintiffs in maritime personal injury, international and trans-national personal injury.

He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a Fellow in the National College of Advocacy of the American Association for Justice.