

Monthly Stakeholder Newsletter



Togus Regional Office: Making an Im'PACT'

What better way to celebrate the holiday season than with a Winter Carnival parade. Though the outdoor temperature in Central Maine was brisk, spirits were high as members of the Togus Regional Office (RO) lined up to participate in the parade hosted by the VA Maine Healthcare System. RO employees decked the halls with a golf cart decorated with themed gift boxes to feature the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The parade provided the RO an ideal opportunity to promote the historic PACT Act and encourage Veterans and Survivors to submit their PACT related claims. An event highlight included RO employees handing out chocolate gold coins symbolic of how valuable the PACT Act is to our Veteran community. The event culminated with a tree lighting ceremony for the community living center residents of the Togus VA Medical Center.



Togus Featured in WABI TV5 Story about PACT Act

On December 23, 2022, Togus was featured in a [news piece](#) for Bangor's WABI TV5 regarding the PACT Act, emphasizing the significance of the legislation and encouraging the submission of PACT Act associated claims.

Do you know someone who is looking for a challenging, fulfilling career that focusses on serving Veterans and their family members?

If so, please direct them to www.usajobs.gov or you may share the below QR Code to see positions as they are announced.



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Special Point(s) of Interest

- Encounter a Veteran in crisis Dial 988, Press 1 for Veterans Crisis Line
- Have a Veteran with benefits questions? Call our Public Contact Team at 207-621-6938 to receive help or to schedule an appointment (in-person, phone, or video).

With the introduction of the [Camp Lejeune Justice Act \(CLJA\) of 2022](#), a component of the PACT Act, there have been questions raised about the impacts of monetary relief under CLJA and VA service-connected compensation associated with Camp Lejeune Contamination Water. Here is helpful information addressing some key questions.

Does seeking relief under the CLJA impact VA benefits or healthcare?

VA compensation benefits or health care services will not be impacted if a Veteran files a lawsuit. If a Veteran is awarded relief from a CLJA lawsuit, VA benefits will not be reduced, and eligibility for other VA benefits or services will not be affected.



Will court awarded relief (from filing a lawsuit) be impacted by VA benefits and services a Veteran already receives?

Yes, potentially. If a Veteran already receives VA benefits or services (disability pay or health care services) for conditions related to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the court awarded relief will be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or other benefit VA related to exposure at Camp Lejeune.



What if a Veteran files for VA disability AFTER they receive an award from a lawsuit brought under CLJA, will VA reduce benefits as a result?

No. Any action taken or award received under the CLJA will not influence VA's decision to provide benefits or health care based upon exposure or the amount of compensation received from VA.



For more information regarding VA benefits for conditions associated with Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water please visit:

www.VA.gov/CampLejeune

If you or your organization is hosting an event and you want Togus to participate, please contact vavbatog.engage@va.gov.

Look for a Togus Representative at one of the following locations:

- ♦ **January 14**– American Legion Mid –Winter Conference, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME Time: 10am to 2pm
- ♦ **January 18**– Coffee with Vets, House in the Woods, 217 Skunk Hill Rd., Lee, ME Time: 8am to 11pm
- ♦ **January 28**– Vouchers for Veterans Information Booth– Portland Farmers Market 63 Stevens Ave., Portland, ME Time: 9am to 1pm - Open to the Public!

Save the Date!

- ♦ **February 25, 2023** – We are all “PACT” up and headed to Bangor! Please join the Veterans Benefits Administration—Togus Regional Office, Veterans Health Administration—VA Maine Healthcare System, Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services and many other Veteran-centric organizations to learn more about the PACT Act and the myriad of other resources available for Veterans in the State of Maine. All Veterans are welcome to attend this free, family-friendly event. Our valued stakeholders are also welcome to attend to witness first-hand how Maine takes care of their Veterans. Stay tuned for more details and thank you for helping us spread the word.

- Location: Anah Shriners, 1404 Broadway, Bangor, ME
- Date: Saturday, February 25, 2023
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Cost: Free!

Claims Clinics

To schedule an appointment at one of the Claims Clinics near you, please call 207-621-6938.

- ♦ **January 12**– Bangor VA Clinic, Bangor, ME Time: 10am to 2:30pm
- ♦ **January 17**– Bangor VA Clinic, Bangor, ME Time: 10am to 2:30pm
- ♦ **January 20**– Mid Coast Veterans Resource Center, Brunswick, ME Time: 9:30am to 2:30pm
- ♦ **January 24**– Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME Time: 10am to 2pm
- ♦ **January 26**– Sanford Vet Center, Springvale, ME Time: 10am to 1pm

Togus Regional Office

The Togus Regional Office (RO) is assigned to the Northeast District of the Veterans Benefits Administration. The RO is authorized 270 full time employees to support a State Veteran population of more than 100,000 Veterans. The RO administers a variety of services and benefits including Compensation and Veteran Readiness and Employment.

Did You Know about: [National Park Military Pass?](#)

America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series

The free pass covers entrance fees at national parks and national wildlife refuges as well as standard amenity fees (day use fees) at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and US Army Corps of Engineers.

Available for: Gold Star Families with a valid Gold Star Family Voucher, US military Veterans with a valid Veteran ID

Registration: In person - [Find a location to obtain this pass at a federal recreation site](#) or Online - Order from the [USGS Online Store](#). Processing and shipping fees apply for online orders.

Contact the Regional Office

Togus Regional Office

1 VA Center

Augusta, ME 04330

207-626-4788

DIR.VBATOG@VA.GOV

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Contact Your Congressional Liaisons

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Helpful Websites

- ◆ File a claim and access self-service benefits (e.g., print a letter): www.va.gov
- ◆ Access the latest information on the PACT Act: www.va.gov/PACT
- ◆ Access the Togus Regional Office website: www.benefits.va.gov/togus