Asbestos and mesothelioma

– facts for the Armed Forces

Asbestos and the Armed Forces

In the last century, asbestos was widely used throughout the UK including within areas of the Defence Estate and Crown Estate. Many UK citizens, including members of the Armed Forces, have come into direct contact with asbestos, either through handling products with which they were working or in the buildings/other assets in which they were working or living including ships, tanks and aircraft.

This also applies to defence contractors and civilians working under contract for the MOD and/or Crown Estate.

As with many other public service buildings, many of the buildings on and around Armed Forces bases contained asbestos and although there is a drive to improve the fabric of buildings to prevent further exposure to asbestos, exposure throughout the UK is well documented.

It is difficult to be specific about asbestos exposure that has occurred within the Armed Forces or the incidence of mesothelioma. However given the nature of the work and the environments in which service men and women were working, and based on the incidence being seen, there is no question that, as with the rest of the UK, Armed Forces personnel have been exposed to asbestos.

Key facts and figures

- The UK has the highest incidence of mesothelioma in the world with around 2,700 cases per year
- 84% of those diagnosed are male
- The average age for someone diagnosed with pleural mesothelioma is 75 years
- Currently eight veterans per month are claiming war pension due to a diagnosis of mesothelioma

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Contact

If you're a serving member of the Armed Forces, a veteran, mesothelioma patient, family member or carer, a member of an Armed Forces partner organisation or other party interested about finding out more about how Mesothelioma UK is supporting our Armed Forces, the treatments and care available, or for advice on benefits/compensation claims, please contact Mesothelioma UK at:

Tel: 0800 169 2409
Email: info@mesothelioma.uk.com
Web: www.mesothelioma.uk.com

@mesoUK
@therealmesouk

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