



## **Need for Camp Lejeune Advisory Opinions**

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- VHA medical opinion will be the primary consideration VBA's determination of whether the required medical link or nexus has been established.
- VBA is concerned with some of the medical opinions provided in these claims.
  - Do not appear to be informed opinions that take into account all that is known about the contaminants in the water at Camp Lejeune
  - Do not appear to document an understanding of the development of the claimed disabilities.
- This more likely than not will negatively affect Veterans' timely receipt of entitled compensation



# Unique Problems of Camp Lejeune Opinions

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- NRC Report of 2009 lists 14 conditions with Limited or Suggestive Evidence of Epidemiologic Association
  - Suggested evidence of Association is an very wide category and is not prima facia evidence of causality
  - Provides the most general categories which includes conditions that would not be specifically associated
- Different Learned Bodies ( IARC; EPA, WHO, NRC) report differing conclusions regarding causation for many of the contaminants
- Ability to reasonably estimate exposure is extremely limited
- Evolving body of medical literature shows myriad effects of organic solvents including those at Camp Lejeune



## **Need for Nexus Determinations**

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- Despite ambiguity, VA must provide a fair and just adjudication of a claim for service connection based upon exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune
- VBA usually requests VHA review of medical and related evidence and provide a medical opinion regarding whether a nexus exists between the claimed condition and the Veteran's service