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Asbestos was used in a vast array of products until the 1980s, prior to which, very few companies knew about its dangers. One of the most common causes of mesothelioma is regular exposure to asbestos. It is a cancer that attacks the protective lining of the lungs, abdomen or the heart. The United States military was also ignorant to the dangers of asbestos exposure, and the material was used extensively by all branches of the military in the past. Some of the most common places where asbestos was used in the military includes:

- Insulating material on naval ships, particularly on boilers, engines, and ammunition storage units
- Sleeping quarters, mess halls, and navigation rooms on ships
- As flame retardant materials on aircraft, including in engine shields, cargo bays, brakes, etc.
- Jeeps, trucks, and tanks, particularly in brake and clutch systems to withstand friction
- General construction materials used in mess halls, administrative buildings, floor tiles, roof shingles, dry wall, and cement

This has made personnel who came into contact with the asbestos fibers directly or indirectly more susceptible to asbestos cancer. This includes Navy shipyard workers, military and air force product workers, and many other people working in the defense forces.

Even though the disease directly links, in many cases, with military usage of asbestos-containing materials, neither the Federal Government nor the armed forces are sued or blamed for the exposure. Instead, it is the asbestos manufacturing companies that are held responsible for veterans' exposure. The Veteran Affairs (VA) considers asbestos cancer to be an illness that is connected with defense service and therefore provides guidance to affected personnel. But veterans have to show that the asbestos exposure occurred during defense service in order to claim compensation from VA. Gathering evidence and the necessary details in order to make a presentation to the VA is tiring as well as time-consuming and often more than an ill veteran can handle alone. Hence, there is a need for a mesothelioma attorney.

A mesothelioma attorney will be able to guide veterans through the complex legal matters to prove when exposure occurred in order to receive compensation from the VA. This compensation is decided on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, veterans cannot be guaranteed a standard compensation award. The mesothelioma attorney will gather all the necessary documentation and present the veteran's case before the VA to show that the veteran is suffering from asbestos cancer that occurred as a result of asbestos exposure while the veteran was actively serving.

The mesothelioma attorney should have experience and an excellent track record for handling similar cases for veterans. Baron & Budd P.C. is one such firm that has been working extensively in the area of asbestos litigation for thirty years. More information about the firm is available at www.mesotheliomanews.com.

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This article is based on the author's research of wrongful exposure and the powerful impact made by hearing about a friend's mesothelioma diagnosis. His goal is to reach others to connect, share information, and create a greater sense of awareness of the past and present dangers of asbestos exposure. Vicky is not a [mesothelioma attorney](#), or employee of Baron and Budd, P.C., but does have a strong, personal familiarity with the struggles of a mesothelioma diagnosis. He stays abreast of news in litigation by reading articles posted on respected and popular industry websites, such as www.mesotheliomanews.com.

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