



# TOXIC EXPOSURES

in the American Military

30+ military and veteran service organizations and experts

**Toxic Exposure in the American Military Act (S. 4393)** The most ambitious and comprehensive legislation on military toxic exposures ever introduced, the TEAM Act is the culmination of nearly two years of collaboration by the TEAM Coalition of more than 30 VSOs seeking to improve benefits for veterans made ill as a result of toxic exposures. Exposures range from burn pits to radiation to chemically-laced IEDs and other toxins within the operational environment.

We are calling on Congress to pass this legislation before the end of the year. Toxic exposures should not be this generation's Agent Orange - exposed veterans should not be forced to wait decades for care.

## The TEAM Act fundamentally reforms and improves how veterans exposed to toxic substances receive health care and benefits from the VA.

- Ensures that eligible veterans, who have received hazardous duty pay and who have been made ill as a result of toxic exposures during their service, will have access to VA health care and testing, regardless of whether they have been enrolled at the VA.
- Expands training on toxic exposure issues for VA health care and benefits personnel, and requires VA to develop a questionnaire for primary care appointments to help determine whether a veteran may have been exposed to toxic substances during service.
- Requires VA to respond to new scientific evidence regarding diseases associated with toxic exposure within an established time frame.
- Develops an online portal for veterans to access the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER) - a new DoD database that can show the veteran or service member what they were likely exposed to during their deployments. Unfortunately, now veterans must FOIA their information to receive it.
- Establishes a scientific commission to research the health effects of toxic exposure in veterans and report the commission's findings to VA and Congress.
- Ensures VA enters into agreements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct scientific studies regarding links between diseases and toxic exposures during military service.



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