

Legislation Introduced to Add Diseases Caused by Agent Orange Exposure

Reps. Josh Harder (Calif.) and Pete Stauber (Minn.) have introduced the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610). The bill would increase the presumptive conditions linked to exposure of the Agent Orange herbicide to include parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension and hyperthyroidism. In October 2019, it was revealed that White House officials impeded the inclusion of these diseases as presumptive conditions despite a recommendation from former Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin to be added. Currently, Vietnam Veterans (including those that served off the coast of Vietnam) with specific health care problems developed as the result of exposure to Agent Orange during their service get "presumptive" access to VA benefits. However, some health problems that have been linked to Agent Orange by National Academy of Medicine research done in 2016, are not covered. The decision to ignore the results of real scientific evidence and wait on the outcome of other studies means dragging out care for more than 83,000 Vietnam veterans struggling with bladder cancer, Parkinsonism, hypertension or hypothyroidism. They must struggle without the benefits they deserve. Members are urged to use the [Action Center](#) to urge their legislators to support this important legislation.

DoD Provides Updated List of Agent Orange Storage Sites and Dates

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently released an updated Department of Defense list of locations outside of Vietnam where tactical herbicides were used, tested or stored by the United States military. The DoD conducted a thorough review of research, reports and Government publications in response to a November 2018 Government Accountability Office report. "DoD will continue to be responsive to the needs of our interagency partners in all matters related to taking care of both current and former service members," said Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper. "The updated list includes Agents Orange, Pink, Green, Purple, Blue and White and other chemicals and will be updated as verifiable information becomes available." "This update was necessary to improve accuracy and communication of information," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA depends on DoD to provide information regarding in-service environmental exposure for disability claims based on exposure to herbicides outside of Vietnam." The list of locations in the U.S. include Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. [Click Here](#) to view specific sites.