



Toxic Wounds

AMVETS strongly advocates for more research of and compensation for toxic wounds resulting from a veterans' military service, including those not yet recognized by VA as presumptively causing ill health, such as burn pit exposure in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This has been a critical issue for AMVETS for many years, and we plan to continue taking every opportunity to advocate for veterans suffering from the effect of any form of toxic exposure. It is important to mention that this is not solely a deployment or combat related issue; two perfect examples of this are Ft. McClellan and Camp Lejeune.

This is a quality of life issue, not only for the veteran, but for their families as well. AMVETS strongly supports continued funding of the CDMRP (Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program) Gulf War illness research program at last year's level of \$20 million. Any progress that has been made in the area of Gulf War research can be attributed to solely to the CDMRP.

This critically important program must be retained and must be allowed to do its work without undue interference by the IOM (Institute of Medicine) or the DHA (Defense Health Agency).

Furthermore, legislation is urgently needed to assert appropriate Congressional authority over Gulf War Illness research and enable scientific progress to continue, including the need to: require VA to properly conduct Institute of Medicine Gulf War studies previously ordered by Congress.

The studies have not been conducted in strict accordance with Congress's direction, or in some cases, have not been conducted at all, which sadly suggests an effort to manipulate research by government employees. Specifically, AMVETS cannot underestimate the importance of requiring the inclusion of animal studies.

AMVETS supports the passage of S. 75, the Arla Harrell Act and H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017.