

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-16**

SUBJECT: Toxic Exposures

SOURCE: AK, IN, IL, MO, OH, ND, CT, WI, DC, PA, NC, WA, MA, MI

**WHEREAS**, military bases have historically used and disposed of chemical degreasers and other toxic substances that were later determined to contaminate drinking water and pose multiple health risks including cancers; reproductive disorders; birth defects; and numerous other serious difficulties, and;

**WHEREAS**, countless combat deployed military personnel or those stationed on any of the 141 toxic bases within CONUS have been exposed to a wide variety of contaminants, through drinking water, general water usage, exposure through vapor seepage, soil contact, as well as exposure to toxic smoke from oil field fires or burn pits, and

**WHEREAS**, Vietnam veterans have been granted presumptive service-connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure; many other veterans, including Ft. McClellan; Blue Water Navy; Korean DMZ; C-123 air crews; Gulf War; and Iraq & Afghanistan are still arbitrarily and unfairly denied recognition of their exposures and therefore access to healthcare and compensation benefits; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS aggressively urge Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to invest adequate resources to fully research, diagnose and treat conditions associated with toxic exposures. And that any significant developments stemming from the previously mentioned activities be shared with veterans as it becomes available; and it be further

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS continues to seek system-wide changes related to military environmental hazards and toxic wounds, including:

- seeking improvements to the pre- and post-deployment health monitoring and assessment program to address all currently recognized and emergent environmental hazard and toxic wound health issues;
- seeking improvements to the DoD-VA health research systems so that they aggressively focus on treatments, diagnostic biomarkers and mapping out bio- pathology and symptoms for the full range of environmental hazard and toxic wound health issues;
- seeking the implementation of a seamless DoD-VA environmental health evaluation/treatment system to ensure medical evaluation, evidence-based treatment, and ongoing medical surveillance for current and former servicemembers suffering from toxic wounds; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that AMVETS encourages the Department of Veterans Affairs to extend presumptive service-connection to all veterans suffering from conditions associated with toxic exposures while serving in the military.

**Committee Recommendations:**

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation Benefits Committee: Adopt

**Floor Action: ADOPTED**